JANUARY 25, 1912

for power.

investment.

corn.

caused an evolution in machines used on the farm

corn was fed mostly as constalks, but as the

waste was too great, a cutting-box, operated by "arm-strong power," was purchased to cut the

horse-power to run the cutting-box was the next

to be out of style, and horses became too cunning;

they could stop it in a second. Then, of course.

followed the tread-power, the machine that a horse

cannot stop; several of these powers are still in

use around here at the present time. After the

tread-power, there seemed to be a craze for power

windmills, but a few years with them disgusted

many dairymon. They wouldn't work in calm

weather, and then is when it seemed we had the

direct need of them. The popular power to-day

seems to be the gasoline engine, simply because it

does the work with the least trouble; but right

in our midst is the new power, which I suppose

will soon become distributed over this district-

the Hydro-Electric-an account of which was given

a few weeks ago in "The Farmer's Advocate" by

D. W. Clark, who, I believe, was the first dairy-

man in Oxford County to use this power so gen-

erally on the farm. About two years ago, the

Condensing Company discovered a method where-

by they could condense milk made from corn si-

lage (thanks be to the discoverer), and since

then silos of wood or concrete have sprung up like

magic, and, as the silo appears on the farm, many

their cows produce as much milk as possible, but

it must be of standard quality to be accepted by

As I said before, dairymen are anxious that

f the small powers disappear.

This method became too laborious, and a

A dozen years ago, in this district,

This proved, after a few years' use,

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

### Weigh Your Feed. Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

A good deal has been said lately regarding the importance of weighing milk, and the writer knows the advantages of this practice from actual experience. Once having adopted this practice, he would never dream of abandoning it. lately, however, has he discerned the importance of weighing the feed. It occurred to him that one cow was an extra-good feeder, and he decided to see if she were giving him back the profits he had a right to expect. In less than two weeks' weighing, he found out that this "bossy" was actually eating out of all proportion to the returns she was making in the milk pail. The scales told the story. Needless to say, this cow is being fitted for sale. Then, there is the case of using a new feed. The scales used both for weighing the feed and the milk determine the amount of profit or loss. It is all very well for anyone to say, "You can tell pretty near what you are doing without the use of the scales," but in nine cases out of ten the guesser is far more in error than he dreams. The grocer doesn't manage his sales by any guess methods. Why should the farmer? Only those who have persistently tried both practices know how much the careful weighing practice excels the haphazard practice of guessing. There are those who say, too, that one will know at the end of the year if a cow has proven a paying investment. That is true, but should she be fed at a loss, is it not business to detect that loss early in the year? "The Farmer's Advocate " has put not a few under a debt of gratitude for encouragement in the way of weighing The farmers of this Province cannot make milk. a hetter New Year resolution than to weigh milk

them to market, I would have get 60 compt a dozen, as that was the market price in Ottawa. our local center. At present I am getting over two dozen eggs a day, with the mercury at 25 degrees below, and the henhouses so cold that I have had to thaw the water in the drinking vessels twice a day.

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I am perfectly sure that anyone could induce his hens to go and do likewise, if they would spend less time growling at the amount of feed they eat and more time treating them rationally, as hens should be treated.

I began early and separated the pullets from the cockerels about the first of September. would be even better to do it earlier, as the pullets will mature and develop much more quickly if kept by themselves. Right here, some of you may say that it is impossible for you to keep the pullets and cockerels separate. Practically nothing is impossible in this advanced age. I kept mine separate by purchasing a roll of cheap poultry wire a hundred and fifty feet long and four feet high. With this I made a yard for the cockerels around their roosting quarters. When the yard gets dirty, as it certainly will, if you have a large number in it, simply move it onto fresh ground by pulling up the stakes to which the wire is attached, and move it bodily. With a helper, less than an hour will do it, and it is time well spent. I may say that the cockerels also did much better in this yard, as I was able to feed them better, and get them ready for market in much shorter time than if they had been wandering everywhere working off flesh as quickly as I was putting it on.

I fed the pullets a mash once a day of provender and shorts, mixed with milk when I had it, otherwise with water; also a grain feed, mostly oats, once a day. As they had free range, I let them pick their noon meal, also grit and green feed. It is well to make sure that grit and green feed are to be had. For the former, mine had the run of a gravel pile, and a clover field for greens.

I housed them in their winter quarters early in October, and had the house thoroughly disinfected and whitewashed before the fowl went in. I had the birds themselves as free from lice as possible, by dusting them well two or three times at intervals of four or five days. Every week I have the dropping-boards cleaned off and liberally sprinkled with dry ashes. A large dusting box full of dry ashes occupies one corner of the henhouse where the sun shines longest, and here the hens grovel and work for hours at a time. Across the center of the floor I have a board ten inches high to divide the scratching floor in two, and prevent the litter all being piled in one corner. The litter is clean oat straw and chaff six or eight inches Whenever it gets damp or dirty, out it deep. goes, and is replaced with a clean, dry supply. I may say that, owing to good ventilation, it does not get damp very often. For ventilation, I have part of the window sash covered with canvas, and an inside door, also covered with canvas, and unless on very cold days, I leave the outside door open all day. On one wall I have suspended from nails two old tin buckets just high enough that the hens do not scratch chaff into them. In one I keep crushed oyster-shells, and in the other crushed charcoal. These I refill whenever neces-In one corner I have a box of dry gravel, sary. so the hens get all the grit they need at will. For feed in the mornings, I have been giving the hens a mash consisting of one part of shorts to two parts oat provender, mixed up with sour milk well To this, three times a week, I add about heated. two and a half pounds freshly-ground bone. have often read that meat and ground bone should be before the fowl all the time, fed in a hopper with a dry mash, etc. My opinion, based on experience, is that it requires an extra well-bred hen not to take more than is good for her digestive capacity. Therefore, I give them what I know to be no more than enough, and so avoid unnecessary trouble doctoring sick hens. When I feed the mash, I take along a cupful of wheat, and, after raking the litter with a garden rake into a heap on the floor, I scatter the wheat over it. When I go back later, the hens will have literally scratched the heap to pieces looking for the wheat. At noon I perform the same operation with the litter, but mix in about two or three quarts of buckwheat or oats. At night I throw a large handful of wheat and oats for each hen on top of the litter, without any mixing, as they get their night meal just before they go to roost. For their drinking vessel, I have an agateware pail, with a frame to set it into to prevent the hens upsetting it, and I keep it well supplied with clean, fresh water, warmed on cold days. Once or twice a week I add to every two gallons of water about a quarter of a teaspoonful of roup cure as a disinfectant. This I have found in previous years to be highly satisfactory in curing severe cases of roup, and is an excellent preventive of colds and intestinal trouble. Now, to sum up

#### the Condensing Company, hence each dairyman has his own method of feeding his herd. The milking and fodder. must be done in a cleanly manner, and the milk removed to a milk house situated sixty feet from the barn, and then strained through a strainer of 100 meshes to the inch into the 68 or 80pound cans; the cans then placed in a tank of cold water, and the milk cooled to 60 degrees F in forty-five minutes. This is where the trouble arises, especially in hot weather, and this is how it is overcome : Several dairymen use ice to cool the water, this being a cheap and effective method. but necessitates a lot of hard and unpleasant work morning and evening all through the busy season. Others use a milk-cooler, manufactured at the condenser, which cools the milk as it passes over small pipes or tubes as cold water is forced up through them from an elevated tank or by a pump operated by a gasoline engine. Both methods are popular and much in vogue where a arge quantity of milk is produced. No doubt, some others have different ways of cooling the milk. Several have discovered that tight-fitting tank covers are as essential in keeping out the hot summer air as they are in keeping out the frost in winter ; in fact, it would surprise one how little the temperature of the water in the tank would rise on a hot summer night if the cover of the tank is shut down and a blanket thrown over The milk must be delivered in spring wagons (if there is no sleighing) every morning, except Sun-

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day, and covered by blankets and canvass to protect it from the surrounding atmosphere; for every patron knows it must be in A-1 condition when delivered, to he accepted, for the two emplovees of the company who take in the milk are certainly fearless experts. One does the weighing, and it is a source of general satisfaction to the natrons that, for honesty in weighing milk, he could not be surpassed. The other pulls the can covers, smells the milk and feels the outside of the can to ascertain the temperature of the milk. He needs no thermometer; he has five on each hand. Which seem to work accurately in winter, as well as summer, and his sense of smell is the most These two employees are acute in the district. assisted by six or eight others, who empty the milk into the weighing tanks, wash and scald cans and covers, and hand them out at the next door. Many more things might be mentioned in connection with this industry in this district. such as the benefits derived by the merchants of Ingersoll. for where is there a condenser patron who passes through town every morning and goes home without buying something ? And the improvements in the dairy herds and barns, and also on the fields. ING ERSOLL. Oxford Co., Ont.

The same applies in cold weather.

## Cure for Self-Sucking Cow.

A correspondent of Hoard's Dairyman recommends the following device, which has previously been published in "The Farmer's Advocate." and which we believe is a good one, for preventing a cow from sucking herself. It consists of putting a bit in her mouth, made of one-fourth-inch gas rine, with three or four ore-fourth-inch holes drilled in that portion that remains in the mouth: then, when she tries to suck, she gets nothing but This bit bothers in no way after the cow nets accustomed to its which only takes a few she can eat, drink or chase flies and lick here if as well as if she had not the hit in her mouth



A Lumber Jack. Photo by R. R. Sallows.

# POULTRY.

## To Make Hens Lay.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Many people are under the erroncous impression that hens will not lay in winter, and, therefore, that it is a waste of time and energy to try to make them. Others have a half-hearted hope that, by chance, a few of their flock might be induced to lay a few eggs, and consequently bestow a little extra attention upon them, and expect Failing to find the egg basket filloreat results. ing, they anathematize the poor hen. Hens will lay in winter if properly treated, and my flock of Barred Rocks go to prove this statement. I have forty-three pullets, hatched between the last week in April and the second week in June, and thirtythree hens one and two years old, most of which, unfortunately, did not moult until October. They began to lay the first week in December, and to the date of writing, Jan. 15th, I have sold fortyseven dozen eggs, and have twelve dozen on hand ready for shipment. I got 50 cents a dozen for all but the first nine dozen, and could I have taken

1. Take care of the pullets, and there will be a better show for the hens to take care of themselves later.

3. Get rid of vermin in every shape and form;