

Institute be ignored. The successful farmer is not the hermit, and the man does not live who is not healthfully stimulated and whose vision is not materially broadened by such contact with his fellow men.

The three Women's Institutes, to which reference has been made, were especially active during the year, and so long as woman holds the important position she occupies at present on the farm, the benefits growing out of such organizations will continue. The necessity for mutual benefit clubs among farmers' wives was never so great as now. In a circular sent out to enquirers throughout the Province, Superintendent Creelman puts the matter very clearly when he says that, despite the revolution wrought by modern methods of farming, very little progress has been made in that part of the homestead presided over by the wife and daughters.

"The object of Women's Institutes," according

Barn for 100-Acre Stock Farm.

When, setting about building new barns, or reconstructing old ones, the question of convenience is of chief importance after durable, suitable material has been decided upon. That the stables be well lighted and well ventilated is also of much concern, as on these the health of the housed stock largely depends. The plans we give of basement and upper floor are for the 100-acre farm of Richard Scott, Middlesex Co., Ont. They were designed by Mr. D. A. Graham, who has made a close study of the problem of convenience in feeding, and who has a handy barn of his own, that was described in the FARMER'S ADVOCATE of March 1st, 1900, page 125. Mr. Scott's barn is 75 feet long and 36 feet wide, with basement walls 9 feet high inside. Mr. Graham would recommend a wider structure, allowing space for a row of box stalls up one side as far as the horse stable. Mr. Scott favored a plan for two rows of tied cattle, which this plan allows for. The three box stalls at the back occupy the space beneath the driveway to the barn.

The arrangement for storing, preparing and administering the feed is worthy of careful observation. It will be noticed by the upper-floor plan (Fig. I.) the cut feed or chaff, the grain, bran, chop and water tank are all situated at the east end, right against the silo and well. Below (Fig. II.) is the mixing room, where all the food is prepared a meal ahead. The feed is conducted to the cattle by a car suspended on the over-

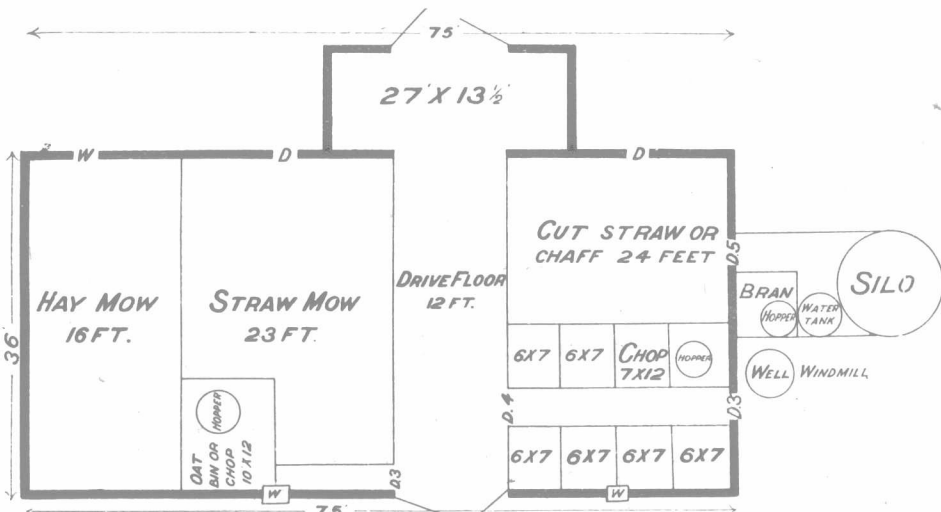


FIG. I.—UPPER-FLOOR PLAN OF BARN FOR 100-ACRE FARM.

to the rules and regulations, "shall be the dissemination of knowledge relating to domestic economy, including household architecture, with special attention to home sanitation, a better understanding of the economic and hygienic value of foods, clothing and fuel, and a more scientific care and training of children with a view to raising the general standing of the health and morals of our people."

Some of the topics discussed at the meetings of these three Women's Institutes during the year were: "Drinking-water," "Better Dairy Equipments on the Farm," "Domestic Science," "Labor," "Books—Their Place in the Farmer's Home," "Native Trees and Plants in the Beautifying of the Farm Home," "The Lessening of Household Labor," "Food and its Functions," "The Country Home," "Good Education," etc.

A comparative statement of the public cost of Farmers' Institutes in Ontario and certain of the United States, together with the work accomplished by them, is very much in favor of the former. In 1899, the last year for which figures are available, the Government appropriation for Farmers' Institutes in Ontario was only \$9,900, a sum which included the salary of the Superintendent and the expenses of his office. New York State appropriated \$20,000 for a similar purpose; Ohio, \$16,000; Minnesota, \$13,500; Pennsylvania, \$12,500, and Wisconsin, \$12,000. Notwithstanding the larger expenditure, the results obtained in these States are not nearly as satisfactory as in Ontario, the annual total attendance in New York not exceeding 75,000, and in Ohio, 98,000.

Expressions of Appreciation.

DIFFICULT TO OVERESTIMATE THE CHRISTMAS NUMBER.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—Allow me to congratulate you on the ever-increasing value of your journal as an aid to successful farming. From time to time I notice a strong plea is made for extension of improved livestock rearing, which is needed. Every issue is filled with valuable information, but the Christmas number was a very interesting one, containing many fine illustrations. It greatly strengthens the position and influence of your already high-class journal. The clear and bright descriptions and representations of Canadian homes, herd and flocks should be very much appreciated by all patriotic Canadians. The lessons, too, contained in the descriptions of how leading Canadian herds and flocks were built up should prove invaluable to the ambitious young stockmen. It would be difficult to overestimate your Christmas number, which, after all, is quite in line with your regular issue, which, for useful matter to the farmer, is unexcelled. I wish you a happy New Year and the prosperity you deserve.

J. H. KELLY.
Ackland Farm, Oxford Co., Ont.

BEST ON THE CONTINENT.

THOMAS NOTT, MacLennan, Ont.:—"I think the FARMER'S ADVOCATE the best farmers' friend on this continent, and will do all I can to increase its circulation. Enclosed find \$8 for eight new subscribers."

head feed-track. The feed car is sufficiently wide to fill the space from side to side of the passage, the top sides of the car extending slightly over the edges of manger boards, so that feed cannot fall on the passage floor. In feeding, the car is loaded in the feed room and pushed along the passage, giving the cattle their allowance as they are approached. When the feeder reaches the far end of the passage all the cattle are fed, and he is on hand to feed the horses. He can now give the cattle their chop, milk the cows, and finish the chores in a short period of time. It will be noticed that the stalls are of varying lengths, to suit cattle of different ages, which should be arranged for in every farm barn. The floors are of cement, in which there are gutters behind the cattle. These are five inches deep next the cattle, one foot wide at the bottom, with outside edge rounding off to the passage behind. The doors and windows are of good size, the positions of which are clearly shown in the plan. A boat and one horse can be used to clean out the stables. Mr. Graham suggests that if a small root-house is needed it could be built back of the three box stalls, underneath the driveway to barn.

Chess Produces Chess.

DEAR SIR,—Having seen a number of letters in the ADVOCATE about chess, I am induced to write my experience. In the first place, I do not believe that wheat, if damaged, will turn to chess any more than I believe that barley will turn to oats. Now, if wheat will turn to chess under unfavorable circumstances, is it not reasonable to suppose that it would turn back to wheat under favorable circumstances; and to prove that it will not, I at once sowed some chess and gave it good care, and the result was chess and a good healthy crop of it. Last season, when wheat was fit to cut, myself and a neighbor went into a field of wheat in which there was some chess. We selected a good root of the chess that was ripe, and pulled it carefully, cleaned off the roots to find the parent seed, and found a large shell of a chess seed.

Mr. G. C. T. Ward, in January 1st ADVOCATE, says: "Every farmer of whom I have inquired if chess is ever found except in wheat has answered 'No.' I have seen it in rye, clover and timothy three years after it was seeded down. About 20 years ago my father bought some seed oats from a neighbor, and, not thinking of chess in oats, sowed them as they were (they being clean in other ways) on new land that never had a crop of any kind except trees. The result was a good half crop of oats, the other half chess. Did the oats turn to chess or did he sow it?"

JOHN T. BROWN.
York County.

Sowing and Reaping Chess.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In reply to a question asked by Mr. G. C. T. Ward, of Lennox County, Ont., I wish to state that ten years since I planted a row of chess in my garden in the fall. During the winter my sheep ate it quite close to the root. In the spring it grew finely to about five feet in height, producing a fine crop of chess about the same quality as that sown. Ever since I have noticed that when I sow chess I reap chess, not without. It seems to be a plant that flourishes best with wheat; the same as peas and wild poppy. In Norfolk, England, where I farmed some years since, on land where I never saw a poppy grow, plant it with peas and before your peas are ripe the red blossoms of the poppy will be quite numerous.

H. J. SMITH.
Middlesex Co., Ont.

American O. A. C. Union Formed.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

SIR,—The great International Live Stock Exposition, recently held in Chicago, brought to Chicago a large number of men who have been connected with the Ontario Agricultural College in some capacity. Early in the week a few of us thought it would be a nice thing to have these men meet for a social reunion. On the evening of Dec. 10th, the following old O. A. C. men enjoyed a banquet in the parlors of the Wyoming Hotel: Prof. Thos. Shaw, University of Minnesota; W. P. Carlyle, University of Wisconsin; G. E. Day, Ontario Agricultural College; A. M. Soule, University of Tennessee; W. J. Kennedy, University of Illinois; J. H. Grisdale, C. E. F.; J. J. Ferguson, State College, Mich.; and the following students: G. F. Marshall, M. C. Cumming, Iowa; W. F. Black, Ontario; Sid. Carlyle, Wisconsin, and W. M. Newman, of Illinois College of Medicine. Most of these men had been at the College, 1890-1894, and many were the good things in the shape of reminiscences of old times. Every one was most heartily of the opinion that the foundation for useful work laid at the old O. A. C. was unsurpassed. The best evidence of this is seen in the eminence already attained by many of the young men engaged in college work in so many of the leading institutions of this country. In the best sense of the term, the Ontario Agricultural College is a good place to go from.

In view of the presence of so many of our men in the United States, it was decided that a permanent organization, to include all who had ever been connected with the O. A. C., resident in the U. S., would be highly beneficial, not only in bringing these into closer touch and keeping up old friendships, but also in promoting mutual interests. This was finally effected, under the name of *The American O. A. C. Union*, with the following executive committee:

- Hon. Pres., Prof. Thos. Shaw, University of Minnesota.
- Pres., Prof. W. S. Carlyle, University of Wisconsin.
- Vice-Pres., Prof. A. M. Soule, University of Tennessee.
- Sec. Treas., Prof. J. J. Ferguson, State College, Michigan.

An annual reunion and banquet was decided to be essential to good work. The place to be Chicago, and the time, the date of the International Live Stock Exposition.

J. J. FERGUSON.
Dec. 10th.

BEST I HAVE EVER SEEN.

R. H. HARDING, Thorndale, Ont.:—"Your elegant Christmas number of the FARMER'S ADVOCATE received. I have carefully looked it over, and consider it the best of the kind I have ever seen. The poem by Robert Elliott, entitled 'Turn the Furrow New,' and the picture, 'The End of the Skein,' are very appropriate at the close of the 19th century and the dawn of the 20th. The illustrations of live stock, etc., are also very lifelike. I wish you many years of success."

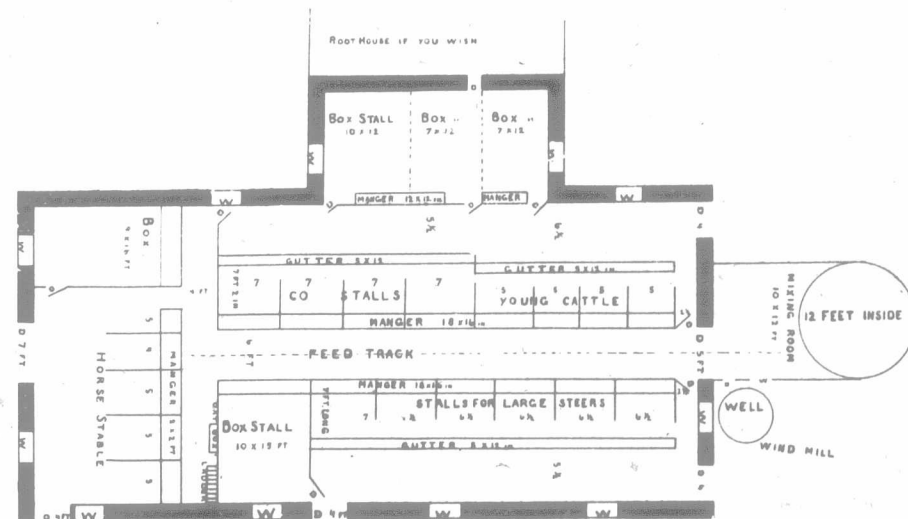


FIG. II.—GROUND FLOOR OF BARN BASEMENT FOR 100-ACRE FARM.