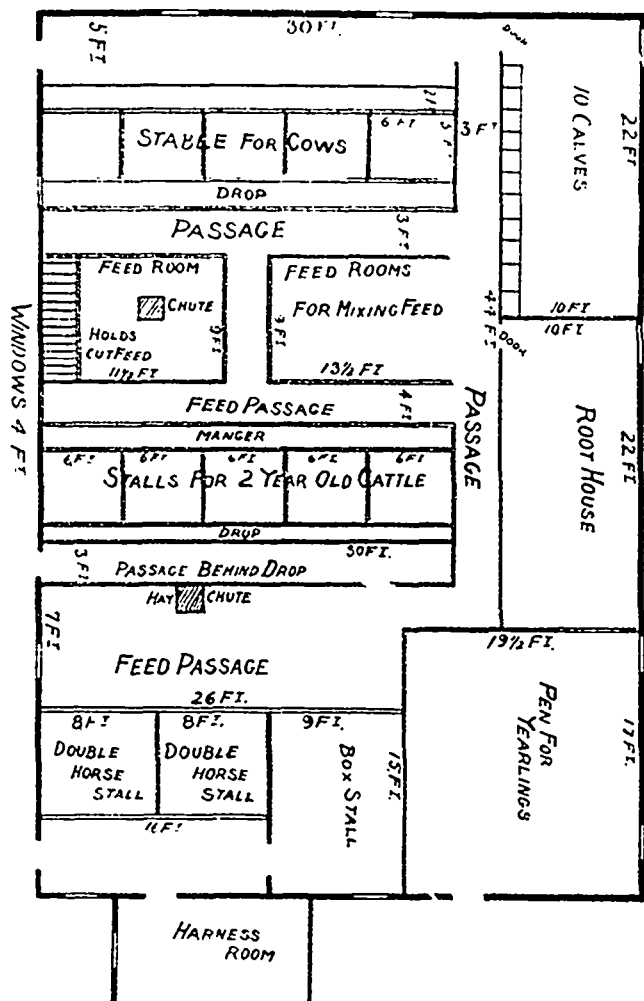


in some cases; the best way to combat the disease is to keep the pastures free of ticks. The disease generally terminates in from 7 to 30 days, and as a rule fatally.

## Can This Plan Be Improved Upon?

Mr. Wm. J. Stoneman, Maple Lake Station, Ont., who intends building a new barn next spring, sends us the following plan of the stables to be built under it. He desires to have the plan as perfect as possible and asks for suggestions



from farmers and others as to whether it can be improved upon. We gladly give space to the diagram and will be pleased to publish suggestions or criticisms of it that any of our readers may care to make.

## Scientific Aids to Farming

### Agriculturists in the West Paying More Attention to the Study of the Soil and Plant Life

Our British Columbia correspondent sends us the following from the pen of J. R. Anderson, Deputy Minister of Agriculture for that province, and which will be of interest in showing some of the agricultural conditions prevailing on the Pacific slope:

During the past season agriculture has been receiving more attention from a scientific point of view than ever before. Farmers are realizing that to make husbandry a paying occupation they must give some study to the details of the chemistry of the soil and plant life; they begin to realize that they cannot make unlimited demands upon

their farms without some reciprocity in the shape of replacing that which is taken away. They are realizing in a greater degree that unless heed is given to the spraying and cultivation of fruit trees they cannot expect profitable returns. This awakening is, no doubt, due in a great measure to the effect of the teaching through the medium of farmers' institutes and the hard lessons of experience; nevertheless, much still remains to be done. The thousand and one details of a life on the farm tending to the improvement or enrichment of the farm, small in themselves, but in the aggregate making a very large total, are but too often disregarded. Farms such as that of Mr. Wells at Chilliwack are object lessons which should be studied carefully.

The season having been exceptionally wet in all the most settled portions of the province, grain has not been saved in as good condition as could be desired. All through the Spallumcheen and Okanagan districts during the months of July and August rain retarded harvesting operations materially and in some instances destroyed the grain in the stooks. The consequence was that not only was the quality in a great measure injured but the quantity was reduced, and before it could be taken to the mills the roads became bad and the delivery of the grain is now delayed until snow falls in sufficient quantity to make sleighing practicable. For the same reason the hay on the lower mainland suffered greatly and a considerable quantity has had to be left on the fields. On Vancouver and gulf islands the conditions existed in a lesser degree, resulting in a smaller loss. The large yield of both grain and hay, however, partly compensated for the losses sustained. Root crops gave very large returns of a superior quality. This was evinced by the displays at the agricultural shows, where the exhibits were noticeable for their excellence. From Kamloops, Ashcroft, Chilliwack, Read Island, Nanaimo, and other places potatoes were received by the Department of Agriculture of prodigious size and exceptional quality. The Hon. Sydney Fisher, Dominion Minister of Agriculture, was very much impressed by the displays of vegetables and fruit at New Westminster and Kamloops, and expressed his surprise at the size they attained. Fruit was decidedly variable both in yield and quality, and in fact it ranged all the way from bad to good. In parts of the upper mainland the apple crop could not be beaten, whilst on the lower mainland and islands, some orchards produced good crops and others were almost a total failure. The quality in all cases was scarcely up to the average, the coloring being especially deficient. Some remarkable specimens of apples were obtained from the orchard of Manuel Barcello at Keremeos and sent to the Department of Agriculture by Mr. McKelvie, of Vernon, some of which weighed within a fraction of two pounds. Casts have been taken of the best for exhibition purposes.

The production of other fruit was more evenly divided, but the unfavorable summer weather militated greatly against the successful shipment of stone fruits to the Northwest Territories and Manitoba. The climatological variations are among the most unaccountable phenomena of any country, and this province, with its huge mountainous ranges, deep valleys, innumerable lakes, islands, and fiords, is possibly more subject to such unaccountable changes than most others. For instance, during the last summer, whilst in such sections of the dry belt where the rainfall is usually very small, the precipitation was excessive, and in other portions where the humidity is generally excessive, irrigation had to be resorted to. The latter condition was noticeably the case at Cape Scott.

Amongst the effects of a cold, damp summer the absence of honey in flowers is one of the conditions which directly influence the apiarist. This was greatly felt at Chilliwack, where the honey crop fell from a very large one to nil. On the other hand the excessive wet promoted a fine growth of fodder, so that dairying was proportionately benefited, and as a consequence a large accession of good, sound butter has been placed on the market. This industry has taken great strides of late, and we look to the time not far distant when the importation of this necessary article of