

Silos in the Canadian Corn Belt.

An interesting discussion on silos and silage was introduced by an address during the corn show at Windsor, given by W. H. Porter, District Agricultural Representative in the County of Lambton, who remarked that he knew of but one man in his county who was adverse to the silo, and he had tried it only for a single year. On the other hand, many cattlemen were staunch in its advocacy. Mr. Porter referred to J. A. McBean's 124 silage-fed grass-finished steers, a bunch of which were illustrated in "The Farmer's Advocate" July 4th, 1912. He mentioned several types of silos in one neighborhood, and submitted figures of the cost of one solid cement silo 14 feet by 40 feet, with walls 16 inches thick at the bottom and 7 inches at the top. [10 inches to 6 inches, on an 18-inch foundation, with a well-drained site, would be plenty if properly reinforced, and made with good gravel and cement mixed 7 or 8 to 1.—Editor.] This silo, as constructed, cost \$235, not counting the hauling of the gravel, which was handy. It took 60 cubic yards of gravel, and 40 barrels of cement.

The question of pea-vine silage came up, one case being cited where it did not turn out very well. It was suggested in explanation that possibly the material had not been packed very well as filled, and possibly some of it was rather dry. The ensilage of clover and alfalfa was discussed, but opinion was agreed that this was not to be recommended except, perhaps, when some third-cutting alfalfa could be mixed with corn, or when bad haying weather rendered ensilage the only possible alternative. The ensilage of thin-planted, well-matured hill corn was commended to Essex and Kent corn growers, with hogs to follow the cattle, where convenient, and pick up any whole corn which might pass through them.

Mr. Richardson, an elderly farmer with twenty years experience of silos, endorsed this suggestion, and expressed strong faith in the silo, notwithstanding the experience he cited of one or two neighbors who had given it brief and unsatisfactory trial.

Mr. Raynor told of having seen clover silage in British Columbia, which appeared to give fair results despite its strong smell. Mr. Raynor, however, is quite of opinion that corn is the great ensilage crop. In Prince Edward County the owner of one canning factory ensiles corn waste.

SILAGE IN GERMANY.

Otto Herrold, Manager of Bow Park Farm, described the kind of silos in use in the beet-sugar district of his native country, Germany. They are in the form of long pits, 30' up to 100 feet in length, eight to ten feet wide, and about the same in depth. As a rule, they are bricked up, except in clay soils where the brick are not needed. Into these silo pits are put sugar beet pulp, tops, cabbage, alfalfa, etc., and the resulting silage is fed with considerable satisfaction.

To Remove Buckhorn from Clover.

One of the worst weeds in a seed-clover crop is buckhorn or rib-grass. It is next to impossible to screen buckhorn seed out of clover. Ordinary fanning mills will not do it. A slightly tedious, but pretty effective method which any farmer may adopt to clean his own supply, has been repeatedly outlined in "The Farmer's Advocate" and is thus described by T. G. Raynor. It consists in taking advantage of the mucilaginous nature of buckhorn seed, which, when wet, will stick to canvas, and if allowed to dry, will adhere quite firmly; while clover seed, when similarly moistened and dried, will readily roll or shake off the sheet.

Take a screen door or two, or sieves, and spread cheese cloth over them. Sprinkle the cheese cloth with a sprinkling can, scatter the seed over and allow it to dry. Then shake off the clover seed, leaving the buckhorn sticking to the canvas. In a day or so one can clean up his seed supply.

Growing Clean Clover Seed.

If we could get a commercial supply of Extra No. 1 clover seed in Canada, as provided for by the Seed Control Act, we should have clover seed free from any noxious weed seeds and practically free from all weed seeds. But, as yet, our seedsmen can't get hold of enough seed of this quality to make it worth while cataloguing such a grade.

It is possible to grow clean clover seed which the merchants could safely brand "Extra No. 1" if we will sow clean seed on a clean chance, says T. G. Raynor. Sow the seed, say, on a surface-cultivated field on which a thoroughly cultivated hoe crop has been grown.

Foxtail and other such weeds which come in are the result of leaving killed-out patches.

To get the clean seed to sow on the clean field look around early. The farmer who does this

has the best chance of getting quality. Towards the end of the season, when stocks have run low, the seedsmen often press into requisition seed which they may have refused at first, and late purchasers get it.

Seed that has sprouted and dried up again is of no use for sowing. Its vitality is gone.

Skill is the Greatest Source of Wealth.

"Five Sources of Wealth" was the title of an address delivered by Prof. A. E. Chamberlain, Development Commissioner of the Great Northern Railway, before the Ontario Corn Growers' Association at Windsor. Four of these are natural sources—viz., the sea, the mines, the forest, the farm—and of the four, agriculture is the only one in Old Ontario that is now worth mentioning.

The fifth source is human skill. "I was raised down here on a farm, most of which had to be cleared," said Prof. Chamberlain. "My father and I would go out to the bush and each select a big tree that nature had taken centuries to grow and cut it up into cord-wood. The next day we would haul it to town and get \$4 for that magnificent tree and a day's work. Then the sawmill came, put three or four days' work on the tree, along with a little more skill, and realized \$15 or \$20 out of the same kind of a tree. Later on came a mill that would quarter-saw the tree, producing a value of \$40 or \$60. Then the furniture factory put a little more work and skill on the tree and converted it into a still greater value. Now the German cabinet-maker spends a year or more on such a

much is it worth a month to feed and care for her? Say thirty dollars; that \$7.50 is the return from 7½ acres of land. That kind of a cow drives a lot of boys to the town. Have you any land on which you can afford to keep that kind of a cow? A 300-pound cow would produce \$75. Allow \$40 for taking care of her, and you will still have \$35 left. This would pay interest on land worth \$150 an acre. Get up a little higher to the 350-pound cow and you can pay interest on \$207 an acre. A difference in human skill.

Look to the development of the skill of the boys and girls of Ontario, and Ontario will lead the world."

Precautions Necessary in Cooling Meat.

While it is almost impossible to get the best conditions for handling meat on the farm, a knowledge of the best principles may aid in getting a better quality of meat. It is very important that the carcasses be cooled soon after slaughtering, and yet that they be not allowed to freeze, says Andrew Boss, in Minnesota, University Farm Press News. While the temperature cannot be well controlled on the farm, it is possible to slaughter when the weather is favorable to the proper cooling of the carcass. If during the winter season, choose a day when there is a prospect for cooling the carcass before the surface freezes. The most desirable temperature for cooling meat is 34 degrees to 40 degrees F., and an approach to these temperatures will give good results.

In summer seasons it is best to dress the animal in the evening, leaving the carcass in the open air over night and carrying it to a cool, dark cellar before the flies are out in the morning. Very often a cool room in the barn can be used for the purpose if made dark. There should be no fresh paint, tar, kerosene, or like substances around, however, as freshly killed meat absorbs such flavors readily.

Cooling is often hastened by splitting the carcasses into halves or even into small pieces. It is best, however, not to divide the carcass until the meat is firmly set unless absolutely necessary to prevent it from souring. Stripping out the leaf lard materially aids in quickly cooling the hog carcass. For the best results in cooling meat, the air should be dry, as well as of a low temperature; and free circulation aids greatly in carrying away foul odors and mold spores.

It is also important that flies and insects be kept away from the meat. If it is fly-blown, maggots will soon appear and it will be very difficult to save the meat.

A Poor Crop of Clover Seed.

The clover-seed crop in Ontario this year is practically a failure, both as to yield and market quality. Wet weather, doubtless, interfered with pollination of the blossoms, and then much of the late growth got frosted and the seed turned brown, as T. G. Raynor, of the Dominion Seed Branch, explained in an impromptu talk to the corn growers at Windsor. In consequence, there is not much Number 1 seed in the Province, the general appearance of most samples being poor. Some American seed is being imported, and, with careful cleaning, graded up to No. 1 standard.

The best report of 1912 clover-seed yield which has yet come to "The Farmer's Advocate" is reported by Edgar M. Zavitz, of Lobo Township, Middlesex County, Ont., a brother of Prof. C. A. Zavitz. Mr. Zavitz took eight loads of red clover from six acres and threshed fifteen bushels of fair-quality seed. Some of the heads were quite full. A catch crop of alsike yielded four bushels per acre.

These yields, however, must have been exceptional. At Weldwood the machine hulled out only three bushels from seven loads of red clover, and the thresher said that was one of the best crops he had threshed this year—which isn't saying much for the average yield.

The Chance for Duty-free Ditchers.

Discussing the estimate that there are 4,710,000 acres of cleared land in Ontario which need underdrainage, and that at an increase of \$20 in returns per acre, the value of the field products would be raised by at least \$94,200,000 annually, not taking account at all of the two and a half million acres of slash land or the two and three-quarter million acres of swamp, marsh and waste land, the Toronto News asks how is the farmer to obtain the capital and labor necessary to underdrain, to increase his production and to add to his profits. The answer, it significantly adds, "does not necessarily involve any attack upon existing institutions or enterprises." Fortunately not, else the farmer's chances of getting what he wants—viz., duty-free ditching machines—would be very slim.



Prof. A. E. Chamberlain.

An old Essex County boy, one of the speakers at the Ontario Corn-growers' Convention.

tree, and sells it for three or four, up to five thousand dollars. Along comes the Italian, who applies a little more skill, and creates a yet higher value.

"It is the same with steel. We are paying the German every day ten dollars a pound for steel that we sell him for a penny a pound.

"You farmers raise a good many oats. An Englishman, Scotchman, Frenchman or Belgian buys half your bin of oats, feeds it to a colt, and we buy an expensive stallion from him. You feed the rest of the bin to another colt, and if you sell those oats for two cents a pound, you think you have done wonders.

"Difference of climate? No. Grass? No. It is a difference of human skill. The European colt was bred better.

Denmark, with an area about equal to that of Kent, Essex and Lambton, last year exported farm, dairy, pork and poultry products to the value of \$101,000,000.

"When you and I were boys, the Danes were about where we are now, only they were doing less talking about it than we are doing. They got hold of the idea that there were things they didn't know, and set about to learn.

"Suppose you take about four acres of land to keep a cow. If she is a 150 pound cow, she produces about \$37.50 worth of butter. How