

FARM.

Gleanings from Farmers' Institutes.

Division No. II. (Ont.) includes the counties of Halton, Peel, Dufferin, Grey, Wellington, and Waterloo. The subjects upon which the delegates were prepared to speak embraced general farm methods and crops, as well as the care and breeding of farm stock. It is noticeable that "Hog Raising" was taken up at nearly every meeting; "Sheep" was discussed twice, "Cattle Feeding" once regularly (but often incidentally), and "Horses" once; "Dairying and the Dairy Cow," "Corn and the Silo," "Concrete for Farm Structures," "Spraying for Fungous Diseases and Insects," and, incidentally, "Apple Culture" came up at every meeting. This would seem to indicate that dairying, with hog raising as an adjunct, and fruit growing (principally apples), are just now receiving the most attention from the farmers of this district. Cattle feeding is still a leading industry in some sections, but sheep and horses have fallen into neglect, though there are not wanting those who say that both sheep and horses of the right type are even now very profitable farm stock. Dairying and all that pertains to it is more discussed than any other subject. There are very few advocates of the general purpose cow. "Dairy breeds for dairy purposes" is the experience of those who are making money at it.

THE SILO.

In stock feeding, and particularly for milch cows, the silo is now regarded as almost a necessity. Its value is never questioned by those who have used it. The drouth of last year showed the value of ensilage as a supplement to pasturage, and many will plan this year to store ensilage enough to be independent of failing pastures in the future. Some farmers expressed the opinion that ensilage will ultimately take the place of pasture where land is dear, as it involves much less work than a soiling crop, and, on the whole, gives a better ration.

The round wooden silo is much spoken of, but the concrete silo is fast coming to the front. It costs very little more than a modern silo, is frost proof, and is even more durable than stone.

The Red Cob Ensilage corn and Compton's Early give the best results in sections subject to late spring and early fall frosts. Elsewhere, Essex Hybrid, Leaming Dent, and Mammoth Southern Sweet are more satisfactory.

THE TURNIP FLAVOR.

A very large number of farmers still feed turnips to milch cows and claim that the flavor cannot be detected. They are fed in comparatively small quantities after milking, and in some cases not till midwinter. Prof. Dean, at the Guelph meeting, doubted whether they could be fed in any way so that the flavor would not be disagreeably perceptible to any one not accustomed to using such milk and its products. He is of the opinion that many farmers have acquired a taste for this flavor and regard it as normal. There seems little excuse for risking the reputation of our dairy products when there are such excellent substitutes for turnips in mangels, sugar beets, and ensilage.

THE "HOME DAIRY"

is profitable only when the farmer can reach the consumer directly. In all other cases the co-operative cheese factory or creamery is in every way the most satisfactory.

W. S. Fraser, of Bradford, thought that it was doubtful whether pork could be raised at a profit except in connection with the dairy, and certainly the dairyman who did not keep hogs enough to consume his waste products lost a large share of his profits.

POINTS IN SWINE HUSBANDRY.

J. C. Snell, at the Brampton meeting, contended that Berkshire hogs had been so improved within themselves that they now meet the requirements of the market without sacrificing any of the qualities that have made them always favorites with farmers.

In the management of swine the following points were emphasized at several meetings:—

1. Cleanliness of pens and feeding utensils.
2. Roots for winter feeding of breeding stock.
3. Clover pasture for growing animals.
4. Continuous feeding from start to finish.
5. Marketing at six or eight months old.
6. Access at all times to a mixture of salt, sulphur, wood ashes and charcoal.

THE ORCHARD.

The best varieties of apples came up for discussion frequently, the prime favorites being Baldwin, Greening, Northern Spy, Russets, and Ben Davis. Mr. McKenzie, of Sarawak Township, said that the Ben Davis gave him more money than any other variety he grew.

Mr. Brown, of Owen Sound, experimented with clean culture and sod in the orchard. The cultivated portion yielded in proportion to the culture, while the part in sod was comparatively barren.

Spraying is becoming much more common, and where carefully done proves of great benefit. The average cost is about five dollars per acre, and the net gain in most seasons is not less than fifty dollars, so that a spraying outfit is one of the best investments that an apple grower can make.

To kill the bud moth now prevalent in several places, add four ounces of Paris green to the barrel

in making the first spraying with copper sulphate just before the leaves open.

For the oyster-shell bark-louse, use the kerosene emulsion. Watch the trees the last of May or the first of June, and spray when the young lice are moving, which they do for only a short time at this season of the year.

Only a few farmers appreciate the necessity of spraying for scab whether the tree is bearing or not. This fungus so injures the vitality of the leaf that the vigor of the tree is seriously impaired, much to the detriment of succeeding crops. It is safe to say that no part of the farm yields greater profits than the well-kept orchard.

DEHORNING

was discussed at several meetings and opposed by only one person. Mr. A. Elliot, of Galt, though formerly opposed to dehorning, now believed that dehorning doubled the value of a three-year-old heifer. Either the saw or clipper gave satisfactory results, though the saw is preferred on very hard or heavy horns. Caustic potash on the germs of calves horns was not efficient, nor were the effects so good if the horns are removed before the second year, as the animals so dehorned learned to hunt.

[NOTE.—This last point is contradicted by experienced men.—ED.]

Dehorning is now done largely by professionals, at from ten to fifteen cents per head where there are a number to be done at once.

A CHANGE MAY HELP.

Mr. Slater, of Galt, in dealing with the causes of agricultural depression, said that farmers were too conservative in adopting methods. He cited as an example the growing of grain as compared with dairying and corn growing. He grew one acre of corn, fed it to cows, getting \$40 worth of milk. His neighbor grew 45 acres of grain, and the gross return was \$250, which, after expenses were paid, did not leave him a cent for his labor. Another cause for the depression was the cultivating of too many acres for the help and capital employed. One acre of potatoes gave him in ordinary years as much profit as ten acres of grain. Many farmers could buy certain things at less than it cost them to produce them.

CLOVER.

In discussing the clover question, Mr. A. Marshall, of Puslinch, found it profitable to sow clover with fall rye in the spring and pasture it off in the summer. The year 1895 appears to have been very unfavorable for getting a "catch" of clover. The best results were obtained by those who plowed deep in the fall, worked the ground lightly in the spring and sowed the clover seed with the spring grain. Some were successful in getting a stand by harrowing fall wheat lightly, as early as possible, and sowing the clover seed on this and rolling it.

Mr. H. Stickle grew fall wheat and clover alternately for sixteen years on the same field and the crops were better now than ever. The writer grew, in 1895, 148 bushels of corn (ears) per acre on a field that has been cropped probably 25 years without manure. The rotation of late years has been corn, oats, and clover.

CONCRETE

as a building material has been used with great success by a large number of farmers. Old barns are being raised seven or eight feet and a concrete foundation placed under them, forming a splendid frost-proof stable. Dairymen speak in the highest terms of the concrete floors. They are not only cheaper than wood, but are entirely free from the bad odors and filth inseparable from that material. Mr. Bettschen, New Hamburg, found he could make a great saving in using concrete, in being able to do all the work with ordinary farm help. The material costs less than stone or brick, and the concrete work is much more satisfactory.

A. MCNEILL.

Another Round Silo—How Built.

A round silo, 20 feet deep and 16 feet in diameter, made of planks (10 x 2 inches), dressed on outside and sized, inside left unplanned, was erected on the dairy farm of Mr. Nelson Sage, Nilestown, Ont., in one day last summer, at a cost of about \$65.00. Two thousand feet of lumber were used. The staves are held in position by seven 3-inch round iron bands with a long thread on the end of each, which are run through two iron block castings (2 x 4) with two parallel holes through them. The bands can be slackened or tightened with nuts as required. They are in two parts, 25 ft. each, with 3 ends. Before filling (corn being run through an ensilage cutter driven by horse power), the bands were screwed up too tight, however, and when the ensilage began to settle, and the boards swelling, several bands burst and had to be replaced and the others slackened. In the spring, after being emptied, the bands can be tightened, as the staves will naturally shrink a good deal during summer. The silo was painted on the outside only and covered with a shingle roof, as it stands out of doors, 15 or 20 feet from the stable door. On one side of the roof there is a gable window, and, down a few feet from the top, a door about 3 feet high and the width of the carcase. The latter opening is used during the first part of the filling and the gable window at the last. On the opposite side, about 6 feet from the ground, is another door about three feet high and a gable window. This one and the smaller door at the opposite are used for taking out the ensilage.

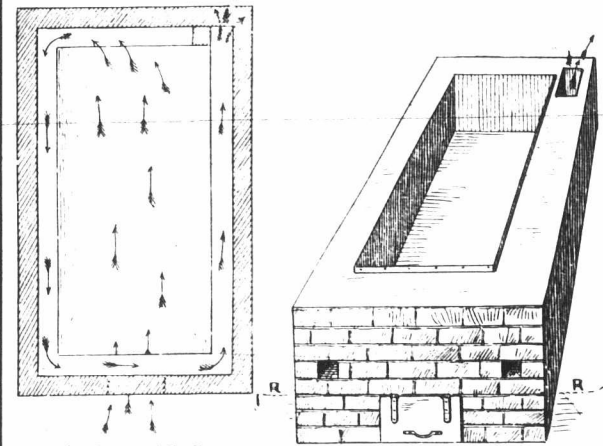
In building, a perfect circle was first struck, using a stake and a string 8 feet long. The ground was spaded out inside 2 or 3 inches deep so that the bottom of planks would rest against the outer edge of the trench. Four posts or scantlings, 12 feet high, were set up on opposite sides, and the bottom and top iron bands placed in position, notches being cut into the posts and the bands securely fastened. A plank was next set up, plumbed and nailed to post, and braced from the ground inside. Each plank as set up was toe-nailed to the one beside it and braced. The brace consisted of a 16-ft. fence board, the lower end placed against stake in center. The planks were also braced from outside. The long thread on the bands allowed enough "play" to work the planks in without ripping one at the last.

The writer examined this silo a short time ago and found it fed out to 5 or 6 feet of ensilage, which had been kept perfectly right to the boards. No trouble from frost was reported, except a little near the north door. Good results accrued from feeding the ensilage, the cows milking extra well on it. A city trade is supplied from this farm. So satisfactory were the results that another round silo will be built this season on the adjoining dairy farm of Mr. W. Sage.

Winter Feeding Swine.

BY R. L. LANG, OAK LAKE.

To secure strong, thrifty offspring we must keep our breeding stock in a healthy condition. It is almost impossible to do this with the conditions to which much of our stock are subjected to in this country, namely, the lack of succulence and variety in the food supplied, the want of sufficient exercise, and in too many cases filthy surroundings. We are feeding, this winter, a quantity of sugar beets and mangels. These the pigs seem to relish immensely. We have also erected a boiler which I find a great advantage for preparing the food in a palatable shape. The tank is made of heavy galvanized iron. Size, four feet long, two feet wide, and two and one-half feet deep. This tank is built



into a brickwork furnace, having a return flue, as shown in the sketch. A sheet of iron is set in the brickwork about an inch below the bottom of the tank, and effectually prevents the contents from scorching on the bottom. The return flue also seems to prevent all danger of fire from escaping sparks. [NOTE.—Our artist has failed to show that the tank extends about a foot above the top of brickwork.—EDITOR.] The way we have been using it is to put in about three bags of roots—potatoes or turnips—with one and one-half barrels of water, and one or two handfuls of salt. After this commences to boil we add three bags of chop and cover over tightly. No more fire is required, as it acts on the principle of a brick oven. It will cook thoroughly and keep warm for 48 hours if required.

In feeding, we dip out enough into a barrel and add sufficient water or milk to make it quite sloppy, and feed while warm. I feed three times a day, all they will eat up clean, extending the time between feeds as far as possible, feeding in the morning at seven, again at two p. m., and in the evening at eight, and I am well pleased with the way they are doing.

Sweet Corn.

SIR.—That sweet corn may be had ready for stock feeding at least two to three weeks earlier than dent or flint varieties, and costs only about fifty to seventy-five cents more for the seed per acre, is a very important matter, and one of which Canadian farmers should take more advantage. Perry's Hybrid, Stowell's Evergreen, Early Minnesota, and the Cory are excellent varieties. Crosby's Early Sugar is also good. None beat the Cory for earliness. Sweet corns are worth more, pound for pound, than dent or flint varieties. We speak of green corns for fodder purposes. OBSERVER.

There is more than the proverbial grain of truth in the following criticism of the times by a shrewd farmer: "We let our timber rot and buy fencing. We throw away our ashes and grease and buy soap. We chase dogs and buy hogs. We let our manure rot and buy fertilizers. We grow weeds and eat vegetables and brooms. We catch 5 cent chickens and send them off to be educated. And, lastly, we put out a cat with a \$40 gun and a \$10 dog to catch the birds."

1. The Farm fifteen of each. It is impartially and handsomely illustrated by the most profitable farmers, dairymen in Canada.
2. Terms of Subscription: in arrears; \$5.00 or \$1.50. New subscribers, \$3.00.
3. Advertising Rates: per line, per week, \$1.00. Longer rates on application.
4. Discontinuance: notified by letter. Paper stopped at once. Your paper will find your name is given.
5. The Advocate is received free of charge. It is responsible for no orders to be made.
6. The Law is, responsible for no orders to be made.
7. Remittances: Registered. When risk. When.
8. Always give paper is sent unless this is.
9. The Date on is paid.
10. Subscribers regularly will.
11. We invite F. We are always such as we printed matter to improve. Roots or Vegetables are each and be furnished our columns. postage.
12. Replies to office will not.
13. No anonymous attention.
14. Letters inside of the paper.
15. All communications with this paper any individual. Address: THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE, OAK LAKE, ONT.

EDITORIAL:—
181—Illustrations: Stud; W. Profits from Till Word from One Farm.
184—Gleanings: Silo—How Built: How to Get the 187—Stock Breeding: A Mutton Test: Hamilton Horse: The Helping Hand: 189—Dog Po: Feed Box for C: er; To Prevent: ENTOMOLOGY: 189—Injurio: GARDEN AND O: 189—Setting: DAIRY: 189—Dairy: Size Factory C: POULTRY: 189—Poultry: QUESTIONS AN: 189—Veteri: LIVE STOCK: 189—Toronto: Chicago; Mon: APRIARY: 189—Trans: FAMILY CIRCU: THE QUERIE: CHILDREN'S C: UNCLE TOM'S: STOCK GOSPE: the Milk; The Light: NOTICES:—200: BOOK TABLE: ADVERTISEME

A copy of da's Glory, cultural hon judges in highest term present we judgment o in conception verdict, in stre ADVOCATE (in closing) This can a few more benefit and down our p