Making Hay Under Difficulties.

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

When one reads the recently-published methods of haymaking, so nicely set forth in your interesting columns, some of us less fortunate ones may be pardoned for a slight feeling of envy. "Cut after the dew is off, gathered up, and perhaps drawn in that day," we would be less than human did we not covet at least our neighbor's weather. In Central Ontario last summer one section had, between the 12th of July and 18th of August, a spell of four consecutive days during which no rain fell; otherwise, it rained more or less every day or every other day. In fact, since 1901, when good weather prevailed, the conditions have been decidedly trying. Already this season, between the 3rd and 13th of July, there has been one day only on which no rain fell.

Of course, slow, rapid, or any other fancy theoretical style of making hay in such circumstances, read like descriptions of King Solomon's Mines. We have, therefore, because of the rainy weather, two practical ways of handling hay—the one costly and tiring, the other easy and unprofitable. The first is that adopted by Scandinavians, which consists of forking the green grass onto racks of poles, very much as one would hang it on the bars of a gate. This certainly makes good hay, but involves a tremendous lot of very heavy labor. The second is that of the happy-go-lucky fellow, who mows when the weather is fine and gathers up the residue when it is dry enough, be the intervening time ten days or twenty.

Between two extremes there is always said to be a happy medium. Well, Mr. Editor, I just want to send you word by this that if there is a heart-racking job it is held down by the Central Ontario farmer who, in the "happy medium," tries to make good hay these years from the very heavy crop of grass which the otherwise highly beneficial rains bring him. X. I. C.

Northumberland Co., Ont.

Making Money on Wheat.

A steady, monotonous wheat market is a condition under which legitimate milling business thrives best, but it is death to the man with a ticker and his customer, the victim of tickeritis. He wants something doing all the time. The essence of gambling is excitement. Without it, the game waxes dull and its victims grow weary. A long period of even prices wears away the heart of the option trader. He is after sensations with which to stir up the gambling spirit of his victims from whom he derives his diamonds and his automobiles.

A large, fat and prosperous group of these gentry has centered in Minneapolis, and during the last year they have fairly revelled in wealth, all shaken out of the pockets of the speculative populace. They are actually embarrassed to find ways in which to spend their money. Their expensive automobiles block the streets, and the smell of the perfumery with which they besprinkle their persons overpowers the odor from their gasoline tanks. Some of them have need of strong smells with which to counteract the fragrance of a somewhat malodorous past.

At this time of the year, these people are very busy with the growing crop. There is absolutely no condition known to nature that would not afford them opportunity for sensational reports. If the weather is dry, they conjure up visions of drouth and hasten to relate them over the wires to distant parts of the world in order to stir things up. If it is wet, the crop is ruined by too much rain. If it be hot, the wheat is being burned up. If it be cool, the crop is not maturing. The hot, dry winds, red rust, black rust, bugs, frost—a hundred things can be invoked for the purpose. Nature never produced weather conditions which could not be turned to the advantage of the wheat gambler anxious to stir up flagging interest in the option market. If all else should fail, there are wars and rumors of war which will do to tide over a dull day when the weather topic has become a trifle overworked.—[Northwestern Miller.

The British museum has approved of a suggestion for the preservation of phonograph records of the voices of prominent singers, orators, actors, and the works of instrumentalists. When the idea was first submitted to the trustees the objection was raised that the records would not be of a sufficiently permanent character. This objection has, however, now been removed, and the records for the national collection will be master records of nickel, from which records for service may be moulded as desired. A similar collection is already being formed in Italy. The collection for the British Museum is to be started immediately. All the most prominent public men singers and musicians of the day will be requested to make records. As years go by, the collection will increase in value and size, and it is certain to become one of the most valued of the nation's treasures. The records, however, will not be available for immediate use, but will be reserved for reproduction in the next generation.—[The Scientific American.

"Sanitarium for Montreal Office Boys."

To the Editor "Farmer's Advocate":

Sir,—In your issue of July 6th I notice an article on the sale of the Provincial Farm, at Compton, Que., in which your correspondent says: "The institution has been a complete failure, being nothing more or less than an asylum for younger sons across the sea, and the annual net cost to the Province was about $5,000."

With regard to the Englishmen being an expense to the Province, they were required to pay a monthly premium of $10 or $12, all Provincial students being taken free. The percentage of English students was very small; I should say that not more than twelve (12) were enrolled. With one or two exceptions, only, they were from the upper class, and came out with an earnest desire to learn farming, which is far more than can be said of the Canadians, the majority of whom, certainly, did not intend to farm, and made the place a summer resort. I only know of one Canadian student who is farming at present, while four (4) of the Englishmen have taken it up, and the majority of others have settled at some occupation in Canada. The course was supposed to extend over two years, at the end of which the student was entitled to a certificate of proficiency. Proficiency in what? Principally mowing the lawn in the summer and doing the rough chores in the barns in the winter. As for being taught the handling of machinery, the Government could not run the chance of breakages, so the student was obliged to gain his experience on his own farm later, or at the expense of some farmer he might hire out to. Any questions asked regarding the work were usually met with some sarcastic reply which effectually quashed all interest the student may have had.

These are a few of the reasons, coupled with the fact that three or four hired men were kept to do the principal work which the students should have been taught, which made the institution a failure for students.

Its failure as a farm no one attempts to explain.

This sounds rather like striking a man when he is down, but I felt bound to say a few words in justice to the "younger sons across the sea," who have attended the "asylum," or, as it should be more appropriately called, a "sanitarium for Montreal office boys." V. E. H.

[Note.—A despatch from Quebec City, dated July 21st, states that the Government have sold the Compton Model Farm for $12,000 to Mr. Dominique Bolduc. The land alone originally cost $11,000.—Ed.]

Dunn Co., Wis., School of Agriculture.

Prof. K. C. Davis, in the Prairie Farmer, gives the following information regarding agricultural high schools in Wisconsin, a subject referred to in a recent issue of the "Farmer's Advocate." Our contemporary states that the Dunn County School of Agriculture graduated eight students in its long course last May, and gave eleven certificates to short-course students. The way in which statements of enrollment are sometimes padded out, and the long list of things which the Wisconsin school purposes to do for the farmers of the county "free gratis for nothing," would seem to indicate that the staff of the Dunn County school does not find itself working overtime training young men and women:

The State of Wisconsin was the first in the Union to encourage the establishment of schools for the teaching of agriculture, manual training and domestic economy to the rural classes. County schools of agriculture were created in 1901. The first law allowed two counties to build and equip such schools at their own expense. Dunn County was the first to organize a county school board under the law, and Marathon County soon followed. These counties opened schools in October, 1902, with courses which were planned by the two principals and the State superintendent. The expense for equipment of buildings, furniture, apparatus, machinery and stock was borne by the county in each case. But the State aids each school to the extent of $4,000 a year to apply on the running expenses. The schools are both prospering. The Dunn County School of Agriculture has just completed its third year. Forty students have completed the school course at the two graduation exercises. The enrollments for the three years were 64, 79, and 73. These young people are mostly from the farms of the county, and all of them attend the school to prepare for farm life. While the State College of Agriculture is preparing young men to fill positions in colleges, experiment stations and U. S. Government work, the county agricultural schools are fitting young men and young women for the actual work of the farms in the counties where they are located. Besides the regular school work, the Dunn County School of Agriculture does a great many things for farmers free of charge. The principal of the school and the instructors are ready to help farmers in many ways. The school costs the farmer about twenty cents per year for each thousand dollars of his assessment. The school can give him twenty dollars a year of free help, besides teaching his sons and daughters.

Here are some of the different offers:

Milk and cream tested for butter-fat.

Farm and garden seeds tested.

Clover and other legumes treated for bacteria.

Oats treated for smut, and potatoes for scab.

Grafting of apple trees when scions are furnished.

Good roads planned.

Barns, silos, poultry and milk houses planned.

Water systems for houses and barns planned.

Drainage and sewage systems for barns and homes planned.

Information regarding feeds, stock, crops, new plants, planting, weeds, diseases, insects, spraying, fruits, machines, powers, and all farm subjects.

Pure-bred stock selected for buyers.

Bulletins on all farm subjects free.

The instructors, aided by leading farmers, hold twenty farm institutes a year in the county. These are each attended by hundreds of interested farmers with their families.

The school also aids in the preparing of teachers to teach the useful subjects of agriculture, manual training and domestic economy in rural schools. This summer, from July 24 to August 5, will be held a special summer session to train teachers in these subjects. K. C. DAVIS.

[Here is a copy of the last commencement programme, which indicates the nature of the addresses given by the graduates:

The Care and Use of Meat .....Emma Hoehn
The Knowledge of Scientific Feeding...John Brill
Poultry-raising for Women.....Christine Hanson
The Preservation of Foods.....Lottie Ludvigson
Soil, Nitrogen and Bacteria .....Lewis Rudesill
Domestic Hygiene ....Bertha Betzner
The Adulteration of Foods.....Emma Bentson
Seed Testing .....Harry Hubbard
Music—Selected ... .Male Quartette
Presentation of Graduating Class..Prof. K. C. Davis
Address to Graduates.
Presentation of Diplomas and Certificates...
Hon. J. H. Stout

DAIRY.

Factory Floors.

Substitute as soon as possible a cement floor for the wooden one now in the factory. Grade the ground to a slant of one inch in six feet to a central gutter, then pack the earth firmly and cover with four to six inches of gravel. Pound the gravel solidly. Mix sand and gravel with good cement in the proportion of four or five to one, and lay with grouting about four inches thick on the firm gravel. Finish with one coat of screened, sharp sand and the very best brand of cement, mixed in the proportion of two to one for the finishing coat. Have the surface smooth, so that pools of water will not lie on the floor. The gutter should have a fall of one inch in six to eight feet to an outlet, and should be made specially solid and even on the side and bottom. Employ a skilled workman to lay the floor, and use none but the very best material.

Place a bell trap at the outlet from the gutter. Use sewer tile with cemented joints in underground drains near the factory, to prevent sewage soaking into the well. The sewage may be disposed of by means of a filter-bed or by the sub-earth system. Do not allow it to accumulate about the factory.—[Prof. H. H. Dean, in Bulletin 143, O. A. C.

Wasting Skim Milk.

The kind of dairy meeting the instructor likes to see was held at the Dunkeld (Ont.) creamery two weeks ago, when a good-sized audience assembled, of whom almost one-half were women. Mr. G. H. Barr addressed the meeting on the advantage of sending rich cream to the creamery, pointing out that the patron who sent 20 per cent. cream was sending from his farm with each cwt. of cream 80 pounds of valuable skim milk that was of no use to the buttermaker. The richer the cream, the more skim milk left at home for feeding. Separator agents are partly to blame for the dissemination of erroneous ideas on this point. A member of the audience told of a certain agent, anxious to make a sale, who asked a farmer to bring him a creamer can of skim milk. This being brought was run through the separator, and from it there was extracted two quarts of cream. There is cream and cream, and the fact of sending a large pailful does not increase the patron's returns at the factory; it only robs the calves and pigs. No patron should skim cream containing less than 30 per cent. of butter-fat.