

were in good form, even and smoothly built, but were considered by the judges too much "improved" to win.

Grades.—Judges were Thos Teasdale and Jas. Maine. Exhibitors were J. G. Snell, Snelgrove; W. & H. Jones, Mt. Elgin; R. H. Harding, Thorndale; Samuel Congdon, Everton; Jno. Bolton, Armstrong's Mills; W. M. & J. C. Smith, Fairfield Plains; Patrick McGarr, Guelph, and Robert Agnew, Action. In the section for grade barrows over nine months, Robt. Agnew, Action, captured first and second on a pair of model hogs, Berk and York cross, very lengthy, deep-sided, level-backed, with well-sprung ribs and heavy hams, carrying their great weights remarkably well on their legs. J. G. Snell & Bro. were third on their barrow, Great Expectations, but his expectations were not quite realized in this case, although a remarkably fine hog. The call for barrow under nine months brought out nine grand individuals, J. G. Snell & Bro. winning first and second on a couple of capital high grade Berks and Fad; Samuel Congdon coming in for third on a good Berk and Yorkshire cross. For sow over nine months, Wm. & J. C. Smith was first on a grand Poland-China grade, a capital hog, and brought out in the best of finish; second going to Patrick McGarr on a good Berk grade. For sow under nine months, Samuel Congdon was first on Floss, a grade Berkshire of good quality, followed closely by Jno. Bolton on a well-finished Poland-China and Yorkshire cross. Alfred Hales showed three nice Berkshire grades, winning third on sow under nine months.

Sweepstakes (silver medal) for best grade hog, any age, breed or sex, was competed for by J. G. Snell & Bro., Smith Bros., and Robt. Agnew, Action, Ont., the honor falling to Robt. Agnew on barrow over nine months, Berkshire and Yorkshire cross; winning in the poultry and already described.

POULTRY.

The dressed poultry exhibit was not so large, and in some of the classes not so good as last year. The turkeys were not so fat or so numerous as in former years. The geese were large and well fattened. Chickens were numerous and well prepared. Collections were good, but only four shown. Ducks, good, but few in number. Prices ruled lower than last year, nine cents per pound being the highest paid for turkeys, six to seven for geese, and the same for ducks; nine for chickens. Messrs. White & Strachan were the principal buyers, shipping them to Mr. Leaman, of Halifax. On the whole, the exhibit was inferior to last year, though some good specimens were shown.

The live poultry exhibit was very fine; in fact, competent judges consider it superior to the Ontario Poultry Association Show with the large Government grant to assist it. There were over 1,100 entries altogether, and the birds in the numerous classes exhibited were very fine, the plumage being much superior to what was shown at the Toronto Industrial. The show of turkeys, geese, and ducks was remarkably good, all the pure breeds being well represented; some of the Bremen, Toulouse, and Chinese geese being very large and in fine plumage. The Pekin, Aylsbury, and Rouen ducks were also grand, the judge, Mr. Jarvis, remarking he had never seen finer in such numbers. Some very fine specimens of Bronze turkeys were also shown; one gobbler weighing over 40 lbs., another 36, "last year's bird." There were some 20 white turkeys on exhibition, and very fine birds amongst them. There were several young Bronze cockerels that turned the scales at 24 and 25 lbs. each. The birds were all shown singly, and the prizes were good: \$1.50 for first and 75c. for second.

In Asiatics, the Light Brahmas and Cochins had the largest exhibit, and some beautiful specimens were represented. The exhibit of games was simply immense, and the judge, Mr. Barber, from Toronto, had a difficult matter to decide which should carry off the ribbons. The show of game Bantams was also very fine, some of them being imported. The Hamburgs were also well represented; they are a beautiful bird, with their gold and silver pencillings; though excellent layers, not a profitable bird for the farmer. The White and Brown Leghorns were very fine, and for egg producers cannot be beaten. By keeping them warm in winter and feeding well they will lay all winter, when eggs are worth something handsome. The Minorcas, black and white, were not numerous, but very fine specimens. The Black Spanish were also very fine; these two breeds are excellent layers of fine large white eggs, but are rather tender. The Plymouth Rocks were numerous and very fine; they have the barred, buff and white now, and for a general purpose fowl cannot be beaten. The Javas, black and white, were good, though few in numbers. Wyandottes very fine: golden, white, silver, and black; grand specimens of each. They are a very useful bird, being hardy, and good layers of fine large eggs. Houdans also fine; they are one of the best table birds we have. Dorkings come next on the list, and for a table bird cannot be excelled. Polands were good and well represented. Red Caps, Andalusians, etc., were fine birds; they are not so well known as some of the older breeds, but seem to have their admirers. The pigeons were not so numerous as at Toronto, but some very fine specimens were shown. The judges, Messrs. Jarvis and Barber, had a hard time of it, but seemed to have given general satisfaction, as very few complaints were heard. Some good sales were made, and great interest taken in the different exhibits; in fact, the hall was crowded almost continually. The obliging Secretary, Mr. John Coulson, did his

duty well, and gave general satisfaction. Upon the whole, it was one of the best exhibitions of poultry ever held in Canada, and the interest in poultry raising seems to be going ahead with rapid strides.

The following list comprises the names of those making the largest number of entries: Geo. Bogue, Strathroy; Alfred Brown, Picton; Geo. Colwell, Paris Station; Joseph Foster, Brampton; Chas. B. Gould, Glencoe; E. Howitt, Guelph; J. C. Lyons, Lucknow; J. E. Meyer, Kossuth; L. McIntyre, Norwich; Jno. Pletsch, Shakespeare; J. D. Robertson, Guelph; J. C. Pequegnat, New Hamburg; H. M. Smith, Fairfield Plains.

FARM.

Remarkable Testimony in Favor of Ensilage. Based on 14 Years' Experience.

SIR,—Your favor duly received, and, in reply, I beg to say that I have been feeding ensilage every season now for some thirteen or fourteen years to my cows, fattening steers and young cattle with the very best results. In fact, I could not run my farm and dairy without ensilage, except at a loss, particularly these past few years, in which we have had such terrible drouths, effecting both pasture and meadow. My hay crop last summer was a complete failure, and my straw crop was less than half what I should have had in an ordinary season, so that my only sure reliance is on corn ensilage for both summer and winter feed. I find it to be the cheapest, most convenient, and most satisfactory feed I can grow for summer feed in time of drouth. After the experience I have had with the drouth during the past two seasons, I have come to the conclusion that I will put up ensilage enough to feed my cows through the whole year if necessary, as I think cows would do much better if kept in the stable during the time of drouth, heat and flies, and so I have decided to try the experiment next summer, and so prepared for it last summer by growing corn enough to make one thousand tons of ensilage, besides some dry corn stover. I put one thousand tons into my five silos, and commenced feeding on the first of October. I GREW 1,000 TONS ON FIFTY ACRES, twenty tons to the acre; it cost 60 cents to grow, including seed, and 40 cents to harvest, making the cost \$1 per ton put in silo, the cheapest feed by half that a man can raise for feeding cows. Our corn was well loaded with ears, with a good deal of it glazed, which makes fine, rich feed. We put 1,000 tons into silo in fifteen days, or seventy tons per day. I intend getting a larger ensilage cutter next season, that will cut one hundred tons per day. We have a set of first-class hay scales near the corn, and we measure our land and weigh the corn as we haul it in, so that we know just what we are doing, and what we get from an acre without any guess work, so you see we have a very good and cheap feed. You ask how I feed ensilage. We used to cut our corn too green, before it had any ears on, and consequently it was not nearly as good as we now have it. I think that if the ensilage was very acid or sour, and fed very heavy, say 60 to 70 pounds of ensilage, without much other feed, it might cause a bad flavor to the milk, but with good, mature corn ensilage, well saved, fed along with other dry feed, hay or straw, with some grain feed, there will be no bad effects, neither as to the health of the cattle nor quality of the milk, but, on the contrary, good effects both in the animal and milk, and butter or cheese.

Several years ago I wanted to try an experiment on feeding ensilage alone, without any other feed, and so, in the fall or beginning of winter, I put ten two-year-old steers and heifers in one stable, and fed one half of them all winter on nothing but ensilage; to the other half I fed ensilage and clover hay—all they would eat. Those fed ensilage only came through all right in good health, but made very little gain in weight; the others that were fed on ensilage and clover hay came out fat in the spring with increased weight. In feeding steers for beef for export, I have always found ensilage fed with hay and grain the most profitable feed I ever used. I made my steers when but two and a half years old weigh 1,400 and 1,500 pounds, and always got the highest market price; but since beef cattle have got so slow in price, I have given up raising steers, and gone more into cows and dairying. I am now milking sixty cows the year round, and making butter. We get an average of about 1,400 pounds of milk per day the year round from sixty cows, some coming in fresh and some going dry every month in the year, but have more coming in September, October and November than at any other time. You ask what I feed my cows. This winter, not having much hay nor straw, I have to feed more ensilage than usual—more than I would if I had plenty of hay. I am feeding sixty pounds per day of ensilage, some oats, straw, and dry cut cornstalks (or stover), 8 pound wheat bran, and 2 pounds oil cake (linseed meal). Last year, when I had plenty of clover hay and not so much ensilage, I fed 10 pounds ensilage, 3 pounds clover hay, 4 pounds bran, 3 pounds pea meal, 3 pounds mixed chop, and 2 pounds cotton-seed meal. This last is a splendid ration for large cows, but rather too heavy, as my cows got too fat on it, but gave rather more milk than they are

doing now. I like cotton-seed meal better than linseed oil cake meal at the price I paid for it last year—\$16 per ton, F. O. B. cars in Tilsonburg. I think it the cheapest grain feed for cows one can buy. This year they want \$18 per ton for cotton seed, and \$19 for old process oil cake meal, so I thought I would try the oil cake. Now, if I had plenty of good clover hay and ensilage, I would feed 50 pounds ensilage, 8 pounds hay, 6 pounds bran, 3 pounds pea meal, and 2 pounds cotton-seed meal for large cows. With ensilage as good as mine is this year the above would be a splendid ration, and give good results. I am now feeding ensilage to my pigs with good results. There is no other feed so healthful, convenient and cheap as corn ensilage, cut and put in silo convenient to stable, and no feed that a farmer can raise from which he can keep so many cattle from an acre of land (100 cows on 100 acres), at half the cost of any other feed. E. D. TILLSON.

Norfolk Co., Ont.

Does Not Favor Ensilage Alone.

SIR,—I do not think that you can grow any other rough feed as cheaply as ensilage. We have fed young cattle, cows, and feeding steers with satisfactory results. Have never tried it with sheep or horses. Have never fed it alone, and have never weighed our feeds. Have always mixed it according to our supply of other feeds. We are feeding our young cattle and dry cows now with a mixture of turnips, ensilage and cut straw (no grain), and they are doing very well. We mix turnips and ensilage, each one part, and straw, two parts, but I think more ensilage could be fed to advantage if the supply would allow it. Last winter, hay being plentiful and our root crop short, we fed our steers ensilage, cut hay and chaff, with about one and a-half pounds oil cake, and one-half pound bran per head to start with, increasing the feed as the season advanced to about five pounds oil cake and one pound bran. Bran was hard to get and high. Have observed no ill effects when feeding it with roots; if no roots are fed they are inclined to become costive. To get the best results from feeding ensilage, it should always be fed with some other feeds, such as straw or hay, and roots if possible. While it is a wonderful help (and cheap) in feeding, it is not a good feed alone; in fact, I do not consider it safe. J. W. BARNETT.

Manager W. C. Edwards & Co.

Fed Ensilage for Five Years.

SIR,—In answer to your letter would say I have fed ensilage for five seasons, and have never had any trouble in any way with it. I consider it the cheapest feed a farmer can grow. We are feeding the ensilage to all the stock, and everything seems to like it, and are doing well. I always feed straw or hay with it, and a little meal to the fattening cattle. We feed the fat cattle now per day 50 pounds ensilage, 30 pounds Graystone turnips, 8 pounds potatoes, and all the straw they can eat up clean, and they are doing well on it. Our corn was nearer maturity this year than it ever was before, and I do not think it will require as much meal as other years to fatten them. We have three silos—one 20x19 feet, the other two 18 feet high by 19 feet diameter. We are feeding 24 cattle for spring market. The hay and grain crops were so poor this year we would have had to sell some of our store cattle had we not had plenty of corn, so you see we are depending on the corn for feed. We have no straw for bedding even, and that is something new for us. JOSEPH WARD.

Ontario Co.

A Cement Concrete Silo.

The writer recently had the pleasure of looking over the premises of Mr. D. McIntyre, Avon, Ont., who last season reconstructed his barns, placing them upon cement concrete walls, laying the cattle stalls, passage and feed alley of the same material, making a capital job throughout. Underneath the feed alley he ran a pipe with an opening to each manger, through which fresh air was brought in from the outside. Mr. Isaac Usher, of Thorold, has perfected a device of this description, the fresh air outlet being through numerous holes perforated in the sides of the small iron pipe opening into the manger. The air about the cattle becomes heated, and, rising, the cold fresh air flows steadily in, keeping the atmosphere of the stable very pure. Several who have used this plan speak highly of it. Mr. McIntyre's pair of cement concrete silos attracted our special attention; the inside dimensions being about 8x13 feet each, and 24 feet deep; the partition separating the two being some 10 inches thick. The outside walls were about 18 inches at the bottom by 12 at the top, and plumb inside. There was a 6-inch cut-off in the corner. We have seen many silos, but few that equalled these. One of them was nearly fed out, and the ensilage had kept perfectly. The walls were sound and smooth throughout. Mr. McIntyre's stock was looking well. He was feeding at the time ensilage mixed with a little cut straw and corn fodder, with some pulped roots and a pinch of grain occasionally, but ensilage was his main reliance. In fact, owing to the drought, which was exceptionally severe in that locality, he would have found himself in very sore straits had it not been for the corn crop. His silos were inside the barn, a door from each opening on the feed alley. Gravel was mixed with cement in the proportion of 5 to 1. Many stones were bedded in the walls.

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