

## TEMPORARY STORAGE.

Sometimes it is difficult to get all the crop to the cellar at digging time, and when this is the case the potatoes may be put in piles of forty or fifty bushels in a place where water will not lie and covered with straw, with a little earth on top to keep them dry, more earth being put over the straw if the weather becomes cold. If the potatoes are diseased, however, it is not safe to pile them in this way, and even if they are healthy, piling in the field should be avoided if at all possible, as the crop is much easier to handle afterwards in the cellar than outside in the cold, perhaps inclement, weather. If potatoes are found to be diseased at digging time, a good plan is to fix up a place in the barn where it is quite dry and where frost can be kept out for a time and spread the potatoes in shallow piles.

Many persons are growing potatoes for the first time this year in either small or moderately large quantities. The methods just described can be used by such persons in many cases. In other cases the quantity grown being quite small, can all be stored in the cellar as soon as the potatoes are dug. In storing in the cellar it is better to keep the potatoes in boxes or crates rather than in bags, as the latter are liable to rot. Moreover, when the potatoes start to sprout, as they will do during the winter, they will be more quickly noticed when in boxes and the sprouts kept removed. The oftener the sprouts are removed, when they appear, the better the potatoes will keep, but where possible the potatoes should be kept so cool and in such a dark room that they will not sprout. Before storing even small quantities of potatoes it is desirable to have them quite dry.

In the more newly settled parts of Canada the settlers have difficulty in storing their potatoes before they get a good cellar, and even those who have been long in the country often have not adequate accommodation for their potatoes.

The following method of storing 1,000 bushels of potatoes has been very successfully followed on the prairies: A hole in the ground 14 feet wide, 4 to 4½ feet deep, and about 30 feet long will give ample space. The sides and ends of the hole may be lined with boards to prevent earth from falling in, though the earth may be braced back with poles if boards cannot be readily obtained. Fill the hole to a height of 3½ feet with potatoes, then place logs along the sides and ends to hold back the earth thrown out and for supports for the poles of the roof. The depth of this side log and elevation in centre of the roof is to be left as an air space, and no straw or rubbish whatever is put on top of the potatoes. A roof is made with poles placed close together. There should be but a slight elevation at the centre of the roof.

When the poles for the roof are in place there should be a little hay thrown over them to keep the soil from falling through. The roof should now be well sodded and some of the loose earth which was dug out of the hole shovelled over the sods to make about one foot deep of earth and sods. Another foot of well-rotted, dry horse manure will be sufficient during the coldest winter. The natural ground heat from the bottom will keep the temperature fairly even. In a pit this size there should be three ventilators, each about 4 by 6 inches, made of boards, one at each end and one in the centre. These should be put in when roofing. These are closed in the very cold weather with old sacks, and empty boxes then turned over them; when the weather becomes frosty, the centre ventilator may be kept closed all the time. There should be no potatoes directly under the end ventilators, as the drip of water from them