

# Herds that Are Independent of Short Pastures

## What Surplus Ensilage is Doing for the Cows on a Couple of Farms

OUR cows are starving. See that pasture? It's as dry as a board. Do you wonder that the cows are losing flesh, and giving next to no milk? No, we haven't any surplus feed left over from last year to supplement the pastures. Last year was almost as dry as this one.

Saw the year before that again. We can't buy feed around here. Prices are tremendous. If we import it. We will have to sell part of our stock I fear. Yes, sir, we farmers have troubles you city fellows don't know anything about.

The old man with whom I was talking certainly had a problem to face. Crops have been short for three years in Peterboro county. At least in the section of Peterboro county in which I then was. I did not blame the old man for being discouraged and pessimistic. I did not even show indignation at being classed as a "city feller," an accusation, which, at other times, I would most vigorously deny.

There are many more in exactly the same plight as this man on the farms that I had passed. On very few farms was there any feed, either on the pastures or in the barn. Corn is not yet ready to feed. It is too watery to provide any nutrition. Before the day's drive was

over, however, I had found two farmers, who to a certain degree, at least, have made themselves independent of short pastures and dry seasons. Their cattle are not starving. The cows may not be giving as much milk as they would with first-class pastures, but they are giving much more milk than the cows

more milk than the cows of any of their neighbors. The fortunate ones are the Telford brothers, Clayton and Will, who occupy adjoining farms in the township of Ennismore, and who were competitors in Farm and Dairy's last Prize Farms Competition.

"I was talking with Jack Flood, our cheesemaker, last Sunday," remarked Mr. Clayton Telford, at whose place I first called, "and he told me that Will and I were the only ones in the factory whose herds are keeping up in the milk flow. The difference between us and the rest is that we have silage to feed and the other patrons have not. There we turned the cattle out in the spring we had three feet of corn left in the bottom of the silo. We held this for dry weather. We are now feeding a bushel basket a day in two feeds to each of our nine cows, and this took the silo down only five inches in a week. At this rate our surplus silage will carry us right through the driest part of the season."

Last winter was the first experience with silage for feed on this farm. The silo 12 feet four inches in diameter, by 28 feet in height, is a combination of cement and staves, the first 10 feet being under ground, and of cement, and the superstructure of 18 feet is of stave construction. "How much did it cost?" was asked.

"Well," said Mr. Telford, "it just cost \$48.35 for material, but people will hardly believe me when I tell them that. Here, however, is the complete bill of materials: Cement, \$15.30; gravel, \$1; hoops, \$5; lumber, \$30; paint, \$2; rent of molds, \$5; total, \$48.30. "You are certainly breaking records for cheap silo construction," I commented.

"Yes, but I had some special advantages," was the reply. "In the first place I bought the lumber standing for \$11 a thousand. I cut it myself, drew it to the mill, had it cut to suit, and got it far away below what it would have cost me any other way. I got the hoops at a each from a fellow who had discarded his stave silo for a new cement one. They were as good as new. There was an old root cellar just where



**A Good Crop in a Dry Year**

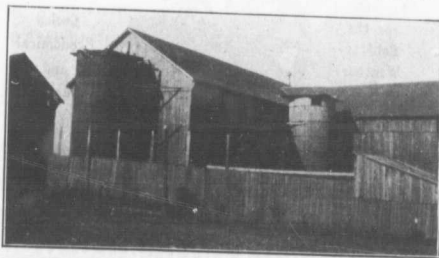
Mr. Clayton Telford, Peterboro Co., Ont., may be seen in his five acre corn field. His corn is growing well, while on neighboring farms growth is at a standstill. A result of manuring and weekly cultivation all through the season.

our silo is now located so the work of excavating for the first 10 feet was reduced to a minimum. It took only a day to get it in shape for the cement molds."

This estimate of \$48.30 does not include labor costs. Besides the drawing of the materials, which was done with Mr. Telford's own team and his own time, it took four men one day to put in the cement work, and one day to erect the staves, or the equivalent of eight days' labor for one man. Five acres of corn almost filled the silo and fed 21 head of cattle all winter, with the exception of two weeks when turnips were fed.

**GOOD CORN IN A DRY YEAR.**

Before leaving we took a run across to the



**Home-Constructed Silos that are Pioneers in the Township**

The silo seen in the angle of the barn was the first silo in the township of Ennismore, County of Peterboro, Ont. Its owner, W. Telford, was so pleased with ensilage that last year he erected the second silo seen. He has surplus ensilage to carry his herd till fall—All photos by an Editor of Farm and Dairy.

back of the farm to inspect the five acres of corn that Mr. Telford is growing this year. I had noted on the way out that corn fields were shrunken and withered with the drought. There was no sign of this in the Telford field. The seed bed had been well prepared, well manured and cultivated every week since the corn first appeared. Moisture was thus conserved to the utmost and while not making as good a growth as would have been expected in a more favorable year a fairly good crop will be harvested.

Another explanation of the exceptional way in which his herd is holding to their milk flow was given by Mr. Telford when he mentioned that he sprays with a commercial fly repellent every

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**The Source of Summer Rations**

This silo furnished ensilage to 21 head of cattle last winter, and the surplus will tide the milch cows over three months of dry weather this summer. Hence Mr. Clayton Telford, its owner, is almost independent of dry pastures.



**This Corn Grew One Foot a Week**

Mr. Will Telford's corn made an average growth of one foot a week for eight weeks. He, too, believes in feeding raw materials on the farm, returning manure to the land and cultivating thoroughly. These silos have made, despite a drought that has lasted almost since the seed went into the ground. Mr. Telford was a successful competitor in Farm and Dairy's last Prize Farms Competition.