

mixed hay. Farmers claim that it does not appear exceptionally nutritious, but the cattle will eat it and it supplies the required roughage in the rations. According to some growers it is better when fed in the yard on the snow. In the manger the cattle breathe on it and it becomes unpalatable. This condition is overcome by feeding out of doors.

For this season's trade the outlook is none too bright, but no complaints were heard from the growers. When peace is re-established and commerce again moves normally from port to port it is quite probable that the Townships of Mariposa and Ops will announce their importance in the alsike world, and with the aid of a more favorable climate than has existed for two seasons past they will produce the seed that is wanted in many lands.

Alfalfa Experiences.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

There is much written in the columns of "The Farmer's Advocate" about growing and feeding alfalfa. I take considerable interest in these comments for I have had no small amount of experience in both directions.

I have finished harvesting sixteen loads off of ten acres which I consider the best paying crop a farmer can grow, provided a man has land adapted for the purpose. It is the sixth season for five acres, it being cut three times annually except the first year when it was only cut twice. This is the best yield I have received yet, and proves that cutting it three times in one season does not seriously injure it. This is the second season for the other five acres, it was only cut twice last year and top-dressed with fine stable manure last March.

Owing to its great feeding value it is extremely necessary to cure it properly. I have practiced the same method for years and find it absolutely satisfactory. I cut as soon as the second plants commence to shoot up from the crowns, when, generally the standing crop will be about one-tenth in bloom. It is cut in the early morning, tedded if necessary, and raked and coiled in the evening. The coils are left a couple of days and then thrown out in small forkfuls and hauled in. We find this keeps perfectly and the leaves are mostly all preserved which is a very important factor.

Alfalfa is very beneficial to the soil. It acts as a deadly enemy to most weeds on account of the ground being mowed so many times in a season. It should never be seeded on sod as blue grass and wild grass are its worst enemies. I have had very successful catches on ground that had been hoed or summer fallowed the previous year. Plowing is always done with a sulky plow drawn by three horses as soon as the frost is out far enough to allow it to go deep enough. From five to six inches is generally considered about right. There is no danger in the land baking or getting hard as it seems to make the land just like new.

I might say we have never experienced any trouble in feeding as regards stock being sick. We feed it to horses and cattle twice a day and they never seem to tire of it, although horses that are working hard every day will stand the work better on timothy hay with a small feed of alfalfa at night. The leaves that fall off in the feed-way are one of the best green feed substitutes that can possibly be obtained for poultry, they are also unexcelled for small pigs.

A MIDDLESEX FARMER.

THE DAIRY.

Among the Institutes.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

The writer attended annual meetings of Women's and Farmer's Institutes last week in Victoria and Grey Counties. May I record some of my observations and impressions for the benefit of "Advocate" readers?

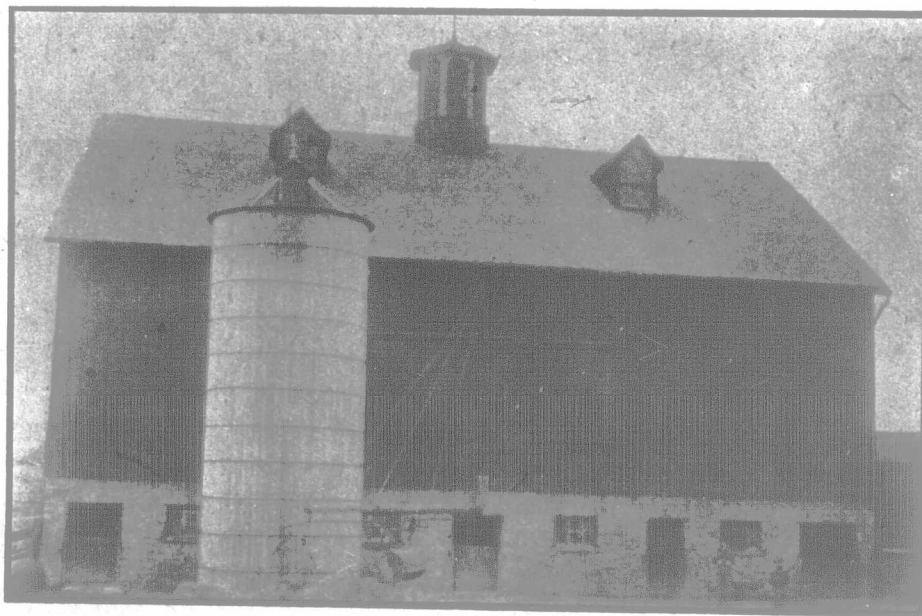
At the outset, I would like to say that if the Institutes in these two counties are a fair sample of the spirit which animates the farm men and women of the Counties of Ontario, the Institutes are a long way from being dead and those who are preparing to attend the funeral of Women's and Farmer's Institutes will have to postpone the pleasure to some time in the future. We never attended more enthusiastic meetings of farmers. It is true that the women predominated in numbers, and were more aggressive than the men, but where women lead, men will follow. It looks as if those who were responsible for the starting of the Institute system got the cart before the horse. The work should have been started among the women, and then possibly the men, having learned from their "Better-halves" how to run an Institute, might have made a greater success of their own branch.

My observations lead me to think that the success or failure of any farmer's organization,

depends largely upon the Leaders and Officers of the organization. Given good leaders, our farmers will make a success of any movement. Farmers are no different from any other class of men. Bad generals cause a failure in any army, no matter how skilful and brave the rank and file may be.

It would seem that this is where the Agricultural Representatives have an opportunity to do most good among the farmers in the counties where they are located. These young men, if made of the right kind of stuff, can do a wonderful work among the farmers of any community, but they should, if possible be born or trained leaders of men. Possibly in this respect our educational institutions have been somewhat lax. Is there anything in the training of young men for agricultural leaders which can be done to improve those qualities which men instinctively recognize and are willing to follow? If there is, it ought to receive especial attention in the education of young men who are to go out as representatives of advanced agricultural thought and practice.

The Institutes are inclined to blame the indifference of farmers to the Institute Meetings on the class of men who have been sent out as speakers during recent years. I know not if this be true, but certain it is that a speaker who goes to a farmers' meeting in these times without a special message and who cannot deliver that message with power, is wholly unfit for the work. There may have been a time when "hacks" would answer the purpose, but in these days of automobiles and flying machines, the man who is not specially trained for the work cannot hope to interest farmers. The farmer of to-day is a reader and a thinker. He knows a "bluff" as soon as he hears it begin to talk. Such men are worse than useless as Institute



A Dairy Barn in Halton County.

speakers. As an illustration of what is meant. One of the speakers (not a "bluff" by any means) at the Lindsay meeting had said that farm homes should be equipped with a water system, bathroom, sewage disposal and have all the modern conveniences to be found in city homes. During the afternoon there was an opportunity given for persons in the audience to ask questions which were written and handed in for the Women Presidents and others to answer. One question was: "How may farmers get the funds to provide water and sewage systems and other modern conveniences?" One of the ladies answered this somewhat as follows: "When farmers have the same opportunities to buy and sell as other classes have, then the funds will be forthcoming but so long as farmers are handicapped by tariffs which compel them to pay a tax to manufacturers on all articles which they buy and are compelled to sell their surplus goods in an open market, they will be unable to make legitimate profits on farm produce." She then instanced articles which could be bought in the American market at certain prices and compared these with the Canadian prices. The difference was striking, amounting in the case of an automobile to several hundred dollars. She argued that this extra price was an added tax on the farmer, which was paid to the manufacturer. In a word, she asked that the other classes shall get off the backs of the farmers, then the farmers would be able to look after themselves.

While we should be sorry to set class against class in this country it is a fact that other classes have too long been "doing" the farmer. It is a good sign, when a farmer's wife begins to handle these matters without gloves. Some of our men farmers should get more "spunk," instead of having a "wishbone where the backbone ought to be."

I made inquiry from the Agricultural Representative regarding this woman's ability to do

things on the farm. I found that she had been and is the leading spirit in the "Egg-Circle" of her neighborhood.

By the way, while in the "Rep's" office at Lindsay a farmer observed that the Egg-Circles were not paying enough extra price to warrant them in going to the extra expense and trouble of caring for the eggs. He said that 1½ cents per dozen was not enough and predicted the downfall of these organizations unless the price is increased. I was also told that a large firm in Montreal who formerly supported the plan, was now "knocking" it for all they were worth because they were not getting what they considered a fair share of the trade. When will our farmers learn to co-operate, build cold-storages and handle their own eggs, butter, etc. and reap the profits now made by the other fellow, in carrying goods from a time of plenty to a time of scarcity?

The County of Victoria has natural advantages similar to those of Holland for the development of dairying, yet there are only about 16,600 cows kept on nearly 300,000 acres of cleared land. In other words, about one cow is maintained for 18 acres of cleared land. This flat, rich land, well watered, with internal commerce possible by both water and land, should carry 100,000 cows, to the advantage of the farmers and all others in the county. In discussion, the farmers made the complaint, heard nearly everywhere, that those who handle their dairy produce do not give a "square deal" and that consequently it does not pay to keep cows. The story of low tests and low prices for cream were repeated several times. There is also the labor problem in handling cows.

The crops from Guelph to Lindsay, along the G.T.R. look very promising, except hay which will be short. Mustard seems to thrive well along a good part of the road. It is difficult to understand why farmers are allowing this weed to get such a foothold on their farms. Among some of the best farmers in Peel and York Counties also in Ontario and Victoria Counties, they seem to be preparing, as one man expressed it, "for a glorious twelfth of July celebration."

From Guelph to Owen Sound crops also look well except hay, and in some cases the fall wheat is not good. Early in the season, there was lack of rain in Grey County, but latterly there has been a deluge of rain and some fields of spring grain begin to look yellow. Corn in all sections is backward. Looks like a poor year for corn, unless the weather gets warmer. In fact, there is a general complaint among farmers about lack of heat. There is plenty of moisture in the ground now to mature crops. If the weatherman will give us a temperature of 75 degrees to 80 degrees F. for a time, the year 1915 promises to be a banner year for farmers in Ontario.

Grey County is also well situated for dairying. Excellent streams of water and good pasture land are to be seen everywhere, but very few cows and these largely a mixture of every breed under the sun. Great areas are devoted to pasturing fattening cattle, but milk cows are scarce. There are some 35,600 cows in the county, but there are over one million assessed acres, with nearly 700,000 acres of cleared land, which works out at about one cow on 20 acres. The standard is one cow per acre of cleared land.

In the course of our talk we said, a cow ought to produce at least 250 lbs. milk-fat in a year. The Mayor of Owen Sound, who owns a large creamery in the city, said in his address, that the cows owned by his patrons did not average 150 lbs. fat per year. In this fact he found cause for lack of success among creamery patrons.

The Grey meeting took the form of a picnic, with many citizens of Owen Sound present. It was a combined social and business meeting that will do much good to the county.

O.A.C.

H. H. DEAN.

Uncle 'Bije wonders why it is that the country pays about \$200,000 a year to government ministers and deputies to conduct its business and then has to hire Royal Commissions to do the job or clean up the muss?