

deserve the highest credit for pinning their faith to such a horse and bringing him out to perfection. Another horse which promises to breed very well is Mr. Peter Crawford's Royal Gartley 9844, a noted prize winner himself and sire of the first prize group at Glasgow this week. These young Clydesdales exhibit fine quality of bone and are pretty sure to be wearers, as their sires have been before them. Sir Everard 5353, the sire of Baron's Pride, continues to breed very well and his stock are always improving. These, with the veteran Macgregor 1487, are, so far as the present show season has gone, still in front as breeding horses. The Marquis of Londonderry's stud is doing well this season, several of the best animals exhibited in the female classes coming from it. His Lordship has done much to promote Clydesdale breeding in the north of England, and it is pleasant to see his colors going to victory. Another youngster at Glasgow was Montrave Mermaid, the daughter of the celebrated champion mare Moss Rose 6203, which also was exhibited, looking fresh and new, but unfortunately yield. Her daughter, Montrave Maud, was female champion, and Montrave Mermaid was second in her class. She looks to be the best of the foals left by the grand mare, which, after an unprecedented career in the show-yard, began breeding rather late in life and has produced six daughters and two sons, all of which, with one exception, have lived. Her colts are not nearly equal to her fillies in merit. The latter have been well-nigh invincible—neither of the former has been exhibited.

The Clydesdale world has been in the throes of internecine conflict for several months back, but all disputes have been amicably settled this week by a mutual compromise. If the opponents of the Stud Book are not now satisfied, then they must abandon the pretense that their opposition is not to the Stud Book under any conditions. The concessions which have been made involve a considerable advance by the more conservative element, but they also abrogate forever the system of registering horses whose sires are not registered. What has been done is practically to run the Clydesdale book on parallel lines with those of the Shire book so far, of course, as there can be similarity of system between the two. The standard is three registered crosses, and there will soon be no animals registered whose sires are not registered. This system had to come to an end sooner or later—it could not last indefinitely—but in order to attain this and prevent a split in the Society the conservative had, as we have said, to make some concession to those whose interests would have been injuriously affected had simple abolition of the system without rearrangement been followed. The net result, taking the country all over, will be very much the same as at present, although a few horses will be numbered which formerly were not entitled to be so treated. The advantage to foreign buyers of the new system will be very marked, and our hope is that they will at once begin to operate—the sooner the better for all concerned.

#### Messrs. McMillan's Method of Feeding Loose Steers.

Since the favorable letters have appeared in our columns upon the subject of feeding steers loose instead of tied a member of our staff took occasion to visit the farms of Messrs. John McMillan, M. P., and two sons, near Seaford, Ont. These gentlemen farm 450 acres, divided into three farms. The illustration on this page represents the basement of Mr. Robert McMillan's barn, where fifty-two dehorned steers are running loose in two immense boxes, and some half-dozen heifers are tied in the cow stable. The steers are three-year-olds this spring, varying, no doubt, a few months. They are apparently Shorthorn grades, and were wisely chosen, as there did not seem to be a bad doer in the lot. At Mr. Thomas McMillan's barn there are about twenty-five in each of two pens, and at the father's home some fifty odd head, half tied and half loose. Each lot have about equal space. It is intended to fix over this basement so that all may be fed loose. In carefully looking over the two lots we could see very little if any difference between them, but we were informed that the best cattle were selected to be tied up last fall, and when an animal appeared not to be thriving well he was turned loose among the others, which invariably had the effect of causing him to do better. While only some cattle will do as well tied as loose, all will do as well and many better loose than tied; and if there was no advantage in the gains made by the loose cattle the economy of labor by so feeding is sufficient to far more than justify the practice. The man who attends the fifty-two loose and six tied cattle at Mr. Robert McMillan's place was driving a team on the land, and was able to attend them thoroughly in one hour three times a day. They have water in troughs before them constantly, pumped by a windmill, and they are only cleaned out once in five or six weeks, when the manure is taken direct to the field and spread, and such capital dung as it is—rich and short. Whenever it so happens that the desired field cannot be reached, the manure is

never put out in the open, but in a covered shed. Messrs. McMillan were very emphatic when speaking of the advantages of a covered manure shed. Another point worthy of mention is that the dung is always kept near the surface of the fields. It is applied to corn ground and pasture.

The exceedingly thrifty condition of the steers was the more to be wondered at when we learned the economy with which they are fed. Their daily ration was 35 pounds of ensilage (a good sample with plenty of ears), mixed twelve hours before feeding, with cut straw fed in three feeds. They also received a pound to each beast night and morning of a mixture of ground oats, peas and barley and bran in equal parts. Mr. Thos. considers that the average gain of the whole 165 head since last autumn on this feed is not less than 150 pounds, and some he claimed had gained 250 pounds. Messrs. McMillan do not finish their cattle in the stable, but pasture them until July. They are then taken to the Glasgow or other British markets and disposed of. Cattle fed in this way during the winter do not lose flesh when turned out to grass, but continue to thrive from the day of the change. They get no grain on the grass, except a few of the leanest, which are given a small allowance of oil cake and meal, about two pounds per day, which brings them up to the condition of the good ones. The loose winter-fed cattle do a little better when turned out than do the tied ones. They get larger paunches, which enables them to hold more grass.

Through the latter part of the summer and fall their supply of steers are bought up, and even in winter an opportunity to get a good beast is not lost. They do not keep cows at all, except very few for milk for the families. The farm is cropped in a three-course rotation, generally running over four years: clover, pasture, corn, and oats or barley seeded down. Enough corn will be grown

this way the winter of 1891. They were pleased with the first results, and the longer they pursue the practice the better they like it. They consider 100 acres of good land will easily carry from 40 to 50 steers, bought in the fall and sold the following July, without buying any feed.

#### Are Shorthorn Men Breeding Consistently?

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

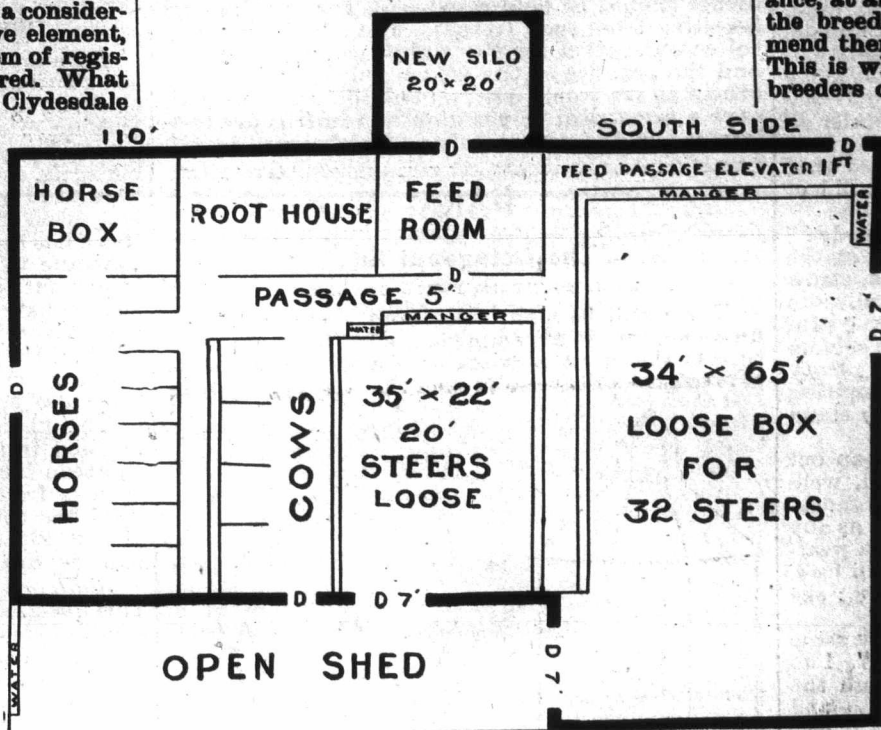
SIR,—This subject was again forcibly brought to my mind in reading Mr. Gibson's paper, "A Retrospect," read before the Shorthorn Breeders' Association. Mr. Gibson in it speaks of the interest now taken in England in the dairy Shorthorn and that there is some talk of starting a record of such animals. Here I may say that in England there are Shorthorns, and plenty of them, that are dairy cows, while in Canada real dairy Shorthorns are comparatively scarce. Mr. O. C. Greig, Director of Farmers' Institutes for Minnesota, having occasion to get together a herd of dairy Shorthorns, was able to get the cows, but when it came to finding a bull he failed and stated that he did not think a really good specimen could be found on this side of the Atlantic. I do not think this state of affairs is hard to account for, the beef Shorthorn being the show beast, and the tendency has been, therefore, to import animals of that description. The Shorthorn was, however, originally a grand dairy beast and the power of atavism is strong in them, and, consequently, among the get of these imported beef animals we are continually finding very fair and occasionally very fine specimens of dairy cows. On the same page of the ADVOCATE with Mr. Gibson's paper we find Mr. Smith's paper, "Why Do We Breed Shorthorns," in which we find the following statement: "So these breeders produce the type of beast which will bring a full, ripe carcass of beef of good size, with a massive appearance, at an age unthought of in the earlier days of the breed, possessing milking qualities to recommend them as the cattle for the general farmer." This is where the inconsistency of the Shorthorn breeders comes in. They are aiming at a perfect

beef beast, and at the same time wanting to get good dairy qualities. They cannot do it! The two types are entirely opposed to each other, and as they produce a beast approaching the ideal of the one type, so have they lost the points which go to make up the good qualities of the other. The Shorthorn breeders of Canada are to-day breeding for beef and at the same time claiming milking qualities for their breed. This being the case, their failures are the animals that are keeping up the reputation of Shorthorns as milkers, for it is those animals that, by the strength of atavism in the breed, came of the original dairy type and are good milkers that keep up this reputation. There must be something wrong in the system of breeding when any of the good qualities of the breed depend on the failures, and I fail to see that in this case the dairy qualities can be ascribed to any other cause. I believe there are a few breeders breeding with a view to dairy qualities? I am, of course, speaking of the general plan.

Now, the question is what sort of a cow does the general farmer want?

A very large percentage of them say a general-purpose cow, but fail to describe what they do want. I believe the man who says he wants a general-purpose cow really wants a big dairy cow. Of the breeds we have the Holstein is the only one that comes under this head, and in my opinion, for reasons unnecessary to state here, she does not fill the bill. A dairy Shorthorn would be just what the Canadian farmer is asking for, but where are they? Practically, they do not exist. If a farmer wanted a Shorthorn dairy bull where would he get one? He might after some searching find a bull calf out of a first-rate milking Shorthorn cow, but then what was his sire? He is probably told, as a great point in the calf's favor, that he was first in his class at Toronto Industrial, in which case he would not be likely to have imparted any dairy qualities to the calf unless he as a sire proved to be one of the failures I have spoken of. Another thing: most farmers, on going to a breeder to buy a bull, when shown two, one of the beef type and the other having some pretensions to the dairy type, even though he was looking for a bull of dairy qualities, would buy the beef beast. Farmers as a rule are not being sufficiently educated to the beauties of a dairy animal.

How is this state of affairs to be remedied? The one way of doing so that I see is a separate registration of the beef and dairy Shorthorns. I proposed this some time ago as the only solution of the problem, for it is impossible to go on breeding cattle for beef points and have them remain good dairy animals. From what Mr. Gibson says it is evident the Englishmen see the difficulty which they do not suffer from to anything like the extent that the farmers of Canada do, for they have plenty of big and profitable dairy cows. A separate registration does not necessarily mean a separate association. Both branches of the breed could be managed by the same association, but separated they must be if the Shorthorn is ever to



PLAN OF ROBERT McMILLAN'S CATTLE FEEDING BASEMENT.

this year to fill three monster silos. When we were there Mr. Isaac Usher was laying out one of two cement concrete silos, 20 x 20 feet inside and 30 feet high. The corn grown last year was Western Yellow Dent and it gave good satisfaction.

With regard to the plan indicated in the figure on this page there need be little said, as everything is so simple. There are no floors except in the passages. The ground must be well drained, and have a good firm clay surface. The passages are raised one foot, and built of stone, gravel and cement. The troughs or mangers sit on stone foundation, or on the edge of the passage platform. The troughs of plank are 14 inches deep, 17 inches wide at the bottom, and 20 at the top. All the partition that is necessary between the steers and the passage is a heavy pole 19 inches above the edge of the trough on the cattle's side. The mangers are then within the passage, which makes it convenient to feed, and the cattle seldom if ever drop manure into them. The 7-foot doors admit of a team and wagon to drive through for cleaning out. The whole stables are well lighted by numerous large windows. To keep the pens clean and dry it would require more bedding than if the cattle were tied, but these steers were neither clean nor dry, and yet they did better than the tied ones that were comfortably bedded. So long as the stable is warm, but well ventilated, the same amount of straw as would be used for tied cattle will answer well to use more bedding if one had it, as there is no better way to make it into first-class manure. To the question, "Would the loose system of feeding cattle answer as well for finishing the cattle?" Mr. McMillan replied, "By all means." All that is necessary is to feed heavier. If clover hay were fed instead of straw, and a few pounds more grain daily, cattle could be rushed along very rapidly and finished prime for the spring market. This firm commenced feeding in