682

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

narrow, and only deep enough to raise mat clear of the bottom; cut in blocks, load on wagon, haul to stone pile, collect fragments with harrow and garden rake (not hay-rake, as some try to do), haul away, and pile with rest ; let lay a few days to dry, then burn. Finally, plow deep, and probably your trouble for years to come is ended.

Stay on your farms. Apply yourselves diligently to the task. Bring industry, patience and perseverance to bear on your labor. Make the best of the talents God has given you, and, when you have honestly done your best, surely success ONTARIO FARMER. is yours.

Victoria Co., Ont.

[Note.-This may be all right for small patches, but is too laborious and wasteful to be recommended for a large area.-Editor.]

Alfalfa in Prince Edward County.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate"

Alfalfa was first grown in this vicinity about fifteen years ago. The first field of which the writer has any knowledge was a high, light, gravelly field, lying to the south, and naturally well drained. The yield has gradually decreased, until now the stand looks not unlike a field under process of reforestation.

About six or seven years ago my father purchased a few pounds of seed grown from this field, and sowed it upon about three-quarters of an acre of high, gravelly land, which was so light that we hardly ever plowed it. It had produced for a number of years a growth of wire-grass, and yielded practically nothing. The first crop of alfalfa from that land was as good as one could wish from the very best land. Not understanding just how to cure it, we allowed it to get too far advanced, however, before cutting, and it was followed by a week of rain, which rendered it very woody. The cattle relished it, however, though so poorly cured. To test it a little further, we bought enough seed at a seed store to sow about one-quarter of an acre near the barn, to cut for green feed. This was a deep soil, but wet and soggy, because of a spring which flowed along one The first crop gave us more feed than we side had ever, perhaps, produced of any other hay off the same ground. The next year it was badly winter-killed, and grew more weeds than hay.

The next we seeded was one and three-quarters acres of very heavy clay, which lay on a ridge. This has given excellent satisfaction, though just on the top is a flat place which has killed out. The first year we had a good crop of hay, but did not cut the second time, though there was quite a good crop. The second year we harvested an excellent crop of hay, and, with the first piece which was seeded some years previous, and was getting thin, we had two bushels three pecks of fine seed, worth from \$10 to \$12 a bushel. This crop of seed was worth more than any of our grain off an equal area of land that year. This portant substructures and buildings of concrete,

we had two loads of as fine hay as we ever cured, and one bushel of seed. The stand was very poor. Having had some experience in a small way with this valuable plant, we seeded this year six acres, three with barley, sowed one bushel to the acre, and three with buckwheat. Nearly two bushels of alfalfa was used on this six acres. To try early seeding, father sowed a narrow strip about the last night it froze in the early spring. This grew very well, though, of course, many weeds grew with it. Our impression is that it would do well seeded in the spring in fall wheat or rve The buckwheat was sown thin about the first of July, and the alfalfa grew almost as fast as the nurse crop for two or three weeks. When we cut the buckwheat, the alfalfa was as large as that beside it grown with barley, which was sowed five weeks earlier. We have found, however, that it has heaved worse by frost this spring than that which was seeded with the barley

Our cattle and horses relish alfalfa as they do no other food. Horses eat it, when well cured, even in preference to oats. We intend feeding it with other fodder, as we believe the animals will receive more good from it. It is a crop which, in this section, will take almost if not equal rank with corn in a few years. There is scarcely a farm that should not have a few acres of it. The only objection to it is the difficulty in curing some wet seasons, but if we were farming on a larger scale, we would increase our acreage much more, in spite of this objection.

One difficulty has confronted us, namely, that of procuring clean seed of any variety. A few years ago we bought a few bushels of seed grain from a reliable firm. We had to hand-pick all of it to get out the foul seed, of what kinds I cannot say. We also experienced the same trouble with grass seeds, but did not know of the presence of the weed seeds until they came up. took us two years to get these spaded out. Since then we have bought no seed, but have grown our own, and intend following this plan. If a farmer has a clean farm, he will do well to grow his own CLAUDE C. WANNAMAKER. seed. Prince Edward Co., Ont.

Waterproofing of Concrete.

Concrete is porous, not absolutely waterproof or damp-proof, according to a paper read by R. A. Plumb. Chemist. Detroit, at the Cement Convention, lately held in London, Ont. The explanation was that the water with which concrete is mixed, being incompressible, leaves, on drving out, the tiny spaces which it had occupied. Many preparations for rendering concrete absolutely waterproof are on the market, but in most cases these may be said to be yet in the experimental stage. On the one hand, water-repellent powders, to be mixed in with the concrete, are offered, and there are also preparations to be applied as coatings after the wall is completed. In many imyear, off those two plots of two and a half acres, anything which would render them strictly water-

proof is greatly to be desired, and the progress made in producing such materials has been rapid and satisfactory. For most farm structures, a wash of pure cement and water, applied on the inside, is sufficient for practical purposes. Mr. Plumb warned against using for surface coating any preparation containing linseed oil, as the vegetable oil will combine with the alkali of the concrete, forming a kind of soap, and making matters worse, instead of better.

FOUNDED 1866

Others Satisfied with Steel Silo.

In addition to the letters detailing experience with steel silos, which appeared in the issue of March 24th, the following has been received from D. A. Campbell, Perth Co., Ont. His opinion corresponds closely with that of the others who have used them. He makes note of one special feature of the steel silo in relation to the freezing of silage, that the heat of the sun will warm the steel sufficiently to cause the frozen silage to loosen from it.

Jas. Scroggie, of Brant Co., Ont., also writes in reference to steel silo. In his silo, opened lately, silage had kept well, with very little spoiled on top, and frozen only a little on the north side.

* * *

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate ":

We are well satisfied with our silo so far. It was erected last fall, in size 12 x 35 feet, with a cement foundation under it about 31 feet high. The foundation was built from blue print received from the manufacturers of the silo. We have no top on our silo so far, and have had no trouble with snow as yet. The silo cost \$4.75 a foot delivered in Stratford, with 10 per cent. off for cash, and freight extra. All told, I gave the manufacturers \$150, they supplying a man to erect it, and I to give him needed help. We put the silo up in three days, with four men working at it, their man, myself, and two men I hired at \$1.50 a day. We never had any experience with any other kind of silo, so cannot tell which is best. Our silage is just fine, and the cattle are very fond of it. As regards frost, the silage will freeze in any kind of silo if it is built outside. With regard to the steel, very little sun will loosen the frozen silage from the silo, it being thin. I think it loosens quicker than it would where there was a ten or six-inch cement wall. I cannot say how steel will last, compared with cement silos. D. A. CAMPBELL.

Brant Co., Ont. . . .

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate"

The dimensions of my steel silo are $12 \; x \; 30$ fect, and it is built on a cement foundation, but has as yet no roof. The cost of the silo complete was \$140. I opened it a few days ago, and silage seemed to be keeping well, with very little spoiled on top. There was only a little of it frozen, and that on the north side. From what I have seen, I would advise any intending builders to construct a steel silo, in prefernce to any other JAS. SCROGGIE.

Brant Co.,

APRI

say th propor Norí

[No mise t based source on th of Ag broom mercia tions, what to th fail to other of the are a works Canad Edito

> Plai Edito

> > Th

with to be autun then short they feed. hills (it too which a litt pastu cut d and I vield

S Th

other

Ess

ter fi which a goo ary f hired crean make vear than contr crean



Good Method of Testing Seed Corn.

Each ear is numbered, and ten kernels taken from it - d placed in corresponding numbered check in the germa nating box, which is filled with sand. By results in the germinating test, the grower may learn which cars show the strongest witality. It is important to reject not only ears that are unable to produce plants, but ears that will not produce vigorous plants.

Broom Corn Grown in Norfolk Co.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate"

The questions that appeared in your paper of March 24th, in regard to the growing of broom corn, must have been answered by either an American grower, or someone interested in the American trade. If one were to follow those instructions, he would surely fail. I have grown broom corn now for two years back, and will grow some every year that I farm, and would say it can be grown successfully where corn can be grown. It has heen grown in Norfolk County for over forty years, some persons sowing as high as ten acres per year. In the first place, sow as soon as the ground is warm enough to promote growth, in drills $2\frac{1}{2}$ to $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet apart, and, after it is up an inch or so, thin out, leaving only one plant every sixteen inches in the row. Then give the same treatment as corn. When the seeds turn a reddish color, it should be harvested. To harvest cut off the stock just above the first joint, leaving the stub of the brush as long as possible, and throw in piles : then catch the brush in one hand. and pull the leaf off with the other, throwing in separate piles. The cattle will eat the leaves. Then spread the brush on racks, or on straw, to cure. Care should be taken to prevent moulding until dry enough to remove the seed. The seed can be taken off either by a vise or cylinder. would prefer the latter. Then tie up in bundles. and lav away until sold, or made up. tory will buy the brush, and pay according to the quality and the scarcity of corn in the States. The earlier it is sown, the longer the growth of the corn. My brother and I had about seveneighths of an acre last year, and I know we were not over eight days planting, harvesting and threshing if We made our own brooms, some 400, and realized an average of 50 cents each last winter, corn being scarce last year. I would

魚

ager The rewa wage

FUJI MICRO SAFEIY A N