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The deliberations of the Council of Agriculture.—Several people seem puzzled to know why the Journal of Agriculture has so long neglected to publish the deliberations of the Council of Agriculture. The reason is as follows: The Council is the adviser of the Commissioner of Agriculture, and nothing more. Its proceedings are addressed, directly, to the Commissioner; but they have no force in law until approved by the Lieutenant Governor in Council. Before they receive this sanction they are obligatory on no one. The deliberations of the Council of Agriculture, for reasons which it is unnecessary to mention, have remained for about two years without this sanction. The seal having been affixed to them at last, they are published at full length, in the report of the Commissioner of Agriculture.

We need hardly add that we shall be always glad to place before our readers these, and all other documents of public interest, as soon as they shall have received the necessary authorisation.

Ice gathering and Ice houses.

No farmer worthy of the name should be any longer without an ice house. The simplest shed, say 14 feet square, and from 8 to 10 feet high in the square, will, in ordinary circumstances, answer fully as well as the most expensive building.

It has been clearly proved that, with milk cooled down to from 32° to 40° Fahrenheit, fully one third more butter is obtained than with the same milk at 75°, and one fourth more than with milk at 60°. Moreover, with milk kept below 45° until skimmed the cream rises before the milk sours. Such skimmed milk is thus fit for human food or for the rearing of young stock, etc. The butter made on this principle comes easier, looks better, has a most delicate sweet cream, and a nutty flavor which secures an easy sale at from 5 to 10 cents per lb. higher than ordinary good butter. Under these circumstances a few words on ice gathering should prove useful at this season.

First.—Select a stream of clean deep water, where possible, so that the ice may be perfectly pure and free from mud, water-grasses, &c.

Second.—Mark out your ice into such pieces as two men can easily handle. Where the ice is 20" (inches) thick, blocks 30" x 10" will be found suitable (1). An ordinary cross-cut saw with one handle removed will answer perfectly. The engraving (No. 1) shows how the ice should be marked off for sawing. The double lines on the sides may be just sufficiently distant to make an opening for the saw. Blocks of ice sufficient for one day's sawing are marked.

Third.—Chop a hole with the axe to let in the saw (see engraving at H). Then saw in the double lines, from H toward a, and then from H towards b, so as to make an opening for the sawing of the block. Having cleared a few squares in both direc-

(1). A board 12 feet long, and 10 inches broad, and an old chisel, will be found convenient to mark the ice into blocks.

tions, chop off these in small pieces, push them under the ice and begin the sawing of the blocks, from 1 to 3, then from 2 to 3. Thus the first block is freed; and as soon as a sufficient number

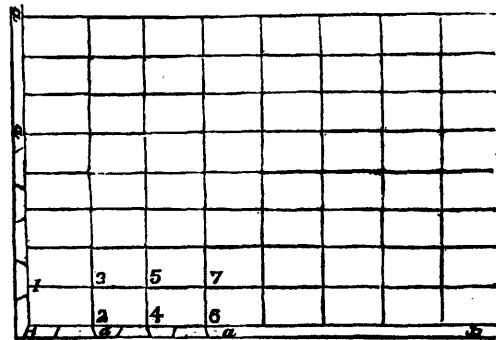


fig. 1.—Marking ice before sawing.

of blocks has been sawn, and a space cleared of snow where they may drawn and loaded, take a light, short ladder with hooks at one end (fig. 2), push it under the blocks, when they can be drawn up with ease and loaded on sleigh. When



Fig. 2.—Light ladder to draw out the blocks.

the opening in the ice gets large, a long handled pike (fig. 3) becomes necessary. This is a simple, and yet efficient process,

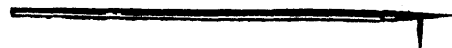


Fig. 3.—Pike used in drawing out the blocks.

which any farmer can follow out with such tools as he generally possesses. Now for the

ICE HOUSE.

The necessary requisites for the preservation of ice during the whole of summer and fall are as follows: 1st. A roof which sheds off the rain completely; 2nd. Thorough drainage below the ice, either through a porous subsoil, or by a drain; 3rd. The exclusion of air, all round the mass of ice, by means of a thick coating of dry saw-dust, chopped straw, tan-bark, &c.; 4th. Good ventilation, so that the moisture arising from the melting ice may be carried off.

As a rule, ice will keep better above than under ground, as the moisture from the ice is thus more easily evaporated. However, a side hill, when convenient, will permit of easy fitting without the trouble of raising the blocks of ice. The non-conducting material can either be packed between the ice and the boarding of the shed as the filling progresses, or it may be secured permanently between a double boarding. In either case a thickness of from 15 to 18 inches of such material, above, below and around the ice will be found best.

Having attended to the proper drainage of the ice house,