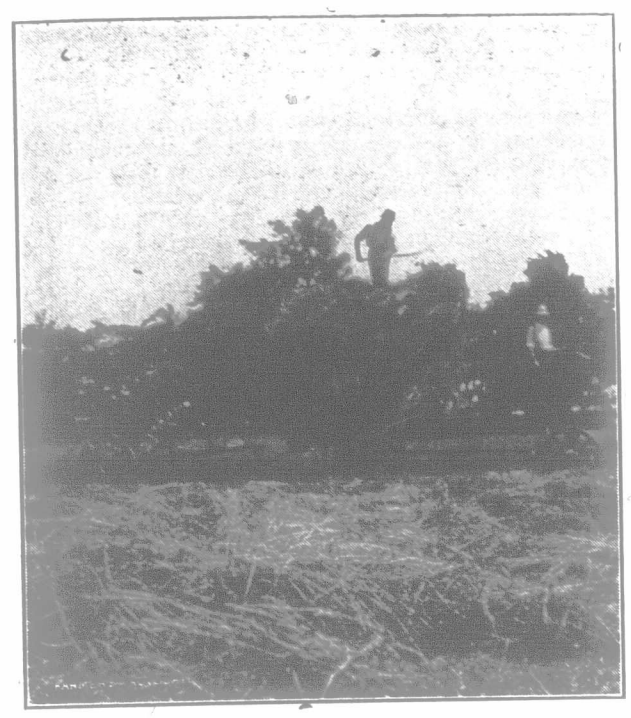


Fig. 1.—Sliding Rack for Hay.
First half of load on.

Corn and the Corn Growers' Association.

Considerable work has been done by the Ontario Corn Growers' Association in developing varieties of corn suitable for Eastern Canada, but last year being such an unfavorable season for the corn crop to mature, the supplies of seed from this source are not as large as usual, nor of as good quality. P. L. Fancher, Secretary of the Association, states that growers of silage will have to be content with corn imported from the United States, and this seed will come from farther south than usual. In a letter to this office he states that the amount of corn available to members of the Association this spring is hard to determine. An effort is being made to retain as much of the Ontario-grown seed as possible for use in the seed-corn-growing sections of southwestern Ontario. The exact amount in number of bushels he cannot state, but says that what appears to be a fairly large source of good seed is not so. Much of the seed that is claimed to be good seed is worthless, and some that is claimed as excellent is only fair, according to Mr. Fancher's statement. He believes, however, that there is somewhere around 5,000 to 10,000 bushels all told in the Association. As to the number of bushels of seed corn which can be purchased in Ontario, Mr. Fancher believes there is none, as there is no corn grown in this Province that is of any value which has not already been purchased, and that which has been purchased will be largely distributed through the southwestern part of Ontario, as previously intimated. Ontario, figuring from the total acreage of corn grown and placing an estimate of five bushels for 12 acres, requires 350,000 bushels of seed corn. Mr. Fancher states that most of the corn now being imported into Ontario comes from Nebraska and Missouri States, principally from Missouri. Practically all corn in the ear is coming from Missouri.

The Departments of Agriculture.

Justus Miller, Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture, writes that the "Federal and Provincial Governments are co-operating to the end that there be no shortage of any variety of seed to be used in this spring's planting, with the possible exception of corn. Acting under the instruction of the Federal Minister of Agriculture, the Dominion Seed Commissioner has caused to be assembled and held in reserve wheat, oats, barley, peas and beans, all of which are sound, reasonably clean and suitable for seeding. This grain is not, however, of the highest quality of seed grown as is understood by farmers who make a specialty of growing registered seed and other high-quality brands. This supply of grain will be re-cleaned, mainly in the Government terminal and harbor elevators and held in reserve on requisitions from the Provincial Departments of Agriculture. The Ontario Department of Agriculture is, therefore, in a position to enable any farmers, farmers' organizations, or others, who wish to buy seed grain to purchase the same in carload lots. It will be very much to the advantage of anyone wishing to get this grain to apply to the Ontario Department of Agriculture for the same as soon as possible."

Continuing, Mr. Miller stated that it would appear that Canada must produce her own root and vegetable seed until normal conditions are re-established. The Federal Experimental Farms undertook last year to produce twenty-five per cent. of the Canadian requirements of field root seed, in addition to the production of stock seed for other seed growers. Dr. Zavitz, at Guelph, has made good progress in the production of stock seed of the Yellow Intermediate mangel. It is planned this year to plant at least ten acres of this seed on farms in connection with provincial institutions in order that there may be available stecklings sufficient to plant 75 acres next year. In Mr. Miller's opinion seed dealers will be able to secure an adequate supply of seed corn to meet all the requirements, but he admits that the situation is serious.

Institution Farms.

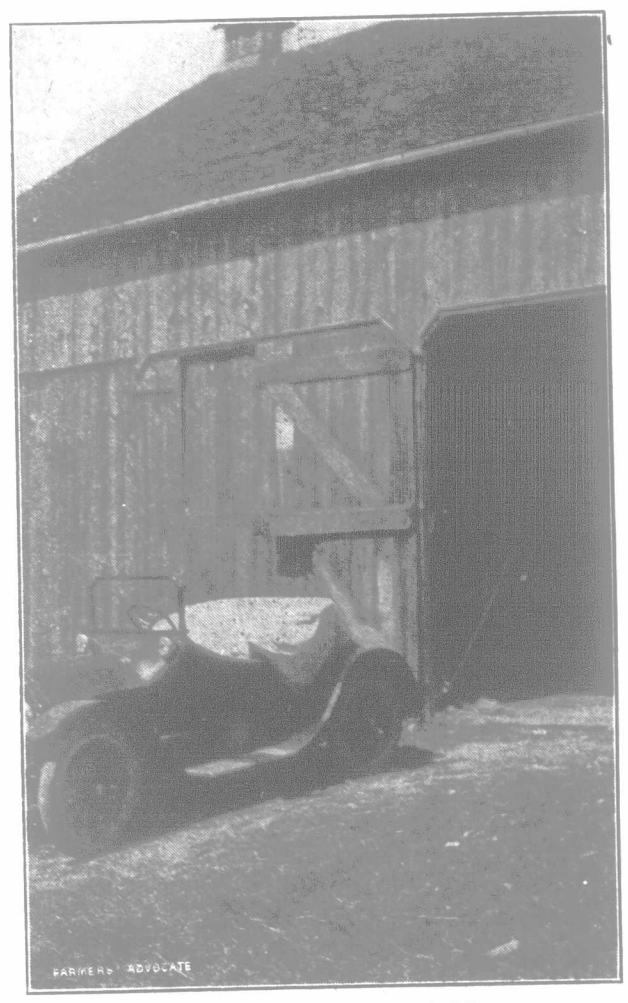
Thinking that the farms operated under the Provincial Secretary's Department in connection with the various hospital institutions over the Province might have some seed for sale, we communicated with the Director, John R. Spry, who replied that they have no seed for distribution with the possible exception of a little mangel seed. Last year they produced 1,300 pounds of mangel seed and they will require 405 pounds for their own use this year, leaving a surplus of 895 pounds, but the germination of this seed is low—only about forty per cent.—and this seed would not be very suitable for sale. Mr. Spry states that for the coming season the Institution Farms will have to purchase practically all their seed.

The Canadian Seed Growers' Association generally has a considerable quantity of registered and pure seed listed by its members. From 1906 to 1916, 308,849 bushels of pure seed have been listed. Besides, there are a few Seed Centres in Ontario which will have quantities of certain grains for sale this spring.

Root and Vegetable Seed Requirements.

With further reference to field root and vegetable seed we publish the following from Geo. H. Clark, Seed Commissioner:

"The approximate average annual Canadian requirements of field root and vegetable seeds are as follows: mangel, 367,000 lbs.; sugar beet, 300,000 lbs.; beet, garden, 63,600 lbs.; Swede, 410,000 lbs.; turnip, fall, 60,000 lbs.; rape, 317,900 lbs.; turnip, garden, 22,500 lbs.; carrot, field, 17,300 lbs.; carrot, garden, 45,000 lbs.; parsnip, 17,650 lbs.; radish, 67,600 lbs.; onion, 88,000 lbs.; leek, 1,100 lbs.; lettuce, 18,700 lbs.; celery, 2,160 lbs.; cabbage, 18,700 lbs.; cauliflower, 1,850 lbs.; Brussels sprouts, 250 lbs.; cress, 2,100 lbs.; parsley, 2,850 lbs.; salsify, 730 lbs.; spinach, 18,400 lbs.; tomato, 6,300 lbs.; cucumber, 36,800 lbs.; squash, 8,600 lbs.; pumpkin, 8,500 lbs.; citron, 2,300 lbs.; melon, water, 3,167 lbs.; melon, musk, 2,760 lbs.; peas, garden, 452,000 lbs.; peas, canners, 32,000 bushels; sweet corn, canners, 5,500 bushels: sweet corn, garden, 420,000 lbs.; beans, garden, 400,000 lbs.; beans, pole, 22,400 lbs.; beans, broad, 10,500 lbs.



Car Used on Hay Fork and Slings.
The cloth in the car was used to protect against dust and dirt. G. S. Harding, of Wellington County, used this means of unloading.

"Supplies of these seeds are now practically cut off from Europe. However, with the exception of a few kinds, notably turnip seed, there may be sufficient to meet our 1918 requirements. Prices are abnormally high because, in part, the prospective supplies for 1918 are not visible.

"The war has given an impetus to production in North America. California had previously proven suitable for the growing of onion, carrot and other kinds, and operations there have been considerably extended. The growers in Canada have been encouraged by a bonus from the Seed Branch amounting to nearly one-half of the normal wholesale price, but progress has been slow because field root and vegetable seed crops generally require a great deal of experienced hand labor. The Dominion Experimental Farms and Provincial Experiment Stations are giving special attention to this work, but farmers and gardeners must assist in preventing a shortage."

Test all Seed.

There is just one point which we wish to emphasize again: No matter what the source of seed, it should be thoroughly tested as to germination powers. Particularly is this true of corn and Western oats, but while there is time it would be well to select a fair sample of all seeds and test them as to germination, by placing between two heavy sheets of blotting paper on a plate behind the kitchen stove. This plan is suitable for cereal grains and small seeds; for corn, ear tests should be made by taking six kernels from each ear and testing them in separate squares in a box of earth prepared for the purpose.

Handy Devices for Haying.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

I am taking the liberty of sending you a few pictures taken last summer, and feel that some of your readers might be interesed, and during the winter months, as I did last winter make one of the one-man loaders. It surely is a big saving of time and energy.

We have a 16-ft. hayrack. We made an 8-ft. truck with flanged wheels to run on rack, the front part of truck with head stay. This was run to back of wagon for first part of load, (illustration No. 1,) with two pulleys one attached to truck and one to front of wagon. One man can easily pull a half load to the front part of wagon, (illustration No. 2); the time required is about three minutes. I also used my motor car on the hay fork. It also handled all our grain. We found it was much quicker than unhitching horses. I might say the cost of the truck for the wagon was about $22, the flanged wheels being the most expensive.

Wellington Co., Ont. G. S. HARDING.

Wider Sleighs.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

I would like to hear from a good many of your subscribers what they think of having a law passed to have the sleighs made the same width as the wagons, for I know it would be much better. Just now if you go on the roads with the sleigh or cutter over you go. I have already seen some using hub runners on their buggies, and they thought it was just the thing. There are a good many getting covered cutters, but they say they are too narrow. There is danger of upsetting, so if they were the same width, wagons and autos could go a good many times when the sleighing is about gone, but they have to wait until the heaps of snow are dug away.

Wentworth Co., Ont. SUBSCRIBER.

Where is the Woman?

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

The scarcity of labor is one of the subjects which at present may be said to be in the air. It is no new subject, for at least a dozen years ago we heard it authoritatively stated by prominent Canadians that the land in Canada was being "starved" for want of labor. How much more acute that starvation has become we can only guess. The experts who organize and conduct labor bureaux say there is plenty of labor to be had, only it needs to be organized. We are inclined to think that to some extent these experts are right, perhaps the labor is not of the first class, but when the first class is not to be had it is the part of employers to do the best they can with the second or even the third rate. The highest class of work no doubt requires the best class of tools, but if these are not forthcoming good work can be done with indifferent tools, though these require both skill and patience in the using.

The one thing that strikes the reader of many papers of instruction and advice on agricultural matters is the free and easy manner in which certain portions of farm work are handed over to old men and particularly to women on the farm. Undoubtedly it is good for elderly men to do as much as they can in these present times and at all times it is better to wear out by work than to rust out by disuse. Still even on that particular branch of agriculture, the fruit farm, which is laid off as the happy hunting ground of women and aged men there is plenty of room for young and active men. It was even pathetic a couple of years ago to see an

Fig. 2.—Sliding Rack for Hay.
First half of load pulled to front of wagon, ready to load rear half.