Oxford County followed this initiative, and formed an association of Holstein Breeders.

Three Counties, Oxford, Franklin, and Androscoggin, are interested in a Jersey Breeders' Association, formed in June. It was organized at Canton, under the name of Androscoggin Valley Jersey Breeders' Association.

At Waterford, in September, Jersey breeders in Oxford and Northumberland Counties met and organized a Jersey Breeders' Association. They were addressed by Dairy Instructor Merrill upon Co-operative Breeders' Associations, and by Prof. P. A. Campbell upon the Breeding of Dairy Animals, and were given some points in stock-judging.

At the October meeting of the Androscoggin society, Dr. Gallup gave an address in which he advocated measuring constitutional vigor by growth. He thought a standard might be obtained by comparing the length of time different animals require to double their weight. He had applied it in the case of poultry, with good results, and considered it feasible in the case of cattle.

All these societies have profitable monthly meetings, which are well attended. They have been addressed by speakers of note from within and without the State.

With a view to increasing both cow-testing and co-operative breeding associations in the State, Dr. Merrill has declared that he will respond to calls for lectures upon these subjects, and will give all the assistance possible to organizing and making successful the work of these organizations. Each association of breeders usually devotes its energy to promoting some one breed of dairy animals, making the county or town a center of distribution for that particular breed which would undoubtedly appeal strongly to its members from the financial standpoint, and urge upon them the importance of co-operating in every possible way for the promotion of that particular breed.

The form of organization which Dr. Merrill recommends includes the usual officers, and their duties are similar to those of other organizations of a like character.

In the by-laws, Section 2 states that it shall be the duty of every member to improve his herd of cattle by mating his cows exclusively with pure-bred bulls of the breed endorsed by the association to which he elects to belong, and doing as much as he can to care for his herd in an up-to-date manner; and that it shall also be the duty of members to co-operate so far as is possible with their fellow members in the use of pure-bred bulls, and in buying and selling animals; also, to get new members, and encourage them in the practice of better methods in caring for their herds.

There are in the State four cow-testing associations, with a cow membership representing over 1,300 animals, and a fifth is being strongly talked. These societies are now on the increase, and, with the establishment of co-operative breeders' associations, Maine is on the road to become, if not one of the largest dairy States in the Union in point of cow population, at least one of the leading States in point of remunerative dairying.

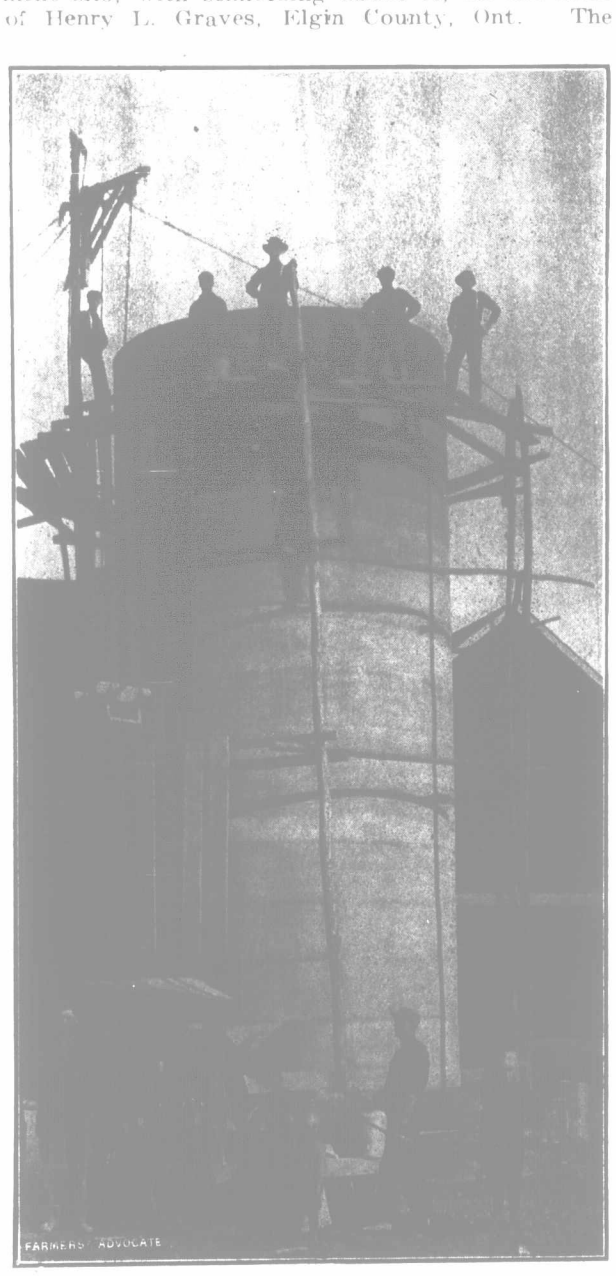
Maine State. M. B. AIKEN.

The receipts of cattle during September and October in the principal Western States markets were about 9 per cent. greater than during the same months last year. The receipts of hogs, however, in Western markets during September and October were nearly 20 per cent. less than during the same months last year. Prices of hogs at Western markets averaged, on or about November 1st, nearly 30 per cent. higher than a year ago, and cattle approximately 18 per cent. higher.

THE FARM.

Another Cement Silo.

Silo-building is one of the livest agricultural subjects in Ontario and the corn-growing districts of Quebec. "The Farmer's Advocate" has published particulars of the construction of a good many silos, but, judging from inquiries received, fresh data are always interesting to those of our readers who have yet to build. The accompanying illustration shows a 14 x 40 foot round cement silo, with scaffolding about it, on the farm of Henry L. Graves, Elgin County, Ont. The



Cement Silo.

On farm of Henry L. Graves, Elgin County, Ontario.

silo was built with quite a rich cement mixture, requiring considerably more cement than is ordinarily used in constructing a silo of these dimensions. Bearing this point in mind, our readers are favored with the following particulars, submitted by Mr. Graves:

Cement, 55 bbls., at $1.50 per bbl.	$ 82.50
Gravel, 11 cords, at $1.00 per cord	11.00
Barb wire, 1 bale	3.00
Fourteen bolts for roof	.75
Building and plastering, 9 days' cost of work complete	100.00
Total	$197.25

There was no floor, and apparently no allowance has been made for roofing, except for the bolts. A five-foot foundation of cement and stone was built 18 inches thick. Above this the wall is 12 inches thick, finishing with six inches at the top. Such a silo should hold 160 tons of silage, and 12 acres of fairly good corn ought to fill it.

A Tour of the West—II.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

As promised you, I will endeavor to give some additional notes on the Prairie Provinces, especially the Saskatchewan Valley, the northern part of which has, during the past few years, been attracting so much attention. Having on a previous occasion made the tour of the country over the main line of the C. P. R., and having heard so much of the fertility of the more northerly portion of the Provinces that had during recent years been opened for settlement by the C. N. R. building a network of railways, I decided to pay a visit to these quarters and investigate for myself.

NORTHWARD BOUND.

Our first stop-over as we journeyed northward of the C. P. R. main line was at Dauphin, located nearly midway between Lake Dauphin and the Riding Mountains. Wheat-cutting was in full blast at the time of our visit, and here, as well as at other surrounding localities, the crop was good, and estimated to yield from 30 to 40 bushels per acre. The season is a week or ten days later than on the Portage Plains. They claim here, as well as north for some distance, on account of Lakes Dauphin and Winnipegosis to the east, and the mountains to the west, they have a milder climate, less subject to the early frosts than at many places.

THE FERTILE SOIL.

I was shown here, at a recent excavation, where the rich vegetable mold was five feet deep, and nowhere, I was informed, was it less than two feet. The soil is largely composed of phosphate shale, which is supposed to have come by some means in ages past from the slopes of the Riding Mountains, to the west.

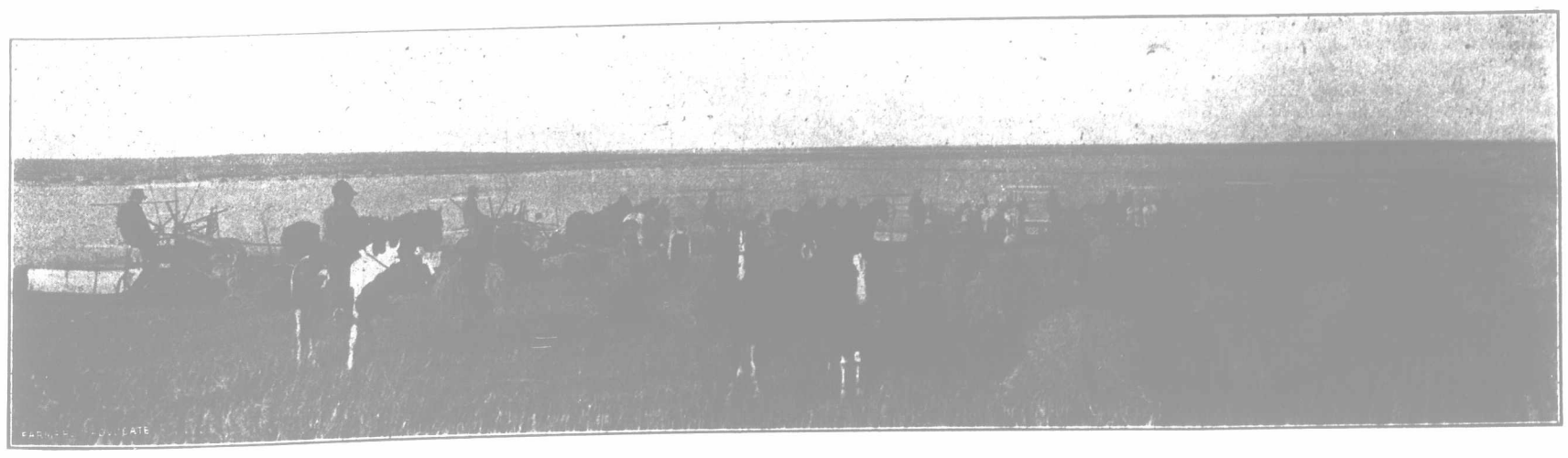
In some of the more northerly portions of Manitoba that are passed through, it is quite heavily timbered, sparsely settled, but in time will be brought under cultivation.

SASKATCHEWAN.

We continued our journey through Manitoba and into Saskatchewan, that great wheat-producing Province, in the fertile and extensive Saskatchewan Valley, for the Saskatchewan River, with its two branches, drains a large area. The value of so much of these Western lands lies in the amount of nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash which they contain, or, in other words, their producing power. These three substances supply largely the requirements to grow and produce all crops. We are informed by those who have made it a study that in an acre of the average soil here, and generally in the West, there is twenty times as much plant food as in the average soil in the East, which accounts largely for the crops that can be grown year after year on the same ground without applying fertilizer.

SASKATOON.

We made our headquarters at Saskatoon, from which side trips were made to other localities. Here we saw farming operations conducted on a large scale, as they are inclined to do in the West. At one place we saw a traction engine hauling three 8-foot-cut harvesters on a flax ranch, while at another place similar power was moving along nicely four 8-foot-cut harvesters, doing thirty-two feet of wheat. To see an engine hauling a ten 14-inch-furrow plow is an ordinary occurrence. The day for engines to take the place largely of horse-power is in order out



Harvesting with Horse Power.

Scene on the Schwager Farm, Saskatchewan.