

CORRESPONDENCE.

BUSINESS METHODS IN FARMING.

Mr. McPherson's Letter Criticized.

Editor of FARMING.

The publication of "Business Methods in Farming," by D. M. McPherson, Lancaster, Ont., in your issue of December 28th last, has been of great interest to the writer as a study in higher thought for progressive farmers. The article is one which has attracted a good deal of attention among reading and thoughtful farmers. It certainly merits much good discussion if those interested would take the time upon it.

I made a few critical notes upon it the first time I read it, so as to act as a stimulant to thought and to better enable me to expand upon these thoughts should the occasion arise. Therefore I now submit at the first convenient opportunity a few of the observations I have made, and I trust that others will follow in order to help those who are anxious and willing to learn:

1. Mr. McPherson's method of farming is of great value from a practical as well as a scientific standpoint, because it is constantly increasing the fertility of his land in three ways—

(1) Exclusive growing of green food, silage corn, and pasture.

(2) Feeding on the farm all crops produced.

(3) Buying grain and millfeed for extra feeding.

The principle of this method every intelligent farmer knows, but it is one which a very small proportion practise. It is somewhat analogous to borrowing money, which, on returning to the lender, brings with it an interest almost equal in amount to the principal; hence the increased value each year of Mr. McPherson's farm.

2. In discussing with farmers the financial part of Mr. McPherson's work I observe that a portion of them are inclined to doubt his figures respecting the amount of clear profit. The only apparent error that I have found, however, that would tend at all to raise the suspicions of the sceptical is a difference of \$15.50 in the two items of pork and veal sold, recorded in the inventory and cash accounts. It is interesting to note, however, that the balance to Mr. McPherson's credit upon his capital investment is over 11 per cent. The average farm in Ontario scarcely pays one per cent., while rented farms, free from mortgage, etc., scarcely net the owners 3 per cent.

There are several other matters I would be pleased to discuss, but shall leave these for a future opportunity.

W. J. THOMPSON.

Lake Shore Farm, Bronte.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

CAPACITY OF ROUND SILOS.

R.W.N.: I intend building a round silo outside of my barn. (1) I would like to know which kind of lumber would be the best, rock or soft elm, hemlock or tamarack. (2) I can get tamarack 23 ft. in length, would it be as durable as the hemlock? (3) Does the foundation of a silo require to be level with, or lower than, the surface of the ground (the land is dry.) (4) There are no round silos in this neighborhood, so please state the capacity of a silo. (5) Which kind of power would be the best for cutting straw, corn and crushing grain, wind, tread or horse-power?

1, 2. Our choice would be the hemlock. Both the rock and soft elm are too twisty in their nature to work in a stave silo. The hemlock would be more satisfactory than the tamarack.

3. The foundation can be either level with, or lower than the surface of the ground. If necessary the silo could be set a foot or so in the ground, but the extra labor of getting the silage out of this area is often much greater than it would be to build the silo on the level and elevate the corn that much higher to begin with. Build on the level, throw up a little earth against the wall on the inside and the same on outside. On the outside it is a good plan to put a layer of old lumber next to the silo to prevent the earth coming in contact with the silo walls.

4. On an average well pressed silage will weigh about 40 lbs. to the cubic foot, thus requiring 50 cubic feet for a ton.

APPROXIMATE CAPACITY OF ROUND SILOS IN TONS.

Depth in feet	Inside diameter in feet.					
	14	16	18	20	22	24
20	45.65	78.84	88.95	104.74	124.6	145.4
21	48.24	82.05	92.36	108.57	129.5	151.3
22	50.85	85.26	95.73	112.54	133.5	157.3
23	53.46	88.47	99.10	116.50	137.5	163.3
24	56.07	91.68	102.61	120.46	141.5	169.3
25	58.68	94.89	106.12	124.42	145.5	175.3
26	61.29	98.10	109.63	128.38	149.5	181.3
27	63.90	101.31	113.14	132.34	153.5	187.3
28	66.51	104.52	116.65	136.30	157.5	193.3
29	69.12	107.73	120.16	140.26	161.5	199.3
30	71.73	110.94	123.67	144.22	165.5	205.3

5. Wind power is not satisfactory for filling a silo, you cannot depend on it. Many silos are filled by tread power very satisfactorily. Steam power is the best for filling a silo. For other seasons of the year we prefer either wind or tread power.

SPRINGHALT.

Subscriber, Asa: I have a horse that has a slight touch of springhalt. Can anything be done for it?

Springhalt is generally considered incurable. An operation is sometimes performed for it, and is said, in some cases, to be beneficial. Better consult a qualified veterinary.

MANITOBA POULTRY SHOW.

Manitoba is beginning to show the world that she can do other things besides grow wheat. The meetings of the dairymen, stockmen and poultrymen, held a week ago in Winnipeg, call attention to interests that sooner or later are bound to become very prominent features of Manitoba agriculture.

The number of exhibits at the Manitoba Poultry Show were one-third more this year than they were in 1897. The quality was equally as good and the variety even greater. The increase in the number of entries shows that greater interest is being taken in poultry, and we may soon look for a rival at Winnipeg to our large poultry shows in the east. The judging was done by Mr. Butterfield, who scored all the birds. The exhibits of pet and fancy stock were also large and good, so that altogether the Manitoba Poultry Association has good reason to be proud of its 1898 show.

Publishers' Desk.

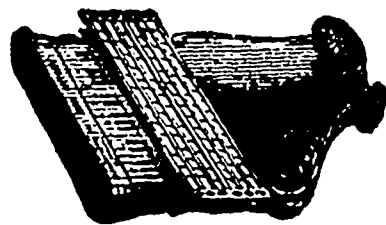
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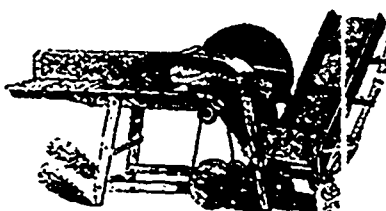
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H. L. HURT, } Judge.
M. PATTIN, }

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