

who can well afford to buy and work a high class horse. The French Canadian farmer, as a rule, treats his horse kindly, and would breed good ones if he knew how. A certain type of coach horse, makes a horse fit for all farm work, and is I think, the most generally profitable and useful horse for the farmer to breed in this Province.

Yours truly,
C. F. BOUTHILLIER.

PRACTICAL FARMING.

OATS AS FORAGE; CURING, AND STACKING

(by James Dickson)

(In July No. re Grass Seed, read "round log" in place of "round box.")

Present appearances indicate a heavy oat crop, and the hay crop in general being somewhat short, this, in connection with the low price of coarse grains, will induce many farmers to cut larger quantities than usual of their oat crop for feed. And when we consider that ripe oats are not all digested even when fed in the straw; and again, the waste to cut grain when ripe if intended for feed, then thresh and feed at a cost of about a quarter of the crop; it don't pay. The thrashing and grinding cost as much now as it did when farmers could sell the oats at double the price to pay with. There is another advantage: a farmer can get along with less extra help if he cuts some of his oats for feed, as the best time to cut, is any time after the straw is yellow at the root. (1) At this stage, the connection between the seed and the soil, is broken, and all the aliment to be obtained is in the stem and seed. There is also another advantage in cutting oats early. If the ground is dry it can be cut with a mowing machine, and raked with a horse, by following the course of the machine, and travelling in the space between the cuts, each round taking two cuts of mowing. But to get the full benefit of the crop, it must be cured in the cock. Aim to preserve the colour. Just here, I am reminded that a short time ago, an opinion was given in a Montreal Journal, that colour was of little account in hay, as the writer had seen animals leave green hay, to eat what was discoloured. Wonders will never cease! But all the same, aim to keep the colour in fodder up to the time it is presented to the animal. It can be lost by exposure, and also by overfermentation in the mow. In the one case it is bleached out, and in the other it is burnt out. Discussion on this point is superfluous. It is nofad of mind. It is definitely settled in the mind of every experienced feeder. If the colour is there, the juices are there, and these, it is our aim to preserve. To do this is must be

CURED IN THE COCK.

Some science is required to do this properly, and as illustrated by the small percentage of the men I have had who can make one properly, without taking much extra time, it may not be lost space to describe what is supposed to be the simple operation of making a cock to stand the weather. The object aimed at, is to shed the rain, and allow the air to permeate. This cannot be done by the usual method of making a large roll, and piling a smaller one on top. First, make a bunch about the

size of a 2 or 3 bushel basket, then, fork on to it, lifting high enough to double in the tangle ends, by this method the sides will hang down over the foundation. If there is wind, work mostly from the windward side, and to finish, with the fork handle and left fore arm, smooth and press from the top downwards, and by drawing the fork around the bottom inwards, the cock will be shaped like two-thirds of an egg, and if wilted when put up, it will be found in good condition after a couple of weeks of dull, even rainy weather. If not well wilted, the cocks may require making over in a couple of days. To those who understand these matters, this may seem like uselessly occupying space. And the suggestion is lost to those who prefer losing as much extra time in opening out, or pitching the cocks, as the extra required to make them properly.

STACKING

In this Province, lumber being plentiful, stacking is not so common as in some countries, but where barn room is scarce, where it requires 3 or 4 hands to pack in the roof of a barn, or when the field is some distance from the home, and as there is no need of there being 50 lbs of waste, it is often preferable to stack hay or feed-oats.

We will suppose then that your experience in stacking has not been favourable, or, that you have had no experience at all. Also that you have 9 or 10 loads of fodder to stack. That there are three men, and having prepared a pole 4 to 6 inches in diameter at the larger end, and 25 or more feet in length, a dozen or more large rails, a spade, a crowbar (if the subsoil is hard), a ladder, and a few forkfuls of fresh-cut blue joint, rushes, or oats, and these unloaded at the place chosen for the stack. A hole is dug, about the length of the spade handle, and the pole firmly planted. Four rails are laid, two on each side of the pole, the outside ones 10 feet apart. The rails are laid across these to make a scaffold 12 feet square, and on this foundation the cocks near enough to carry are placed, commencing at the centre, the object being to keep that two feet or so higher than the edge, and this continued to the top, and building round towards the outside to a diameter of 12 feet. While the hole was being dug a load was being made up. For regularity of building, and economy of labour, it is better to drive the waggon round the stack while unloading. The tangle ends of the outside must be lipped under, and, with the fork firmly planted for a hold, it must be firmly and evenly tramped to the very edge. While the second load is being made up, the stacks punches in the tangle ends round the sides, and particularly at the bottom, to prevent waste, and to allow free access of air underneath. It is well to be particular at the first to build just 6 feet round from the pole to the edge of the stack, and build plumb to a height of 12 feet, and then regularly decrease in diameter to a point at a height of about another 12 feet, the ladder being placed upon the waggon rack, for the convenience of the pitcher. It should be raked down very lightly, with the object of straightening the loose ends of straws to carry down the rain. If the weather is good, it is a good plan to let it settle a couple of days, before finally topping it up with the green stuff, which, in this state will remain in place.

I am supposing that there will be two men on the stack while unloading, to continually tramp, and the stack

kept continually higher in the centre, and filled up regularly to the outside. The irregularities in the filling or unfilling, will be found after settling, in the hollows where the water rests.

I am aware of the objection sometimes made to the use of a pole. There is no valid objection, and a novice can, with one, build a stack, but not without. With it a stacker has more confidence, and less danger, and the necessity of roping down the top is avoided. Making a stack is like making a cock, and every other work in a farm. There is one workmanlike and profitable way of doing it, and many ways of doing it at a loss.

Correspondence.

Moore's Station P.Q., July 4th 1896.
DEAR SIR,

Your letter of June 17th received, and beg to say that I would have answered it long ago, but have been very busy, and mislaid it.

As to writing on sheep.

For some years before my father died, I was away a large part of the time, and since then we have let our farm, till this last year, and in that way the sheep have run down from what they used to be, so that I am not in a position to write about them now. But will try and send you an article on them this autumn, and also if you wish on the results of the green meat crops which you recommended. I am feeding the oats, peas and vetches now. The oats, etc., give very good returns, the rape is coming on nicely.

Yes, as you said, I found the South-downs too small and that they were running out, did not shear a good fleece, although my father changed rams every two years. I have, now, some cross bred sheep between a Leicester and South-down, but am using a Shropshire ram now

I remain, dear Sir,

Yours very truly
PHILIP H. MOORE.

Ottawa, July, 10th., 1896.

Editor, "Journal of Agriculture,"

Montreal, Que.

DEAR SIR:—

You will doubtless have seen an account of the disastrous fire that destroyed our laboratories on the 6th. inst. Perhaps you would be good enough to state in your columns that, though much of the apparatus is destroyed, we hope to be able to resume chemical work in the course of a few weeks, temporary accommodation for that purpose now being fitted up. It will be well for all correspondents who have lately sent in samples for examination, to write to Mr. Shutt, the Chemist, since many of the recent samples and records relating to them were lost in the fire.

Yours faithfully,

FRANK T. SHUTT
Chemist, Expl. Farms.

Lachute, July, 18th 1896.

DEAR SIR.

I don't know whether this will be in time for your next issue, but as you asked me, I send you a little report of the crops in this locality as far as I have ascertained.

The hay crop is, as a rule, light, but on newly cultivated land timothy and clover are a fair crop. This is a season when good cultivation tells. Oats

are in full ear, and are a splendid crop, but, alas, in some places are attacked by grasshoppers! which are playing sad havoc. Potatoes and root crops look remarkably well, as does forage corn of which a considerable quantity is planted. I noticed, too, a good many mixed forage crops, pease, and oats seem to be the favourite. Cattle on the pastures are of good useful breeds and look well.

I had a most attentive and enthusiastic meeting at "East Settlement" and imagine from what I have seen so far that the farmers here are progressive and prospering accordingly.

Yours truly,
GEO. MOORE.

To the Editor "Illustrated Journal of Agriculture."

The schools — Farms — Convents — Dairy at Roberval — Manufactures.

DEAR SIR.

The Asst. Commissioner of Agriculture, M. G. A. Gignault, and I, have just completed our visit to all the Agric. Colleges in the Province of Quebec, at Oka, L'Assomption, Ste Anne de la Pocatière and Compton, and the farms of the Grey Nuns at Beauport and the Ursuline sisters at Roberval, Lake St. John. We were pleased to note at Oka the rapid progress made in practical farming, tile draining, levelling, subsoiling, etc., all on as economical a scale as possible so that it is in the reach of all the pupils to put it into practice. They have on hand a large stock of horses, cattle and swine, all well cared for, setting a good example to the pupils. At the time of our visit these numbered 23, and we examined them in both the theoretical and practical parts of their education, and found great progress had been made since last year, reflecting great credit on their teacher.

At L'Assomption the same can be said as of Oka, in regard to farming. They are certainly working on a higher and more improved scale than in the past. This year they are growing 8 or 10 acres of roots for cattle feed, which is very commendable, as they are a most economical and profitable feed for cattle. They also keep a large stock, cared for by the most improved methods. Prof. Marsan has under his care 25 pupils, who made a very creditable showing at their examination.

At Ste. Anne de la Pocatière they are also improving very much in their ways of farming. Their land, consisting more of clay than the others, does not give them the advantage of growing so many roots; but yet they have some and in the future purpose to grow more as their cattle have done so well on them. They grow a great quantity of hay and grain, also a large stock of cattle, principally Ayrshires. There were 15 pupils under the direction of Prof. Schmutz.

The College at Compton having been only a short time opened, their time has been taken up with building barns, stables, butter-factory and at present a College building to be completed about July 15, when Prof. LeMoyné will open the classes for pupils. The farming which has been done is in a very creditable manner. We have no doubt but that the farm will prove of great benefit to its neighborhood.

We next visited the farm of the Gray Nuns at Beauport. They have a splendid farm and are working it to good advantage, seeming disposed to