## THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

## Laying the Concrete.

Cement is now so widely used that it seems unnecessary to elaborate on the technique and methods The body of the floor may be mixed in of mixing. the proportions of 1 part cement to 8 parts of gravel, and the finishing coat, which should be from three-quarters to one inch thick, should be mixed in the quarters to one inch thick, should be mixed in the proportion of 1 to 4. In some cases the coarse mixture is used altogether to obviate, so far as possible, the danger of slipping; but the stronger finish makes a far nicer floor, and, if properly grooved in the dangerous spots, the trouble is considerably reduced. The curb between the manger and cow stand should be made of stronger material than the floor. Concrete mixed 1 to 4 should be used for this part of the construction. The parts to be laid first will depend upon where the concrete is to be mixed and the type of fixtures

the concrete is to be mixed and the type of fixtures the concrete is to be mixed and the type of fixtures used. If steel stanchions and mangers are to be installed, it is well to have them put into place and made secure. Figure 3 shows the end view of the floor, with the fixtures in place, and largely suggests the methods one must employ in laying the different parts offethe floor. If the division is not used, the manger can be made in form to correspond with that illustrated in figure 1, which is a very suitable In such a manger a bucket can be placed type. without danger of upsetting. Make the forms very firm and stake them securely. Do not use too many nails; short nails are preferable where they will hold the boards in place. Braces between the planks, and wooden clamps over the tops can often be employed, doing away with the necessity for nails to hold the fumber in place. After the concrete is laid, round off all edges so there will be no sharp corners.

#### Cork Brick Flooring.

A specially prepared brick is now on the market which combines the properties of being warmer than concrete and the cattle are not so likely to slip on it. This material, known as cork brick, is very suitable for cattle stands and all places in the stable where there is any slant or dangerous slope. We have seen several stables where it is being used, and the brick seems to wear as well as cement-concrete. A three-to four-inch strip of cement, the thickness of a brick, is laid at the rear of the stand next to the gutter, and the brick are laid between it and the curb. In the new dairy stables on the Essex Farm in Essex County a piece of lumber is imbedded in the concrete foundation, reaching to within one inch from the top of the brick. On this lumber a second strip, one inch thick and four inches wide, is nailed. The idea is to keep the udders of the cows away from the concrete al-together. When the inch strip is worn out, another can be nailed in its place.

# THE FARM.

### Canning the Corn Crop for the Cattle.

Although prospects for a crop of corn were rather doubtful in the early part of the summer, remarkable growth has been made the last few weeks, and in many districts the yield will be up to the average. The bulk of the crop is ensiled, but, whether it is to be stored in the silo, stooked in the field to cure, or husked for seed, the time is drawing near to plan the fall work so that this important crop may be garnered at the right stage.

If for seed purposes, the grain must be fairly well matured on the stalk before early frosts occur. In some

Illustration No, 5-An old stable remodelled. corn-growing districts the stalks are cut and stooked so as to allow the corn to dry before it is husked; in others, the ears are broken off the standing crop and taken to place of storage. The stalks are then cut with the binder and either ensiled or stooked for early winter feed. Growing seed corn is a business in itself and can only be followed successfully in districts favored with a long season. However, by selection, varieties have been created which mature fairly well, in most seasons over a large portion of Ontario. While the seasons, over a large portion of Ontario. While the bulk of the seed corn will continue to come from South-Western Ontario and from across the line, there are a number of growers in various parts of the Province who might profitably select their seed supply from their own crops. They then have an opportunity to pick ears of a certain standard from the most productive hills or stalks. When growing corn for fodder purposes, there are advantages in taking the stalk into consideration when selecting seed. Before commencing to harvest the crop, one man could soon go through a portion of it and select enough ears to supply seed for the next About 100 standard-sized ears will make a season. bushel of shelled corn. This gives an idea of the amount to select. Of course, considerably more should be picked than is required, in order that further selection may be made before spring or to make up for any unforeseen loss. The corn must be thoroughly dry before there is any danger of severe frosts. The storage place should be free from dampness, as the kernels may take up sufficient moisture to injure germination if a cold spell follows. Corn in bulk will heat in warm weather unless it is kept thoroughly dry. Where there is only a small quantity to look after, the cobs may be tied together and hung in the attic, or other dry, well-ventilated place. Another system which proves very satisfactory is to drive neils through a board and stiels the core on is to drive nails through a board and stick the ears on





them. Neither method is expensive, and with both no two ears touch; consequently all parts have an equal chance to dry. In the seed corn districts cribs, or specially prepared drying kilns, are used for curing the seed.

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#### Stage to Cut.

The aim is to have the crop fairly well matured for fodder purposes. This does not necessarily mean that every stalk produces an ear and the grain is glazed. The stalks can mature without ears forming. Some years frost comes earlier than others and hastens corn harvest, but from September 15 to the first week in October practically the entire crop for fodder purposes is cut. The nearer the crop is to maturity when cut the higher the average percentage composition. Corn that is too immature lacks substance. Where it is sown thinly, the fodder is better if the grain is in or past the dough stage when cutting takes place. If mature, there is considerable loss, due to the kernels passing through the animals undigested. For this reason some stockmen are sowing the seed thickly, so as to lessen the number of ears forming. They claim to harvest a heavy yield of fodder of equally good quality for stockers or milk cows as that having a good showing of mature grain.

The sickle or short-handled, sharp, heavy hoe, is commonly used for cutting the crop. The stalks can commonly used for cutting the crop. The starks can be cut close to the ground, and very few ears are broken off. However, this method is slow and rather laborious when compared with the corn binder. This labor-saving device cuts the stalks and ties them in bundles which are convenient to handle. The chief drawbacks to it are the difficulty of cutting close to the ground and the large numbers of ears that are broken off.

#### Storing the Crop of Fodder.

Before the advent of silos the crop was cut and stooked in the field. It was left there until the fall work was done; then it was usually stored in the barn. On some farms the corn was drawn from the field as it was required for feed. This necessitated going to the field once or twice each week, regardless of weather conditions, and chopping the corn out of the frozen earth or digging it out of snow. Although dry-cured corn is good fodder, there is always more or less loss of nutrients, and it must be used up during the early It is almost impossible to keep part of the season. it for spring feeding. When the corn is thoroughly dried in the stook, it may safely be stored one layer deep over the barn floors or mows. Care must be taken to stand it straight, as it always has a tendency to go together and heat, as the air is not excluded, it soon spoils. Where the barn room is insufficient to hold the crop, many build small stacks convenient to the buildings. When properly built, corn keeps fairly well in the stack. Stock will readily eat this dry fodder, but better results are obtained by cutting and mixing it with cut straw or hay. Another method of storing corn is to lay the sheaves of dry corn flat in the mow. A layer of straw is put down first, then a layer of corn, then a layer of straw. Corn has been piled eight or ten feet deep in this manner, and there has been very little loss. The corn should be dry when stored, and then the straw will absorb considerable of the moisture that remains. It may considerable of the moisture that remains. It may heat to a certain extent, but the air being fairly well excluded, there is practically no loss. The silo proves the most satisfactory storage place for corn. The crop is all harvested in a few days, depending on the help available, and is ready for feeding at any time, summer or winter. It is protected from loss due to the elements, and makes a succulent feed of high nutritive value.

### 1480

Corn Binder with Loading Elevator Attached.