

Co-operative Silo Filling

D. A. McPhee, Prescott Co., Ont.

Co-operative silo filling has much to commend it. Four years ago, three of my neighbors and myself clubbed together and purchased a blizzard blower. This blower cost us \$140, of which each of us paid an equal share. We then rented a 14 h.p. engine, one that our township uses for crushing stone. This engine cost us \$12 for the season, \$3 each. (We have been using it every year since. As soon as we are unable to rent an engine at a reasonable figure, we will purchase one of our own.) A year later we purchased a corn binder, each man paying an equal share of this also.

One member of our organization runs the corn binder. He does all the cutting for the four. Another member runs the engine. The other two look after the blower. Each member looks after his own part of the work and by this means of management, there is never any trouble. Two or three days before the first silo is to be filled the corn binder is started. It is kept going until all the corn is cut. The member that has his silo filled first this fall will be second next fall and so on until the first shall be the last and the last first.

MANNING THE OUTFIT

Where the corn is close to the silo, three teams can keep the blower going steadily. If the corn

men so we require very little outside help. It generally takes about 10 hours to fill a stave silo 12 by 30 ft.

OVERCOMING DISADVANTAGES OF SYSTEM

About the only disadvantage that this co-operative system has, is that the silo is filled so quickly that it has not time to settle and consequently as much corn cannot be put in as when filling took four or five days. All our silos are outside and are built of staves. The disadvantage referred to is overcome to a great extent by placing temporary boards six feet long, all around the top of the silo. This enables us to fill the silo about four feet higher than the top so that when the silage settles it will not be very much below the top of the silo.

This co-operative system has worked well with us. The silos are filled more quickly and more easily and much cheaper than where an individual owns a cutting outfit and has to hire most of his help.

Pasturing Will Eradicate Sow Thistle

Hy. Glendinning, Ontario Co., Ont.

My article on the sow thistle, which appeared in Farm and Dairy June 24, has provoked a good deal of discussion. Some correspondents asked for an easier method of eradication than the one suggested. The majority, however, seem to think

chased a farm that was rented at the time of purchase. It had a bad patch of nearly an acre of sow thistles on a piece of black, mucky land that was wet. I arranged with the tenant, who had one more year on the place under the lease, to sow red clover and timothy seed with his grain on the greater part of the farm, this field included. His crop of grain where this patch of thistles was, was nil. The same night he said of the catch of clover and timothy. Everything appeared to be smothered out by the thistles.

PROOF OF THE EXPERIMENT.

The farm came into our possession in the fall, the first thing we did was to put a tile drain through this piece of land. The next season the field was cut for hay. On this piece there was practically nothing but thistles. The following years the field was allowed to run in pasture and the cattle ate them off and the natural grasses began to come in. In three years from the time the field was turned to pasture, there was not a sow thistle to be found. The only labor we had in clearing it was the underdrain that was put in. The cattle did the rest.

I fully agree with Mr. Howett, Mr. Fraser, and "Weed Fighter" that we need co-operation to fight this pest. A law making it compulsory for every man to keep this plant from seeding would be a good thing. But, would it be observed any better than other Provincial laws for the destruction of noxious weeds?

Grinding Grain at Home

I. M. Law, Durham Co., Ont.

Loss from feeding whole grain is considerable. Reports of Experiment Stations in Canada and the United States invariably state that loss resulting from feeding grain whole to cattle and hogs is from eight to ten per cent. Even for horses with good teeth it is advisable to feed grain crushed if for no other reason than that the varieties of grain grown may be kept pure for seed.

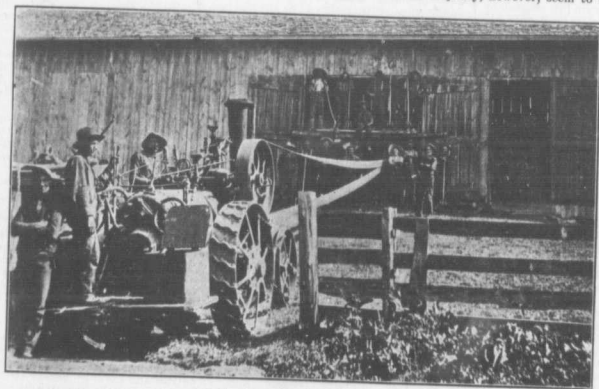
It is common for 1,000 or more bushels of grain to be fed annually on individual farms. Were this fed in a whole state it would mean a loss of 80 bushels or more. This figured at prices current in late years would be worth about \$50. Interest on capital invested in a windmill, or a gasoline engine, and a grinder would not exceed \$10 or \$12. The wear or depreciation of machinery would not exceed \$10. If we charge this \$20 all to grinding, we will be doing the pumping and cutting of the roots and the feed, free.

We grind our grain with power from a windmill. It has worked well for 13 years. The initial cost was \$140 with post grinder complete. For 13 years, it ground over 2,000 bushels annually—the grain fed on two places. The total cost for repairs and oil in that time was \$10; a cheap power to be sure, the cost of grinding a bushel being approximately one-third of a cent.

Had we to take that grain to a grist mill, it would cost \$25 to grind the 1,000 bushels. But that is not all. The worst feature of it is that many millers take a toll also, in many cases it amounts to five pounds on a bag. A distinct advantage of home grinding is that one can grind to any size desired, fine or coarse to suit the different animals to which it is to be fed. Grinding at home can be done on disagreeable days when one could not go to the mill.

A mistake is generally made in over rating farm powers. The grinder, to do good work, must be driven at a very high speed. It is advisable to get the under sized grinder and increase the speed, thus the ground chop will be fine and of increased feeding value to the stock. Most any of the grinders do good work when supplied with plenty of power.

I am well pleased with Farm and Dairy. It is of great help to the farmers.—J. W. Young, Welland Co., Ont.



A Farm Scene Typical of the Season

The co-operative principle is so generally made use of in threshing could be applied much more widely elsewhere in farming to the great advance and profit of those concerned. Much of the more expensive farm machinery could just as well do service on two or more farms while an exchange of labor, though on a smaller scale than is necessary in threshing has often in recent years been made to solve the labor problem. The illustration was taken on Mr. J. Taylor's farm, Peterboro Co., Ont., by a special representative of Farm and Dairy.

field is a distance from the silo, the fourth team will be required. It generally takes four men to load the corn on to the wagons. Two men are required at the blower, one to feed the machine and the other to help the teamsters unload the corn. Two men are required in the silo to tramp and pack the corn. A 12 pound stamper is used to pack the corn around the edge of the silo. This pounder packs the corn much more firmly than when tramping alone is practised.

The first two years that we ran our outfit, we had some trouble in keeping the corn properly mixed in the silo as it went in so fast. We overcame that trouble by taking a bag and cutting the bottom out of it and attaching to it a pair without a bottom. The free end of this bag was placed in the hood of the blower pipe. A boy or a lay man, sat on top of the silo and by means of this contrivance directed the corn to any part of the silo that he wished. This manner of distributing the corn is much easier than mixing it with forks and it does the work much better. It generally takes about 12 men and one or two boys to run outfit like ours. Some of our members have two or three sons and the others keep one or two hired

that my method is too easy. Who shall be the judge?

What I advocated, and what we follow on our own farm is a short crop rotation. We find that this keeps sow thistle in check. We have had sow thistle in our section for the past 15 years and on the whole there are fewer sow thistles this year than there were seven or eight years ago. That statement is not made in regard to any one farm, but to the section as a whole. Some farms that were bad a few years ago, are quite free from them now, while the reverse is the case in other instances.

PASTURING WILL ERADICATE IT

The point that appears to have created the greatest amount of discussion is my suggestion to those whose farms are practically overrun with the thistle. I advised them to pasture such land. This practice is recommended in extreme cases. Some have doubted the efficacy of the plan. "Cynicus" says, "Pasturing may kill sow thistles in Ontario Co. I have doubts about it killing the vigorous plants that grow in Wellington County." Permit me to give you my experience with pasturing this plant. About nine years ago I pur-