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Agents wanted in every village, town and township, to make a thorough canvass for the RURAL CANADIAN. Liberal inducements. Work to commence at once. For full particulars address

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The Rural Canadian.

TORONTO, NOVEMBER 15TH, 1882.

A WORD IN SEASON.

The time is approaching when our readers make up their list of papers for the ensuing year. Of course the RURAL CANADIAN will form one of the number. We have reason to know that it is already a favourite in many quarters; and the improvements we intend making in all departments of the paper, commencing with the first issue in January, are sure to increase its popularity and extend its sphere of usefulness.

We invite our friends everywhere to help in enlarging our list of subscribers; this can easily be done without much labour. Let every reader ask a neighbour who is not already on our list to take the paper for 1883.

The price of the RURAL CANADIAN for the ensuing year will be \$1; it will be sent to clubs of four for \$3, and to clubs of ten for \$7.

During the coming month we expect to have numerous renewals; and, if agents push the canvass with vigour, we hope to add thousands of names to our subscription list. Let the work be done without delay; balance of year free to new subscribers.

VALUE OF STRAW TO THE FARMER.

For cattle and sheep, straw of any kind, if it is bright and in good order, is excellent food for them when properly prepared, and horses will also eat it and look quite as well as they do when fed on hay. But in addition to hay or cut straw mixed with bran or meal, horses that are used steadily for work should be fed plenty of shelled oats or corn, as they cannot stand hard usage without such grain. We do not pretend to say, either, that straw alone should be fed to cattle or sheep, as there is too much bulk and not enough of strength in it to insure the greatest satisfaction; but along with it should be fed a small quantity of wheat bran and middlings mixed, or corn-meal—making what is familiarly known as "chop." Without so preparing it, it is doubtful about them eating enough of it, if nothing else is fed in connection, to keep in as good condition as is desirable.

If a farmer has room in his barn, he should store his crop of straw therein as he threshes his grain, and then with a good straw cutter, run by horse power, the work of manufacturing it into number one feed is easily accomplished, and this can be done in stormy weather or when it is too unpleasant to work out of doors. Straw prepared and fed in comfortable stables will be found fully as valuable for stock as hay of good quality, and will take cattle, sheep, and colts through an ordinary winter, without necessarily using any other kind of food, and bring them out in the spring in good condition. By making a good crop of straw of value as food for stock, and feeding the hay,

fodder, etc., of the farm as is usual, double the amount of stock can be kept through the winter, that is kept when it is not used, and at a very little increase of cost.

Straw is of great value to a farmer even if it is not wanted for stock food, when used as a manure and for bedding down animals. The most difficult thing connected with housing farm animals to feed them through the winter season, is to keep the stable floors in a nice clean condition, and, as this is positively necessary, there is nothing so good as a litter for the stables as finely cut straw. It is a splendid absorbent and makes a bedding for stock to lie down on, quite superior in our estimation to any other material in use, while its value as an addition to the manure is much superior to sawdust, tanbark, and such articles. It should be cut quite short for this purpose, and a large quantity can be prepared at a time and be piled up in the barn, where it will be convenient for use as it is needed. Enough should be thrown in the stalls every morning to keep them dry, and at the end of every week they should be thoroughly cleaned out throwing their accumulations into the manure cellar, or, if there is no manure cellar, it should be thrown in a heap under cover, and occasionally have a quantity of water poured over it to hasten decomposition. If piled up out in the weather it is liable to receive too much water and the strength soak out and wash away. Unless the straw is cut short, it is not advisable to use it as an absorbent or stable litter, as it cannot be conveniently removed from the stalls on account of it clinging together and forming a solid sheet of manure. When the straw is cut up short, it is easily removed from the stables and is always easily handled afterwards.

ROOTS VS. ENSILAGE.

BY E. W., WHITEVALE, ONT.

Noticing your paper on ensilage it struck me that in our interest in the new we are apt to forget our old friend—the root crop. I have read a great deal for and against ensilage, and have followed its history from the beginning, but have failed to discover anything to induce me to make a trial of it.

In taking anything new in hand, especially in farming, we should study every point in connection therewith, climate, soil, our requirements, and last but not least, have we no crop that fills the same place in our farm economy.

W. M. White, correspondent of the *Country Gentleman*, says: "The southern white dent tooth-corn, with drill cultivation, will yield from ten to twenty tons to an acre." "Ensilage should not cost more than two dollars a ton." "A ton a month is full feed for a cow." Having, however, no practical knowledge of ensilage, I can do nothing but theorize concerning it. Corn will not—judging by the growth of our common yellow corn—yield as heavily with us as in the United States, without cultivation at a greater expense than the crop would afford. As for clover, millet, Hungarian, etc., the extra value will not pay for the extra expense. A chemical analysis of ensilaged corn and cured corn makes no material difference in nutritive values in either, the additional weight in the ensilage being mainly water; but practical experience shows ensilage to have the greater feeding value. The difference seems to be this: The particles of nutrition in ensilage must be mainly held in solution by the water, and thus when taken into the stomach is in the best possible state for digestion. This seems to be the reason for the greater

feeding value of all green foods. Thus grass fattens faster than the same grass made into hay; but the proportionate difference between grass and hay is far less than between ensilage and cured corn, the difference seeming to be in the fact that corn contains more water, and therefore requires more woody matter to carry the water. The same fact applies to roots, their value resting on the same principle as that of ensilage, only to a greater extent. And also when fed in connection with dry feeds, the water contained in roots assists digestion to a greater extent than the same amount of water taken by drinking. This then is the reason for their greater feeding value; that they approach nearer to the character of grass.

Now for a few facts about roots. Our root crop this year was all Swede turnips. Sixteen acres averaged 750 bushels per acre at sixty pounds to a bushel, making a yield of thirteen and one half tons an acre. The cost is as follows. Ploughing three times, at \$3 per acre, \$9; harrowing, rolling, etc., \$8; hauling manure, \$3; manure, fourteen loads, at 25 cents, \$3.50; seed, 27 cents; pulling, \$2; hauling, \$8; total cost per acre, \$28.77. Thirteen and one half tons cost \$1.76 a ton, and when once harvested no weighing or other expensive labour is required. A ton of turnips is therefore cheaper than a ton of ensilage corn. A ton a month is sixty-six pounds a day, which is a good average ration. It is true, roots cannot be fed with good results alone. It is also equally true of ensilage, hay, bran, or meal of some kind, must be fed in connection therewith. I do not disparage ensilage in the least, for I believe where roots cannot be grown it will fill their place, but as an entire food it can no more be depended upon than roots, as any one can perceive who has studied all the practical experience of those who have tried it; all admitting that meal, bran, or hay, must be fed in connection therewith.

Let us then think twice before we convert, at a great expense, our cellars into a silos, before we purchase expensive machinery to perform the labour of cutting and moving; and let us not forget an old friend, before we have taxed his utmost capabilities—an old friend which has often helped us through a season of short hay crop, and also of short money crop.

At Mr. T. Tim's sale in East Nissouri, the other day, this year's calves sold at \$16.

SOME fine Arab horses were sold at auction, a few weeks ago, in London, England. About two hundred persons were present at the sale, among them Lord Bradford, Lord Rosslyn, Lord Hardings, and Mr. Percy Wyndham. Eleven horses were offered, and the total proceeds were \$7,750. Pharaoh, a pure Arab stallion, brought \$2,265 from Count Potoki, who takes him to Poland. Brood mares averaged \$600 each, and a two-year-old filly went for \$750.

THE REV. MR. GILLESPIE, secretary of the Galloway Cattle Society of Scotland, said at the last annual meeting of Dumfries that, while the Polled Angus was a magnificent breed for particular circumstances, Galloways, he believed, were the best adapted of all breeds for the purposes of Canadian American breeders who wished to rid their horned cattle of these needless appendages. He ventured to affirm that were a pure, well-bred Galloway bull was put to cows of any horned breed, the produce in ninety-nine cases out of every 100 would be Polled.