under the hammer for just $1,600. The price paid is the best evidence of the character of the property that he got; especially when we know that the general concensus of opinion in the neighborhood was, that he had paid all that the farm was worth. For this $1,600 he got the main part of the house as it now is, only in sad disrepair, and lacking all of the conveniences with which it is now equipped, an old frame kitchen almost falling down, and an apology for a barn in a field across the road. "That barn was so cold," said Mr. Ryan, "that when I would go out on a winter's morning to feed the horses, I would find them shivering."

A Run-down Farm

The land itself was in no better condition than the buildings. It is still told in the neighborhood that a previous owner had been in the habit of sowing peas year after year and selling just enough each fall to buy seed peas for the following spring. The first year Mr. Ryan was able to keep one team and four cows. To feed these, he had to buy feed and he brought some from the other farm, which he still owned. The clay land at the back of the farm was white from lack of humus, and on plowing, rolled up as stiff as a board. Of the 13 acres of sandy land on the opposite side of the road from the main farm, only two and one-half acres were really clear. Another field was so springy that it was useful only for goose pasture, and on still another part of the farm the frogs called in the spring. These two latter fields have since been tile drained and they are now the most productive land on the Ryan farm.

The farm to-day supports a team of horses, 10 cows and some young stock. All of the rough feed necessary for this stock is grown on the farm. The improvement has been brought about by clover, tile drains and barnyard manure. From the first year that Mr. Ryan had the place, he started to get his land under a systematic rotation of crops. The rotation now followed is corn, followed by oats seeded down to clover, clover hay one year, pasture one year and then plow for corn again. The hoe crop consists of eight acres of corn, which fills two silos 10 x 30 feet and two acres of roots,—potatoes and so forth. All of the feed grown on the farm, with the exception of the oats, is fed on the farm and the fertility returned to the soil. The land is now full of humus and the clay fields that once turned up white and stiff are now rich and black. O.A.C. No. 72 oats are grown, but Mr. Ryan finds it more profitable to sell these for seed at $1.50 a bushel and buy feed with the proceeds than to feed the oats on the farm.

Intelligent and Careful Marketing

The marketing end on the modern farm is of almost equal importance with the producing end, and Mr. Ryan utilizes every source of income to the utmost. For instance, there was an old or-

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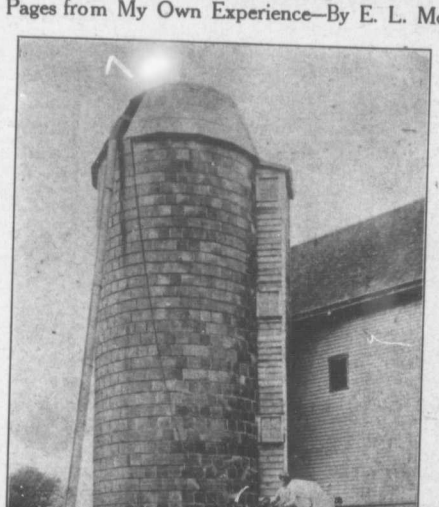
Suggestions for Filling the Silo

A Few Pages from My Own Experience—By E. L. McCaskey.

THEORETICALLY, the best way to fill a silo is by slow degrees, a little to-day, a little to-morrow, until the silo is filled to its utmost capacity. Under such a system the silage settles thoroughly, packs well and excludes all air. I know that this method will give a sweeter and more valuable food than the rush method. I have fed from a silo filled with a small capacity chain elevator cutting box, and it was the best silage I ever took out of a silo. One man in that silo could thoroughly mix the grain, leaves, stalks and light stuff, tramp it down thoroughly and then not work too hard.

Practically, this leisurely system of silo filling is an impossibility. Silos have multiplied since then, and it is only by cooperation among neighbors, the use of high power blowers and a whirlwind rush, that we get our silos filled at all. We have cause to be thankful if we can get sufficient help from our neighbors at one time to rush the corn into the silo. One man of my acquaintance gave up the silo and went back to feeding corn stalks, because he said that it took him "all the fall returning labor." It is for this same reason that I would prefer to hire all the help for filling my silo if it were possible. But it is only occasionally that men can be hired in sufficient numbers, and never have I seen the occasion when sufficient teams could be gotten on to the job. The best solution that I have been able to devise for the help problem in silo filling is the cooperative circle among neighbors. We have found in our community that seven good sized silos is enough for one circle to handle nicely and still get the corn cut when it is at the proper stage for going into the silo. We own our own silo filling machinery cooperatively and thus we are not at the mercy of the traction machine operator.



Silo Filling Is One of the Rush Jobs of the Year.

When to Cut Corn

One of the weightiest arguments in favor of the filling circle and cooperative ownership of the filling machine is that we are able to cut our corn at the proper stage. There is a tendency where silo filling machinery is scarce, to start cutting the corn too green. From Henry's "Feeds and Feeding," a book that I have mentioned many times in Farm and Dairy, I learn that in experiments at the New York Station it was found that between Aug. 21st, when the corn was in the milk, until Sept. 7th, when it glazed, a trifle over two weeks, the dry matter in corn increased 55 per cent, the albuminoids 30 per cent, the carbohydrates 65 per cent and the fat 13 per cent. By cutting corn two weeks earlier than it might be cut, if these figures were correct, we are losing almost half of its feeding value. That theory and practice agree in this instance, we well know. A good many years ago when working for another farmer, I was getting excellent results from feeding ensilage. The silage in the lower part of the silo had been cut a couple of weeks earlier than the silage that I had first been feeding. No sooner did we come to the green silage than the cows began to drop away in their milk. The stuff was sour, watery and apparently of little food value. Now I would far rather risk having my corn frosted than cut it on the green side.

It is very important to plan in advance and have the correct number of men and teams available for the silo filling. An incident in our neighborhood will illustrate the importance of good planning. A neighbor who grows 20 acres of corn annually, four years ago had the corn in the field right next the barn. Four teams kept the blower going continuously and all hands busy. The next year the corn field was several hundred yards further away. He engaged two extra teams, but we had not been filling half a day before it was evident that it would take eight teams to keep things moving smoothly. A good part of the time the engine, blower, the man who was feeding the blower and two men in the silo, were standing idle waiting for teams to come up with a load. Our neighbor must have lost $10 or $15 that day, for dollars go swiftly when there are a dozen or more men and a $10-a-day equipment not working at maximum capacity. The next day he had the eight teams and everything went nicely.

The Importance of Good Mixing

In the annual silo filling operation, is very important that the ensilage be well mixed. If the ensilage is delivered directly from the hood at the top of the silo, it will be impossible for one man or even two men to keep it properly mixed and tramped. In fact, with a modern high-power blower, delivering a ton of ensilage every five minutes, it is about all one man can do to keep himself from being buried alive. If the work is inefficiently done and the leaves allowed to settle into one corner and the hard corn pile into the centre, there will be many mouldy chunks when it comes to emptying the silo, and the feed will be uneven and undesirable. A distributor made either of a metal tube in detachable sections or a canvas tube, which can be rolled up as the silo fills, is more than a convenience; it is a necessity. With the aid of a distributor,

(*Concluded on page 10*)