

horizontal beams, 9 x 9 inches, and rests on wooden blocks two feet long and 6 x 6 inches wide. These blocks are placed at intervals of 3 feet from one another.

On the plate are erected the posts; these are planks 9 x 3 inches, at intervals of 2 feet from one another, and to them the boards of the panels are nailed.

THE INTERIOR BOARDING AND CORNERS.—An important detail in the building of a silo, and one which is too often neglected, is the making of the four corners solid enough to prevent the side-walls from opening and separating from one another. The way to prevent this is as follows: the boards, from 1 to 2 inches thick forming the interior panel ought to be perfectly uniform in width (say 1 foot wide), their ends, at the corners, should cross each other alternately, as shown in the cut; the ends of the boards that penetrate thus into the space between the side-walls can be easily nailed to the corresponding posts. For this, it is not necessary to have the boards of unequal length, since they can be so arranged that if one projects too far to the right, the one above shall project further to the left, and so on. In order to make this more easily understood, we have, in the engraving, raised part of the outside panel to show almost the whole of the right and left corners with the arrangement we recommend. This easy, simple plan gives great solidity to the silo.

THE OUTER PANEL.—This consists of common boards nailed from without to the posts. Inside the four corners of this panel a post is placed to which the boards are nailed. For greater security, the extremities are covered, outside, with a narrow board in a vertical position.

In the cut, is seen a door, 3 x 2 feet, 3 feet above the ground-plate. Lastly, in the engraving, the base of the silo is shown perfectly earthed up, while the left part has been left naked up to the level of the bottom of the silo to show the blocks of wood on which the plate rests.

The *sablière* or wall-plate, has been left out, to avoid hiding the space between the side-walls. H. NAGANT.

(From the French)

Dr Couture on our Horses

Dr Couture, the Government veterinary surgeon, has an article in the November No. of the French Journal that is full of sound sense and good advice. Speaking of the general run of horses to be found on the farms in this country, he, and with much justice, asserts that the breeders seem to have aimed at producing an animal the very reverse of what a useful farmer's horse ought to be. They are wanting, says he, in compactness, or as we should say, they are loosely built. Long backs and length in the loin are what has been aimed at, instead of well coupled, well ribbed up forms. They are too long in the leg and too slight in the carcass—too tucked up, in English stable-language. (1) Such horses can never do a really hard day's work; at the end of four or five hours they are weary of life, and when they reach the stable, they won't grub. Consequently, they are fit for nothing the next day.

Now a really useful farmer's beast should, as M. Couture says, as nearly as possible conform to the following type: of an average height, neither high nor low, but of the two, rather inclining to the latter; the forehead broad, the eyes very large and placed at the side of the head. The neck (*encolure*) very thick where it joins the body, and along the sides, but fine above and below; the breast as wide and muscular as possible; the shoulder long and muscular; the forehead and thighs big, big, big: no limit to the bulk of these parts.

(1) *Herring-gullied.*

The more a horse girts, the better. Built in such a way he will be full of health and able to do a better day's work at 20 than a slight, flimsy thing at 6 years old.

M. Couture is evidently not in favour of ponies for farmers' work, for he says: your horses ought not to exceed 15 hands $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches in height, but they should weigh from 1,000 lbs. to 1,100 lbs.

"War to the knife against *trotters*. They are neither fit for the plough, for the carriage, the saddle, nor the cart. They ruin the morals as well as the property of our people: they must be trained; the owner drinks; he runs about to the races; bets and loses; and he dies a drunkard."

A. R. J. F.

1891.

The past year has been a remarkable one. I never remember a season that began so badly as regards our farm crops and yet ended by giving us a plentiful yield of every thing except hay. Navigation began early enough, a tug having arrived in Montreal from Repentigny on the 17th April, on which day the thermometer indicated 60° F. in the shade, though there was a white-frost in the morning, say 30° F. This was followed by a sweet, warm rain on the 18th and 19th, which brought out the soft-maple bloom on the 20th. Wednesday 22nd, 67° F., the wind turning to the East on the 24th, with sharp frost, snow and hail on that and the following day. Monday 27th heat again—71° F.; on the 29th 6 degrees of frost, and 65° F. on the 1st May. Snow, rain, and hail on the 6th; 78° F. on the 10th induced many market-gardeners to set out their tomatoes the following week, for which confidence they paid dearly as they were all killed on the 19th, when there were 3° of frost in the suburbs of Montreal.

Sowing began fairly early, but the long drought throughout the summer, only broken in this district by a couple of thunder showers—not storms—lasted till the 4th July, when a rainy time began that utterly changed the appearance of all the crops in a very few days. In fact, when I visited Sorel on the 14th the land was surcharged with moisture, and my friend M. Séraphin Guèvremont was getting nervous about his potato-crop.

The hay was very poor on even such well farmed lands as Mr. Jas. Drummond's, Mr. Irving's, &c.; but oats, corn, and roots did well after the rain began.

A wonderful autumn! The very mildest I ever recollect. No frost to injure cucumbers till the 9th October! A sharpish couple of days on the 29th and 30th November, the thermometer at the City-hall falling as low as—4° F.

The last three days, December 1st, 2nd and 3rd, have been very mild. The little ice on the St. Lawrence is all gone, and the sparrows are chirruping away as if the spring had arrived.

Well, if the winter is not to be found at the mouth of the sack, it is sure to be in the bottom. So we must look out for a late spring.

A. R. J. F.

DE OMNIBUS REBUS.

Hungarian grass.—The only drawback to this very useful plant is that it *must* be cut very early or else the cattle, particularly the horses, will not touch it. I have always found it best to mow as soon as the flowers are on the point of bursting.

Nitrate of soda.—Owing to the abominable folly of the Chilians, whence come our supplies of the above invaluable manure, the price has risen in the Liverpool market up to \$45.00 a ton.

Maize.—With the largest crop of maize the States ever