



Plowing the Beets : First Step in Harvesting.

has a greater bearing on this point. So men of experience are unanimous in the opinion that silage should be made of a well-matured, well-eared variety; in fact, a corn crop, to be profitable, either in the silo or out, must have ears, as well as a heavy yield of stalks. A second point of no small import is that the crop stand up well, to facilitate cutting and handling, by machine or by hand. In most of the corn-growing sections, the growing season, comparatively speaking, is a short one; so that every precaution that tends to insure early maturity should be observed. All growers are quite aware that there is a great difference in varieties, but there is also a great difference in conditions other than climatic which affect the crop, such as fertility of soil, vitality of seed, drainage, thickness of plants in row or in hill, and cultivation given growing crop. With these conditions right, and a proper selection of variety for a particular vicinity, success should be assured.

I have tried several varieties of corn for the silo, with varying results, endeavoring, always, to obtain the right conditions enumerated above. I have tried to plant a variety that will mature in a season beginning during the last days of May or the first week in June, and lasting to the 15th or 20th of September, and giving a large yield of stalks and ears. With the large-growing dent corns, many growers here have failed to accomplish this, and so have gone back to the common yellow flint or white flint varieties. We consider the yield of stalks too small from these varieties for silo purposes, although the yield of ears is large and always well matured. Our experience has included a trial of the varieties White-cap, Yellow Dent, Early Mastodon, Mammoth Southern Sweet, and a few other dent varieties not so popular; and, while these varieties all gave us a large yield of stalks, the ears, when any were produced, could not be matured in time for silo-filling, so that the silage was of very inferior quality. While the ears on these varieties sometimes showed up very well at time of cutting, when we were feeding the silage there was scarcely any corn to be seen at all, and, besides, the silage was always sour and soft. The variety that gives us best results is the improved strain of Leaming. In anything like a favorable season this variety gives us a heavy yield of stalks that stand up well, and produces abundance of ears, large and well matured, providing (and this is very important) that the seed be not sown too thickly in hill or drill. We sometimes, if the season is late and prospects not bright for a favorable growing season, mix with one bushel of Leaming seed, one-third of a bushel of white or yellow flint. This produces quite a few ears, but we do not like the practice, if it can be avoided, as these flint varieties send up a number of shoots which render harvesting more difficult; and when the season has been very favorable, and seed sown early, the Leaming seemed to completely outgrow and smother the smaller corn, which, under such conditions, would produce no ears.

We have, however, had poor results from Leaming when we did not get the improved strain. We are now very particular to get our seed early, and from a reliable dealer, and thus avoid disappointment as to strain. I have been told that this difference is owing to the so-called improved strain being Canadian-grown, while the old or original and later-maturing variety of Leaming is of American growth. On this point I have never been able, as yet, to get definite information.

Pundas Co., Ont.

CLARK HAMILTON.

The mild November was welcomed by farmers for its saving of feed, its lengthening of the plowing season, and its copious rainfalls, filling the creeks and springs on which the water supply for stock depends.

### Glimpses of the Kent Sugar-beet Crop.

The sugar-beet crop has, in recent years, become one of the foremost in South-western Ontario. Essex, Kent, Lambton, Elgin and Middlesex are the counties which chiefly contribute, though Huron, Perth and Oxford also participate. The value of this year's crop is estimated at fully \$500,000. The Dominion Sugar Company, with factories at Berlin and Wallaceburg, will pay out for beets very nearly \$100,000. While these two factories take the major portion of the South-western Ontario beet crop, there are considerable beets exported to the factories at Mount Clemens and Croswell, Mich., which will add at least another \$100,000 to the amount paid for raw material this year. Hence, a total of fully \$500,000 will be paid out this year in the eight counties mentioned.

The photos show two typical scenes. Photograph No. 1 gives a glimpse of the cultivation of the beets. This work, in the latter part of summer, employs all classes of labor.

The plowing of the beets, the first step in the direction of harvesting, is shown in the second photograph. After being plowed out, the beets are topped, and then hauled to the nearest railway siding or scow landing, or else direct to the factory.

The tonnage this year is not quite as large as formerly, but the sugar per cent. in the beets is said to be equal to the best in the world. The average of the Dominion Sugar Co. at Berlin this year is 17.26 per cent., while at the Wallaceburg factory it is 16.40. This showing is significant. It means that the farming community is becoming educated along the lines of growing beets for sugar, rather than for tons, as formerly.

Kent Co., Ont.

VICTOR LAURISTON.

### Bleached or Artificially-aged Flour.

The Detroit Free Press of a recent date published a report of the seizure by the United States Government of several hundred carloads of flour that had been artificially bleached, in defiance of its prohibition under the U. S. Food and Drugs Act. The conclusions, based upon elaborate experimentation with flour bleached by the nitrogen-compounds processes, are that the nitric effects greatly retard the digestion of the glutinous parts,

and that the flour is otherwise injurious to the health. Extracts from the nitrically-bleached flours, fed to rabbits, quickly caused their death.

The belief is gaining currency that some of the Canadian millers are using the processes that have been prohibited across the line. The Globe, in referring to this subject, in connection with the discussion at the Ontario Millers' Convention, said that the Alsop method, which uses only electrified air, is much more sanitary than the use of peroxide of nitrogen. The inference might be drawn that this is the method used by Canadian millers. Dr. Wiley, Official Chemist of the United States Dept. of Agriculture, claims that the action of electricity on the air is to produce nitrous compounds which practically act upon the flour in the same way as the nitrogen drugs.

This is a matter that the Canadian authorities should investigate, and the public be fully informed upon.

### A Tour of the West—III.

Some of your readers may possibly criticise the wisdom of my (as some might say) glowing account of the West, but when they bear in mind that I have had an opportunity of seeing the country in the most favorable season and time, and with a crop such as the West never witnessed, how could I consistently have done otherwise?

While the abundant harvest means good times, for a season, at least, to the country generally, there are those who take advantage of such times, as the real-estate agents, and those holding large tracts, who resort to every available means to dispose of their lands at good prices, knowing a reaction is almost certain sooner or later.

It could hardly be expected, judging from the past, that the crops and prices will be as good all over this land another year, perhaps not for many years; the frost, hail or drouth may play havoc; due allowance should be made by intending settlers.

Many have come West and done well, some lost all they had, while others could have done as well or better by remaining in the East. One very important matter that seems to apply to this Western country everywhere is the fact of its being so healthful. I have met many who were delicate in the East, now the picture of health.

The great majority of people coming West have one object in view: to make money and get rich quick. That object would certainly be commendable, if their energies were not solely centralized therein, and the more important duty they owe their Creator too often neglected. The inconvenience of the scattered settlers in many instances, from the far-apart places of public worship, has a tendency to develop negligence in this respect. This is not the case, however, with all, as some of the most faithful devotees are to be found here.

In time, when the large ranches are divided up, and the settlers more numerous, will the social and educational advantages be improved. For the present, in many localities, the pioneers must expect to "rough it." The lessons of patience and perseverance many of these young men, perhaps alone battling it for several years, learn prepares them the better for the battle of life. I would, however, warn people of rashly casting their lot in an out-of-the-way place far removed from a market. Those who are willing to sacrifice many home comforts, and a determination to live exemplary lives, are the class that are especially needed to lay the foundation for the future greatness of this land. I believe, however, there are many opportunities yet in the East, everything considered, equally as good as in the West, by exercising due precaution, and adopting improved methods of farming, and denying themselves some



Cultivating Sugar Beets.