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Pointers on Silo Filling. Packing Silage Is Like Handling Money—Put It Away Right and It Will Stay Right.

BY GEORGE H. BURBANK.

If it were not a farmer who invented the saying that life is "just one thing after another," it is not because farm life does not fill the description. And right here let it be said that one of the things that comes first on the schedule is none other than filling the silo.

There are so many odds and ends to keep in mind when tackling the job, that every now and then even the expert is wont to admit he does not know it all. As an aid, then, to the farmer who owns silo-filling machinery as well as the silo, the following suggestions are offered.

One of the first essentials is to plan and then plan some more for the important job of cutting, filling and packing away enough feed for many months to come. The farmer who is no longer dependent on the roving community fillers has to figure out his line of procedure. He must consider his help, his equipment and make measurement for placing cutter and power.

A good foundation should be picked out for the machine and the blow pipe or carrier should be erected in as vertical a position as possible, to avoid unnecessary length and friction. Grooves should be made for the wheels of the machine. The apparatus should be fastened securely with stakes and set on the level.

Corn stalks contain approximately 35 per cent of the nutritive value of the entire plant. When the corn is fairly well matured it has the greatest amount of this food material and then is the time to get busy. In determining this stage it is well to observe the denting of the corn, the drying of the lower leaves or some of the outside husks. The corn is best matured for putting in silage in the early part of the season. If it is apparent that the corn is too mature, water should be added at the blower by means of a hose, using from one-half to one barrel per load, the dryness of the fodder determining this proportion.

Production is the desired thing, the corn must be mature, and in those sections where a late crop will not mature it is best to plant an early variety of field corn.

A thing of prime importance is to cut the fodder clean and fine. By fine is meant one-half an inch or less, but it is best to cut one-quarter inch if the corn is very mature, the finer cutting lessening the amount of water required and insuring better keeping qualities. As silage is preserved by the "pickling" in fermentation, the bearings are well oiled, the rollers are tight, particularly those holding the cutter bar and knives. In the knife adjustment the knives should barely touch the cutter bar steel as they pass them. Having made certain of these things, the operator should run the cutter slowly and then look over the important parts again. After that the feeding may start, doing this slowly until everything is running smoothly.

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ended, for with this all parts of the stalk will be packed together and one man in the silo can be put to other work. A distributor will be paid for in one season for the cut down in labor. Tramping of the edge next to the wall should receive special attention. The wall must be smooth—a small block tacked on the wall may relieve weight and pressure and thereby spoil several bushels of ensilage. With the filling advancing toward the top, more attention should be given to packing and perhaps extra help pressed into service.

The preservation of all the corn in the silo is difficult. At the top a few inches, as a rule, will spoil, but this can be reduced to a certain extent by packing some very green fodder at that point. Sunflowers, hay or weeds may also be used.

No point in handling the cutter is more important than the pulley size. Tractor manufacturers have not set a standard of belt travel, and as a result a pulley that might serve with one tractor will be wrong for use with another. Suppose a farmer has a cutter just right for the size of his tractor, but that the size and speed of his tractor belt pulley are such as to drive the cutter too fast. If he were to operate the machine in this way he would find that owing to the excessive capacity resulting from the increased speed of the cutter, his tractor would not work at full power. The speed of the tractor would be cut down and the whole outfit reduced in efficiency, and the chances are the blower would clog.

There is a very simple formula for determining the required size of the cutter pulley. Multiply the number of revolutions of the tractor crank shaft by the number of inches in diameter of the drive pulley on the tractor, and that number divided by the number of revolutions that the cutter is to be driven. The result would be the diameter of the pulley required on the silo at the point where it takes the power from the tractor.

Long belts are better than short ones wherever possible, the heavier weight of the belt offsetting the danger of slipping. A short belt is better, however, where the power is light, as it requires extra power to handle a very long belt.

With the cutter set on a level and as close to the silo as possible, it is ready for starting. But just before the start a few minutes of inspection may make a world of difference. The operator should make sure that all bearings are well oiled, that all bolts are tight, particularly those holding the cutter bar and knives. In the knife adjustment the knives should barely touch the cutter bar steel as they pass them. Having made certain of these things, the operator should run the cutter slowly and then look over the important parts again. After that the feeding may start, doing this slowly until everything is running smoothly.

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Foolish Francesca

By Olive Wadley

(Continued from last week.)

The half hour ended, Mrs. Baggs's warning cry of "Now then, Mr. Danvers, no disobedience to doctor's orders," reached them from the bottom of the stairs. Danvers rose. "Good night," Frankie, he said. She beckoned to him. He bent down, and she put up her hands and drew his head closer and kissed him once, very gently. Faintness seized Danvers again. "Sure—sure you really realize what you're doing?" he whispered, his face bent to hers. Frankie began to laugh, a little bubbly laugh that was real amusement. She stopped quite quickly and looked at Danvers. "Sure," she said, "and good night, you dear."

CHAPTER XI. At the Theatrical Agency.

Three weeks later Frankie resolutely set forth in search of work. She had paid the doctor's bill, despite his protestations, and she also laid Mrs. Baggs, who wept, and hoarded up one pound per week in a stocking, which riches was to be sent, later on, in anonymous postal orders back to Frankie. But Frankie was far from any thought of real necessity. She would seek work till she found it. She was convinced in her blessed youth that one verse in the Scriptures had been specially written with regard to those out of employment, and she therefore took the Tube to Trafalgar Square with every sense of expectant hope.

In a back street off the Strand she found the agency she sought. She went up the dirty, wooden stairs to the second landing, where Mr. Anstruther, an agent of immense power, according to his advertisement, had his dwelling. The dwelling was visible by a glass door, the glass frosted and bearing the words painted on it, "Theatrical Agency. Apply door 3."

Frankie saw door 3. It was half open, and two girls were visible, much painted and more powdered, with hats jumbled down on to their necks, and with décolletée blouses, despite the cold. Frankie went into the room. It was very small, and a youth with much curled hair and sharp, black eyes sat on a chair, and was pushing himself backward and forward by means of a foot balanced against the leg of a dirty table covered with papers and a typewriter.

He stared at Frankie without removing from his mouth the straw he was chewing. The girls stared too, and nudged one another and giggled. "Good afternoon," Frankie said clearly, her face burning, but her courage rising. "Are you Mr. Anstruther?" The girls laughed loudly, and the youth, with an "Oh, my golly," rolled in his chair with mirth. "Or are you an idiot?" Frankie pursued sharply. The youth brought the chair to the ground with a bang. "May I ask if this delicately ribald question is meant for me?" she said, giving a loud sniff. Frankie faced him. "Your behavior was so remarkable, you see," she said. "I suppose you are a clerk, or something. In that case please tell Mr. Anstruther that Miss Trent wishes to see him."

"Sure you wouldn't care for me to ring up Buckingham Palace and tell George you'll wait for him here?" the youth suggested earnestly. The girls shrieked again. Frankie turned and walked straight from the room and into the door marked "Private." She saw two men and a girl drinking together at the window. The room was full of smoke and scent, and on a writing table a pile of gold was placed. The little group at the window all turned. "Which of you is Mr. Anstruther, please?" Frankie asked. "Well, I'm not, my dear, you can take it from me," the big woman answered with a laugh, catching up a big fur and throwing it over her shoulders, and Bert Lupe is generally pretty well known; she turned to a thin, big man with the bald head and the eye-glass and said affectionately: "Well, so long, Andy, if you keep yourself as you keep me going we

A Little of Everything

HOW SHELLAC IS MADE

Shellac is the product of a tiny insect which infests certain trees in the East Indies. The term lac is the same as the Hindu numeral lac—a hundred thousand—and indicates the countless myriads of insects which make their appearance each spring on the young, tender shoots of the infested trees. These feed upon the sap in the bark, and after passing it through their bodies exude it in the form of a crimson-colored resin, which in course of time hardens into a tiny semi-transparent cocoon or shell. It is these cocoons which, after being melted in boiling water and poured out on a cold surface, constitute the shellac of commerce.

Shellac has many uses. Sealing wax is practically all shellac. It is the principal ingredient in most varnishes. But manufacturers cannot make hats without it, a shellac solution being essential for the stiffening process. Photographers find it absolutely necessary in their business, a similar solution entering into the composition of all films, while it is, of course, the main essential in all kinds of lacquer work. In fact, there is hardly any substance that is so generally used in so many widely-different trades and manufactures.

No one has any real substitute for it ever been found. Yet but for the fact of a tiny insect desiring to keep itself warm and comfortable the world would have none of it.

TESTING YOUR HEARING.

Many persons suffer from deafness without actually being aware of it. A specialist in diseases of the ear describes the following tests which every one who values the powers of hearing clearly should apply to himself. The man with normal hearing can distinguish in a quiet room the striking of a watch held in the hand by another person five feet away. Can you? A man with normal hearing can hear distinctly every word of a conversation being carried on 70 feet away. Can you?

Again, if you are sitting in a concert room, a theatre or a church, do you, when listening to the words of the speaker, lean forward in your seat in order to hear more clearly? If you do, it is a sign that your hearing is less normal than that of the rest of the audience; and the same applies, of course, to others who find it difficult to catch the words when sitting in a natural position. If you are talking to a person in the street you may find yourself listening acutely for every word he may utter. Such a practice may have become a habit with you; it shows, at what it ought to be. If your hearing is not normal, you should consult your doctor at once.

WHY SALT IS NECESSARY TO FOOD

Practically everybody thinks salt is only used to give food a pleasant flavor, when from a physical standpoint it is most important part of the diet. Where salt is scarce it is considered one of the greatest luxuries and probably no one of these articles is more universal use, unless it be water. You pick up the salt shaker and sprinkle your food with it, not once thinking of its wonderful qualities, where it comes from or how it is prepared for your use.

Salt is sometimes found in an almost pure state, but as a general rule it is mixed with other things that must be removed before it is suitable for table use. However, there are some salt mines where the only thing necessary for its preparation is to pulverize it. Salt is found in large quantities in sea water, but this kind has never been used for the table, as the purer forms are so much more available, and the greatest deposit of this kind is in Russian Poland where one bed alone is known to be 500 miles in length, 20 miles wide and about 1200 feet thick. In many of these European salt mines the men working there never come to the surface, as a result some of them have been known to spend their entire lives down in the bowels of the earth with their four walls of nothing but salt, their food, salt. In one of these mines there is a church sculptured entirely from salt.

Probably you do not know that your blood contains about the same proportion of salt as the water of the ocean. Ever you put an excessive amount of afterward you feel a craving very soon. This is because your system calls for water or liquid of some kind to counteract the oversupply of salt you have absorbed.

COLLECTED 15 YEARS' PAY

A man who spoke with a pronounced Swedish accent appeared recently at the U. S. income tax office in St. Louis and exhibited two new leather cases which contained \$9,000 in travelers' checks. He said that he had just had his only pay day in fifteen years and had heard that an income tax was due. It appeared that during the fifteen years he was employed on a ranch in Washington under an agreement with his employer for wages plus board and clothes. During the fifteen years he went to town only twice a year and drew no money, he said, because his employer had bought everything for him. When last month he decided to go to South America to become a rancher in his own name his employer accompanied him to town and bought the checks for him. He was told that no tax was due from him.

The first man who made a name as a dressmaker was Rhomburg, the son of a Bavarian peasant. He established himself in Paris about 1720 and owed his rapid success to his genius for concealing and remedying defects of figure.