

except under the unusual circumstances where ideal weather prevails for the desired period without a break. The green material—meadow-grass—was conveyed in sledges to the stack, where it was elevated by means of a simple derrick.

Compared with hay, silage presents several distinct advantages. In the first place, the farmer is quite independent of weather-conditions; then, his labour and time are economized, as there is no delay, whatever the weather; and the material is cut and stacked at once, so that the field is unoccupied for a minimum space of time. Is all this saving of time and land of no advantage?

Such ideal succulent and nutritious materials for silage as maize and peas, oats and tares, or lucerne, are certainly much more desirable for stock-feeding than dry hay, in which little nourishment often remains. Silage, indeed, is now on its trial in this country as a substitute for turnips as a cattle-feed. At certain periods of the year it will certainly prove more suitable for milking-stock than swede turnips, quite apart from its high nutritive value, as there will not be any unpleasant flavour imparted to the milk—a defect in dairying districts where roots are used, a defect which is being emphasized with the extension of cheesemaking.

I would again emphasize the fact that while silage can be made from practically anything grown on the farm, from weeds to lucerne, it should be remembered that the better the original matter the better the resulting silage. Now that it has been proved that lucerne can be grown successfully in this country, and this under extreme conditions of soil and environment, an ideal combination to feed with silage is presented. Good lucerne hay balances the silage, and thereby provides a ration suitable for any period of the year. In the winter and spring the lucerne hay can dominate the silage, and in the drier months of the year the silage can dominate the lucerne. In itself lucerne is an admirable material for silage, although when in its most succulent form, as at the first cutting, it requires to be inter-layered with some dry material, such as oaten straw. In fact, in the spring, when all plants are at their most succulent stage and wet weather often prevails when cutting and stacking are in progress, it is advisable to use some dry matter in order that the temperature of the stack may be quickly raised and the work may thereby proceed without interruption. It may be explained that, when 6 ft. to 8 ft. of material are stacked, no further stacking should take place till the temperature has risen to 130° Fahr. If the material is very succulent and a moist atmosphere prevails it is difficult to secure this desired heat, and the use of a little dry material mixed with the green stuff is the only alternative. If the required temperature, or the necessary heat, is attained at the first layer, no