

further dry material need be employed, except with the first cutting of lucerne, when a 6 in. layer of straw is advisable between every 2 ft. layer of the green lucerne.

The experience of the past season in New Zealand has definitely proved that silage is as valuable for stock-feeding, especially for dairy cows, as it is in such countries as America, where its value is properly appreciated. One South Island dairy-farmer writes to this effect: "I am satisfied with the increased production of my milk and cream as a result of ensilage this year. My cows have milked during the past winter equally as well as when feeding on summer pastures; in fact, they usually gain in quality and quantity when fed on first-class silage. Besides the cost of the ration being reduced, there is also a reduction in the cost of producing a given amount of butter-fat."

This is also the invariable experience in America. It is well illustrated in the case of two herds whose records were obtained from one of the co-operative cow-testing associations. These herds were chosen for comparison because the average butter-fat production was more equal than that of any other herds in the association. One herd was fed on silage, and the other was not. The cost of hay and grain and the cost to produce 1 lb. of butter-fat were all lower in the case of the silage-fed cows than with those not so fed. There was  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. difference in the cost of producing 1 lb. of butter-fat between the silage-fed herd and the herd not fed silage. This is a most important item in estimating the returns from a fairly large herd. In another test, where 248 cows, representing eighteen herds, were fed silage, while 125 cows, representing seven herds, were not fed silage—regardless of breed, age, or period of lactation—the silage-fed cows produced on an average 5.9 per cent. more milk and 7.8 per cent. more butter-fat. At one of the agricultural high-school demonstration farms 24,858 lb. of green-fodder maize, converted into silage and fed with a uniform daily allowance of hay and grain, produced 11 per cent. more milk than when the same amount of green-fodder maize was dried and fed with the same daily ration of hay and grain. Also, 24,440 lb. of silage was obtained from 29,800 lb. of green fodder, and was fed with 1,648 lb. of hay and 2,884 lb. of grain; while 7,330 lb. of field-cured fodder maize was obtained from 29,800 lb. of green fodder, and was fed with 1,567 lb. of hay and 2,743 lb. of grain. The silage ration yielded 5 per cent. more milk and 6 per cent. more butter-fat.

In some parts of the Auckland District dairy-farmers at the present time are experiencing great difficulty in maintaining a normal yield from their herds, owing to a severe spell of dry weather. Had they provided silage when feed was abundant—invariably in New Zealand