

## SILAGE.

### THE STACK SYSTEM.

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IN this favoured country, where there is not generally the necessity to stall-feed cattle in the winter, the preparation of silage in specially constructed silos does not appeal to the farmer in the same way as it does in those countries where the winters are severe and the feeding of cattle under shelter is imperative. Therefore silage in the stack form is the method favoured, and is the system which will prove more acceptable to the majority of our farmers. Especially to the dairy-farmer and grazier on medium and large holdings will stack silage appeal. In this form, with the preserved plant complete, it can be thrown out on to the fields, and the work of feeding be thus accomplished with as little delay and loss of time as possible. The feeding of silage in the fields presents a distinct advantage, in that the one objection to silage from the milk-producer's view-point—liability to taint milk—is removed. I have fed stack silage for seventeen years to cows milked for a city trade without receiving a single complaint in regard to the flavour of the milk, but the silage was always fed in the field and after milking. On the other hand, when the material for silage has been chaffed for a silo, it must be fed in troughs. Where every care has been taken to secure only a sweet silage this can be fed in the milking-shed without endangering the milk-flavour; but generally there is a risk in feeding it in the same place where milk is handled. Thus it is always better to feed silage away from the milking-shed. Herein the stack form presents a decided advantage, as it can be thrown out on the ground, whereas taken from a silo (which is filled by chaffed fodder) feeding-troughs must be provided.

A great advantage of stack silage is that the stack may be built in any paddock, and at a point where it can be most conveniently used for feeding purposes.

But a few years ago the making of silage, even in the simple stack form, was regarded as work demanding special knowledge and experience on the part of the farmer. The many farmers throughout the Dominion who are now appreciating the value of ensilage have, however, found that there is little to master in making successful silage—in fact, that it is one of the simplest of farm operations.