

## ENSILAGE NOTES.

W. DIBBLE, Fields Inspector.

It is satisfactory to note that progressive farmers in the dairying districts are taking an increasing interest in ensilage, and are proving that the profits from ensilage-fed cows are much in excess of those yielded by cows fed on hay at similar periods of the year, also that ensilage can be made by improved methods almost as cheaply as hay.

An excellent example of ensilage-making and its benefits has recently been afforded at the farm of Mr. J. E. Meuli, Okaiawa, Taranaki. A 22-acre paddock in 1914 was stumped, ploughed, sown in swedes, and fed off. During September, 1915, it was again ploughed and sown down to oats, grass, and clover at the rate of  $1\frac{1}{2}$  bushels oats, 18 lb. cocksfoot, 5 lb. Italian rye, 5 lb. cow-grass,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lb. white clover, and 1 lb. alsike per acre. Early in 1916 the growth was cut and made into stack ensilage, the size of stack being 30 ft. by 30 ft. by 9 ft., estimated to contain 190 to 200 tons of cured ensilage. Eight bags of salt were used in the making. All necessary implements were used in the operations, including a Manitoba stacker for hoisting, and ten to twelve men assisted in carrying out the work. The cost of making the 22 acres of crop into ensilage—for labour and material—was about £29: say, 3s. per ton.

The stack was opened up and fed daily to 170 head of stock, commencing on 15th June and finishing on 10th September, 1916. The healthy condition of the stock showed the value of feeding ensilage, and I certainly have not seen a herd come through the winter in better condition this year. It may be noted that all the cows of the herd, 141 in number, calved without any assistance whatever, and in every case the after-birth came away clean within a few hours. At the beginning of October only nine cows and heifers had not come into profit, and these were very close to calving. The bulls before being turned in with the cows in the previous spring had been fed on ensilage. Out of the herd fifty cows and heifers were put in a paddock of 7 acres during July and August last, and fed solely on ensilage (apart from pasture pickings) for eight weeks, the quantity given to them being one two-horse load daily.