

of one end. The result was uneven heating, and anxiety. Such an excavation is quite unnecessary. The same farmer afterwards made a stack in the open with success and a great deal less trouble.

Another settler started to build a stack on good lines, but was worried because the temperature did not immediately rise to the required degree. On visiting the farm I found that the crop of oats and tares, which was very heavy, had not yet matured sufficiently. Strange as it may appear, the general idea seems to be that the material should be very green for ensilage. This is wrong; the cereal should be beginning to turn colour at the ground, with the grain in the dough stage. If one is forced to cut too early, the crop should be left lying to wilt for a day or so before stacking, and even then the farmer should not get impatient if the temperature does not rise quickly. Simply go ahead with other work on the farm—for a week if necessary—waiting until the temperature is right before adding more material. It will always rise if given sufficient time.

In another case I found a very nicely built stack sinking unevenly, the cause being unknown to the builder. It was evidently the result of a heavy gale of wind a few days previously, which had driven all the heat to one side of the stack. The remedy in this case was to hang a stack-cover on the windy side and so prevent the wind from driving the heat through.

Yet another farmer had built a rough structure of heavy planks in the form of a square, with spaces the width of the planks between each. Into this structure the material, which had been bound in sheaves, was tramped endways, sideways, and in all directions. The result was that the outside of the stack did not sink evenly, having got jammed between the planks in the open spaces, and consequently the air gained admission for some distance from the outside. Thus the heart of the stack was splendid ensilage, but probably 2 ft. or 3 ft. of the outside would be wasted.

An important point should be emphasized. Some farmers imagine that ensilage is simply one grade of fodder. This is not so. Ensilage is simply a fodder preserved in nearly its original state. Thus, if Canadian thistles and Yorkshire fog are made into ensilage one can only expect to take out a food of similar feeding-value plus the advantage of the fermentation which has taken place and which makes any fodder more digestible. To make the best ensilage one must use the best material, and as economy in handling is a very important factor the farmer should endeavour to do so in a wholesale manner by the use of the proper devices, which can, if necessary, be home-made and cost very little.

#### THE GORE DEMONSTRATION.

During the past season a useful demonstration of ensilage-making on approved lines, with specially grown crops, was carried out by the Department at the Gore Experimental Area. In order to have sufficient bulk of material to make a stack four sections of land on the area were selected, aggregating some 8 acres. These sections were sown in different mixtures for the purpose of obtaining information as to the yield in the district of certain crops acknowledged as suitable for ensilage generally. All the mixtures were sown on 1st October, 1918,