

Provision of Feed.

The provision of a cheap winter feed supply for sows and late autumn litters is one of the problems of the pig industry of New Zealand and is often as acute on mixed farms of the South Island as on the grass farms of the North. Potato silage, then, offers a cheap and valuable source of feed from a product which is otherwise wasted. It can be used either for winter feeding or fattening early spring and late autumn litters when the skim-milk supply is insufficient.

Potatoes alone are not, however, a satisfactory feed, and when skim-milk is absent or when less than one or two gallons per head is available potatoes should be fed in conjunction with meat-meal, peas, or some other protein concentrate. With the protein concentrate may be fed as many potatoes as the pigs will consume.

While the publication of this article will be too late for the 1938 crop of potatoes to be utilized in silage-making there will be surplus supplies in the future, and the following directions for making the various types of silage, together with illustrations of the process, give the necessary information for making either type of silage. The photographs and methods have been taken from the *Journal of the Ministry of Agriculture*,

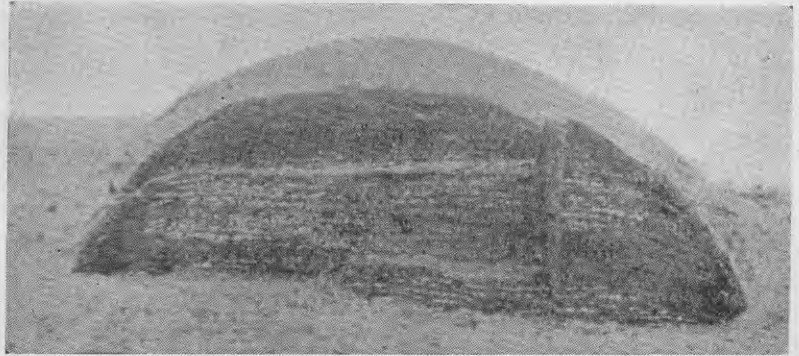


Fig. 2.—Silage made in May, 1930, and photographed a year later.

December, 1931 ("Potato Silage." Wallace and Thompson; Agr. Inst., Kirton) for which methods, &c., acknowledgment is made.

(1) Stack Silage.

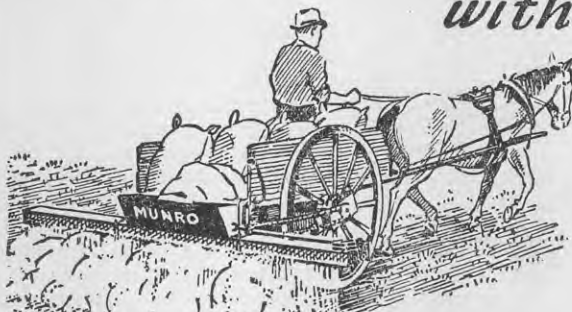
A layer of green crop, 1 ft. thick, was placed evenly over the ground. A layer of 1 ton of potatoes was then spread evenly over the green crop. The potatoes were put over a riddle to remove loose soil and the young sprouts that had begun to grow. For convenience in handling the tubers were transported in bags. A run-over heap was made to

secure the necessary consolidation. The green crop and potatoes were placed in alternate layers.

When complete, the sloping ends or ramps were cut away and the material thrown on the top. The following day a layer of about 6 in. of soil was placed evenly over the top, and a few days later the sides were also covered with soil. A further layer of 3 in. of soil was also placed on the top.

Very little wastage was found when the silo was opened. The grass silage was sweet and pleasant to the smell.

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