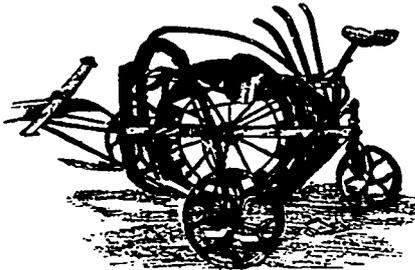


The two principal objects to be gained, I believe, are inexpensive pressure and the exclusion of atmospheric air. I believe lateral or side pressure in the silo is insignificant, and thick brick, cemented walls are not necessary.

If the above crude remarks will lead our experts to consider the best and cheapest form of silo, whether round, square, or oblong, and the indispensable pressure, I shall personally feel much indebted to them, as well as will also all interested in the feeding of cattle.—HENRY ALLSOPP, *Hindlip Hall, near Worcester.*

(2) While waiting the result of the experiments on the feeding properties of ensilage undertaken by the Highland Society, attention may be directed to some authorities who have already tested and given deliverance on the subject. At the ordinary meeting of the Teviotdale Farmers' Club, held on March 6, a most interesting paper on the origin and construction of siloes, was read by a member. Going on to the advantages obtainable from them, he says— "Reports on the feeding properties of ensilage are, without exception, favourable, more especially as regards its milk-producing qualities. I do not mean to say that there have not been unfavourable



DITCHING MACHINE.

reports, because there have been, but these have occurred in cases where the fodder has not been properly stored." May not this remark throw some light on "North Riding Inquirer's" "experience and local inquiry" (mentioned in last week's *Agricultural Gazette*), "which lead him to believe that ensilage causes the butter to have both smell and taste." May there not have been something wrong or as we say in Scotland, some "warp in the rape," leading to the disastrous results alluded to, and which, when we have the details very properly asked for by the Editor, will be satisfactorily accounted for. Some time back a correspondent of the *Agricultural Gazette* wrote that butter from ensilage was like summer butter in appearance and flavour; and Captain Yerstoun, one of the earliest experimenters on siloes in Dumfriesshire, writes thus:—"I am now giving my ensilage to two milch cows, with excellent results. When the first week's butter from the ensilage was churned and weighed, it was found to be nearly double the quantity got for the week previous from the same two cows that were getting nothing but hay before, now they are getting half ensilage, half hay." This is the more remarkable, as every cow-keeper knows how difficult it is to bring back a flow of milk at the dull season of the year, and, indeed, we have just been trying it ourselves in the case of a cow four months from calving by the aid of feeding meal, and failed.

It has been advanced that, as in ensilage, the albuminous properties of the grass were dissipated, and the lactoids increased, it would be useful for milk-giving animals, but of little service for fattening purposes, but as the latter is exactly the point being tested by the Highland Society, it

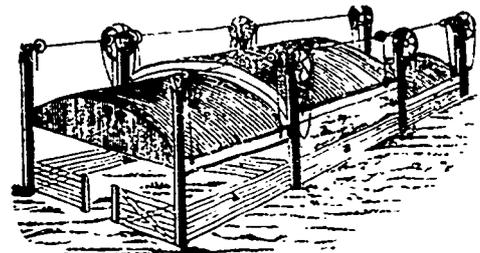
will be better to suspend judgment till their result is announced, though, by all that has been seen, it will probably go to prove that it is the dairyman, rather than the stock farmer, who is to be benefited by the system.—A. L. O. S.

DAIRY FARMING

ENSILAGE IN THE DAIRY.

The following particulars in respect of the use of ensilage in the dairy have been supplied to the *Cultivator and Country Gentleman* (Albany, N. Y.) by Mr. C. B. Benedict, superintendent of the Brightside Farm, Holyoke, Mass., U. S. A., and form part of an address read by that gentleman before the Hampden Harvest Club:—

As to the feeding merits of ensilage for beef, growth, milk, and butter, I believe I gave the club the results of our experiments of a year ago, and expressed ourselves perfectly satisfied with the system in every respect; and now, after another year's experience, including its use during the whole year, we have only to repeat what we then said, only with more force, for we have demonstrated by experience that ensilage is as good a feed in summer as in winter, or an all-the-year-round feed. We have more than half a hundred head of cattle in our stables that have not been turned out for



HAY-BARN

grazing purposes for more than a year, their principal food being maize and rye ensilage, with a limited amount of maize meal and coarse wheat bran, at a cost of less than ten cents per day, and they have done well, giving an even flow of milk, and of superior quality, as you will admit, when I tell you that our dairy of more than fifty cows, several of them natives and Durhams, averages 25 per cent cream, and so good that our neighbouring milkmen come and beg for it at the door at seven cents per quart. How they can do it I leave you who are experienced in the milk trade to conjecture.

The cry is raised by non-believers in the system that good milk and butter cannot be produced by this food, all of which our experience leads us to contradict. As good milk can be produced, and as good butter made with ensilage feed as any other, I care not what it may be, and I believe I am prepared to say at one-half the cost of production.

One of the main points in feeding, be it for beef, growth, milk, or butter, is to provide food that may be easily digested and a help to the digestion, fed with other richer foods, thereby causing as perfect assimilation as possible of all the food taken into the system, and this, in my mind, is the first consideration of ensilage. Grass, we all know, is a better milk-producing food than hay, simply because it is succulent and easily digested and distributed throughout the system. The by many-condemned silo will furnish you the same succulent, milk-producing food in winter, equally as well as in summer.

We are utilising our maize stalks—stover—this winter by a system of steaming, and are well pleased with the result, being able in this way to dispose of nearly or quite all of