

APPENDIX No. 1

tons to the acre. This has awakened so much interest in England that the Department of Agriculture has requested him this year to carry on further experiments in different parts of England to test the usefulness of Indian corn as a fodder plant more generally, and he sends an order for a considerable quantity of seed to be forwarded for this purpose. It is quite creditable to us here, I think, that we are leading in this matter. During the past year we have had requests from Great Britain, France, Germany, South Africa, Egypt and the Argentine Republic for samples of the varieties that we have been growing here, showing that this question as to the relative value of varieties of grain is awakening attention in the minds of thoughtful agriculturists all over the world.

By Mr. Robinson (W. Elgin):

Q. I am fully satisfied that before many years every farmer will have a silo and secure ensilage for his stock.

A. I do not see how a farmer manages to get along nowadays without a silo. Corn shocked in the field does, of course, take the place of the silo to a certain extent. The effect of ensiling the corn is to make the food more palatable and more easily digested. It is a sort of a partial digestion in advance. We know that animals fed on coarse, dry fodder do not extract from them all the nutritious matter they contain. Some of it finds its way to the manure heap.

By Mr. Clancy:

Q. Have you made any experiments in comparing corn ensilage with corn stooked and dried in the field as feed for the cattle?

A. Yes. Corn when stooked serves a very good purpose as cattle food, but it is not so economical or so palatable as ensilage. The animals do not eat the coarse parts of the stem, for instance, they are too woody, whereas, in the feeding of ensilage everything is eaten up clean, and the stems contain a considerable quantity of nutritive material.

By Mr. Kidd:

Q. Even if the animals feed on it, is there not a waste going off in the air if the corn stands out after November?

A. I do not think there is much actual waste of nutritive matter, but the stalks become hard and woody.

Q. Do not the frosty nights have an effect on it, and does that not take away a great deal of the substance?

A. I do not think there would be much waste from that cause. Changes go on in the silo, which Mr. Shutt will explain to you, which are sometimes detrimental and sometimes advantageous, but I do not think any material change takes place in the corn shock, if it is kept dry. If the rain should come on, that might induce changes in the foliage and thinner parts of the plant, which might be detrimental, but it is seldom there is much rain at that season in this part of the country.

By Mr. Wright:

Q. Can you tell me any reason for this: During last year I had some corn and I cut it, the Longfellow, and gave it to my cows in the field, to try to prevent the expense of carrying it to the barn. When I gave it to the cows in the field they ate the cobs and softer parts and left the rest. If I put them into the stable and fed them there, they relished the whole of it.

A. I suppose it would be about the same as with us, when we sit down to a meal we eat the viands we like the best.

Q. But in the pasture they would not eat any but the choicest parts; they would walk away and leave the rest lying there?

A. It may have been that they were fed more liberally in the field.