

sociation of Abbotsford, P. Q., will not be amiss. They exhibited 27 varieties of white grapes on their tables last fall, and published in the *Illustrated Journal of Agriculture*, of January last, the opinions of the judges. Of the Pooklington they say:—'The bunch is large or very large, the berry, large, round, and a pale yellow. The skin is thin with slight pulp; pulp, tough but not acid. In flavor sweet and quite luscious, with slight muskiness or foxiness. It is said when fully ripe the pulp disappears, and it becomes sweet to the very seeds. In quality it is stated by Messrs. Morris, Stone & Wellington, (J. W. Beall, manager, Montreal), who control the grape, to be "fully equal to the Concord at its best." As we tasted it upon our Exhibition tables it was superior to any Concord we have grown here, superior to that sent to the Montreal market from Ontario.'—*Canadian Farmer*.

ENSILAGE.

I take it for granted that the practice of preserving green meat in siloes is thoroughly proved to be advantageous to the farmer. Exaggeration apart, it is ascertained that a much greater number of stook can be wintered in good condition by this means than on dry fodder. It is better suited for dairy farms than for any others. Let us see what are the opinions

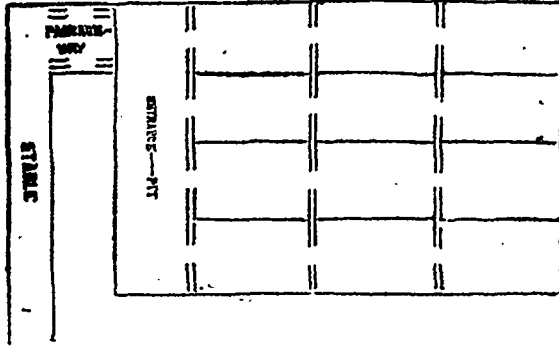


Fig. 1.

of those who have tried it as to the best mode of making the silo, of filling the silo, and of using its contents.

The pit should, clearly, be as near the barn as possible. If there is a basement cellar, a silo may be built in it.

Should the cellar not be above 8 or 9 feet high, it may be carried up through the floor, making a depth, in all, of 15 feet, which is considered by all to be the best. If the barn is on a side-hill, build the silo on the upper side, let the cut fodder drop into the pit; and your stock being kept in the basement, a door leading therefrom into the silo will give you every convenience in feeding. In wet, or in rocky soils, the silo must be above ground.

Siloes may be built of stone, brick, concrete, wood, or earth. The chief inconvenience of the last is, that in spring, when the pit is emptied, the sides are apt to cave in. Of all, the insides must be smooth, lined with cement, if of stone or brick, that the cover may find its way without hindrance when the fodder sinks by fermentation.

If the silo is not under cover, a roof must be made to it. About $25 \times 11 \times 15$ feet is a good proportion; and this pit will hold $\frac{4\frac{1}{2} \times 25}{2} = 103$ tons. Allowing 60 lbs. to a cow per day, this quantity will keep 9 cows for a year, or 18 cows for the winter 6 months; or in our province, we must, I suppose, say 16 cows for the 7 months. On a large scale, I should be inclined to divide the pit by a party wall. Sixty pounds are as much, judging from brewer's grains, as a cow ought to have as a day's allowance; and I cannot help thinking that even this quantity might be reduced with advantage

to the permanent health of the animals. Dry fodder, meal of corn, &c., should be given in addition, not forgetting the invaluable linseed, or cotton-seed. All sorts of green-meat may be used, chopped into half-inch lengths. It must be closely trodden down; the covers, weighted with stones, brick, rubbish, &c., must fit exactly. The contents of the pit generally sink about two feet after the covers are put on. So much for the general statement; for particulars we will see what Mr. Mills, of Arrareek farm, Pompton, New Jersey, has done on his estate, premising that the land is as poor as "ever lay out of doors."

In 1876, Mr. Mills had a field of corn, 20 acres in extent, which did not ripen, as it was a Southern sort, sown as an experiment. It stood from 12 feet to 15 feet high, and the question was, what to do with it. Having, probably, seen "Stephen's Book of the Farm," (v. p. 216, vol. 2, ed. 1876) which had been just published, Mr. Mills dug pits in a dry gravel bank, lined them with straw, placed the corn in them, covered it with straw and planks, and pressed it down with

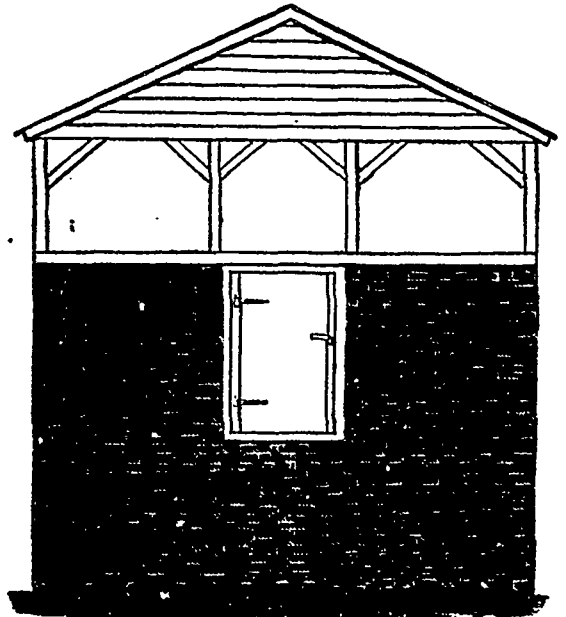


Fig. 2.

earth. On opening the siloes in the spring, he found the fodder in an excellent state of preservation; and from this experiment sprang the most successful system of ensilage we have any account of. Corn is cultivated in drills, with 3 feet intervals—20 to 30 grains to the foot; manure, superphosphate and dried blood, i. e. nitrogen and phosphoric acid; seed, Southern white corn.

Harvested in the latter part of September, when the stalks are fully matured, not dead, but still green—the corn is at its best: the tassel is full and the ear forming. Two chaff machines are used, worked by steam, and cutting 100 tons a day into half inch lengths. Now comes the peculiarity of Mr. Mills' plan, which obviates the necessity of tramping.

He has two siloes, each 40 ft. long, 30 ft. wide, and 20 ft. deep; the walls are of a concrete of stone and cement, two feet thick, the sides and ends parallel, and the bottom well cemented. Upon the walls, flush with the inside of them, a structure of ordinary boards is raised, fifteen feet high, which serves as a feeder to the pit, and which, when both are filled, will compensate for the shrinkage of the mass by compression. When the pit and the superstructure are filled, the surface is levelled, and sectional covers four feet in width, and in length one inch shorter than the width of the pit, are placed upon