

Deteriorated quality	5	3
Improved quality and decreased quantity.....	4	—
Increased quantity and deteriorated quality.....	5	—
Favourable results (whether in quantity or quality not stated).....	30	15
Unfavourable results " "	—	1
Total number of opinions	294	79

The agriculturists in this county who have furnished returns were:—Mr. E. Burges, Chipping Sodbury; Mr. J. W. Cadle, for Lord Sherborne, Bibury; Mr. J. E. Dorington, Lypiatt Park, Stroud; Mr. J. H. Elwes, Colesbourne; Mr. W. James, Rodborough; Mr. E. Egerton Leigh, Broadwell; Mr. B. Perry, Tidenham; Mr. J. P. ter, for Lord Fitzhardinge, Berkeley; Rev. A. Pontifex, Yale; Mr. T. Porter, Baunton; Mr. J. Taylor, Rendcomb Park; Mr. E. W. Trinder, for Mr. T. W. C. Master, Cirencester; and three unnamed returns. In the first case the silo was a converted horsepond, and its contents were "all sorts," including rough grass, nettles, &c. It cost 3s. a ton cutting, carting, and pressing. (Hay in favourable times is set down as costing 12s. 6d.) The condition of the silage was good, and the feeding results most satisfactory. In the next case there were two silos, made by the landlord, and the stock did well. Mr. Dorington had three silos. The grass, &c., was very wet. The silage was much liked by cattle, and was excellent as a mixed food. The cattle did well, and the grass went much farther as silage than as hay. Mr. Elwes had six large silos. He considers the cost of carting and storing higher than making hay, but the results are greater and more certain. The general effect of the feeding was perfect health. He has this season filled five of the above silos and two new ones, though the haymaking was better than for many years past. With the certainty of a very short root crop he considers the contents will be of even greater value than in 1884-5. He can winter 160 head of cattle and 1200 sheep on the contents of these silos, without any roots or cake at all, and will be able to keep half his hay over, or sell it if he wishes. Mr. James had two silos. The total cost was about the same as making hay in fine weather. The cows did well; quantity of milk good, about the same as with hay, roots, cake, and meal, but much richer in cream. The health of the stock was good. He found grass or clover taken from rich soils did not keep its colour so well as crops taken from poor thin soils, poor materials coming out brighter than richer kinds. And he adds the surprising statement that twenty cows were the same time eating sixteen acres of hay as they were in consuming four acres of clover silage, although they had roots and cake with the hay and none with the silage. Surely there must have been a very light crop of hay and a very heavy one of clover to give such a tremendous difference in feeding capability. Mr. James also remarks that sweet silage does not keep on exposure as well as sour silage. That is true, because deterioration has done its worst in the case of the sour silage, and has not commenced previous to exposure in that of the sweet silage. Mr. Leigh had one silo. He only fed cows with the silage. The quality of the milk was much improved. The cows have never done better than in the two winters he has used ensilage. He thinks the ensilage may be too much squeezed. This year it (1) was lighter per square foot than last year, and it was much better. Mr. Perry with one silo of 25ft. by 18, by 12, filled it with unchaffed meadow grass. The weather was rainy during part of the filling. The milk was of better quality, but not quite so much in quantity as with roots. Health the same as usual. He intends trying this year a stack with Amos and Hunt's pressing gear. Mr.

(1) // means, I suppose, the pressure.

J. Peter had three silos made by the landlord, at a cost of £25. Thirteen acres were siloed, weight 53 tons, the labour with horses reckoned at 6s. a-day each cost £11 6s. The cows were very fond of the ensilage, the quantity and quality of the milk and butter was the same as with hay and roots. The health of the stock was good. Rev. A. Pontifex, with one silo at from £25 to £30, made by the landlord, found six heifers did well on the silage with hay once a day through the winter. He thinks farmers would do wisely to grow oats and other green crops suitable for ensilage, and feed more stock. Mr. T. Porter had the end of a barn walled off by his landlord. He did not see any difference in the stock with the silage which was given with chaff, and their health continued good. Mr. Taylor had two silos, built by the landlord; cost £76 8s., and £24 for iron roof. The weather was showery and wet when the silage was put in. Dairy cows and store stock did well. Mr. Trinder had four silos. The cattle thrived upon the ensilage. The dairy rations were about 20 lbs. each with straw and hay chaff. The grass was out when very young, and the ensilage made in one silo from clover and rye grass was much the best. The three unnamed returns are equally favourable. One adds—I consider ensilage cut into chaff after being taken from the silo, and mixed with straw chaff the day before consumption, causes the latter to be more palatable and digestible, and is certainly stimulating and nourishing.

It seems to be pretty clearly established that with most moderate-sized and large farms the setting up of one or more silos, the size and position of which must be determined by local circumstances, would be a most useful means of supplementing the profits of the farmer, as he may thereby be rendered practically independent of the weather, and may be provided with an increased amount of winter keep by silaging the aftermath and rough stuff which abounds in odd corners of most farms and in the neighbouring lanes. Probably the Agricultural Department of the Privy Council never rendered a more important service to agriculture than in publishing this series of replies to the questions they issued in regard to silos and ensilage. The importance of the practical results arrived at can scarcely be overrated. We commend the volume to those farmers who have not yet taken up the question. It may be obtained through any bookseller from Messrs. Eyre and Spottiswoode, East Harding-street, Fleet-street, for 1s. 8d. The concluding words of the summary drawn up by the Department are cogent and convincing:—"Of the importance of ensilage as an auxiliary to other food for animals, whether for dairy, store, or young stock, among cattle as well as other kinds of stock, there can now be scarcely any doubt, if the sum of the aggregate results of the replies recorded may be taken as a guide. If the rate of the development of the system shown in the past year proceeds as rapidly in the future, it appears probable that it will be far-reaching in its effects, and that farmers will be, by its adoption, in considerable measure compensated for the loss which they sustain in bad seasons for haymaking, while the importance of the statements to the effect that a larger number of stock can be kept on land where the method of ensiling crops, even of an otherwise unpromising kind, is practised, will hardly fail to receive attention."—*Gloster Chronicle*.

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A HARD FATE

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