# INCREASING PRODUCTION BUT REDUCING COSTS OF DAIRY PRODUCTS BY USING SILAGE MADE FROM PEAS AND OATS OR OATS ALONE.

#### BY

#### G. H. HFTTON, B.S.A.

The value of the silo, particularly for Alberta dairymen, is beginning to be more generally recognized each year. While no large volume of experience has been accumulated in regard to the practicability of the silo in different parts of the province, sufficient work has already been done to prove that as a measure of economy in the production of milk and butter, the silo is destined to occupy an important place.

At the Lacombe Station experiments have been conducted during the past two years in which the feeding value of silage made from peas and oats and silage from eorn has been compared with various other fodders ordinarily used by dairymen, including peas and oats cut for green feed and cured in the sheaf.

## COST OF PRODUCING BUTTER.

In the work done during the season of 1914-15 some striking economies were effected when silage made from peas and oats was fed as compared with the same fodder cut at the same stage of development and cured in the field as green feed. A pound of butter costs 16.7 cents when peas and oats silage was fed, and 20-84 cents when the same feed cured as green feed was used. In each ease this is the average of the results of four trials in which the whole herd was used and it shows a saving of 3-14 cents per pound in the cost of a pound of butter, directly due to the method followed in enring the fodder—a saving of 20 per cent.

The price at which the fodders have been charged to the eattle is \$3 per ton for silage and \$40 per ton for green feed. While the shrinkage when curing in the field varies greatly, depending upon the stage of maturity at which the erop is cut, we believe that these values bear approximately the same relation to each other as does the green weight of the material put in the silo as compared with its weight when cured and ready for stacking. The supply of moisture in the soil at the time the erop is cut also has a bearing on the shrinkage while curing. In 1915 there had been a period of eight to ten days of dry weather prior to the time when the crop was cut for ensiling and the amount of moisture carried by the crop at that time

# DOMINION EXPERIMENTAL FARMS.

J. H. GRISDALE, B.Agr., Director. G. H. HUTTON, B.S.A., Supt., Experimental Station, Lacombe, Alta.

### EXHIBITION CIRCULAR No. 98.

(March, 1917.)

15963