

## Correspondence.

## The Silo.

*Editor Maritime Agriculturist.*

DEAR SIR:—I am glad to know that your enterprise is meeting with success. A good practical farming journal carefully and honestly conducted, in which our farmers may freely discuss methods of farming, feeding and breeding and record their experience for mutual benefit is the missionary of co-operation among farmers so ably advocated by your late editor Mr. W. J. Gilbert (deceased).

You can command my pen, sir, for I consider it the duty of all interested in agricultural pursuits to freely give their experience, feeling that "He who makes two blades of grass grow where one grew before is a public benefactor."

Regarding the soiling of cattle I agree with most of the *Student's* reasoning, that it is practical. But I want to see our farmers go further and adopt the silo and ensilage. I have tried both and know whereof I speak. I advocate ensilage as an improvement on Josiah Quincy's soiling. Feeding the stock in the barns and barn-field as practised by Quincy is certainly—in my opinion—more economical than pasturing, but the weak point in such soiling is in the quality of the fodder. The plants after getting their growth continue to lay up the necessary constituents to produce their seed, grain or fruit which when matured, of course, leaves the plant exhausted of most of its strength—until the plant has attained its growth and stored the constituents for its fruit, it has not reached its highest value for fodder and as it is not practical in feeding directly from field to stall to let the plant reach this stage the weak point in soiling is very apparent. I think I can exemplify this in any farmer's mind by reminding him that grass cut before it has its growth and highest strength makes poor hay. Now I shall try and show you how ensilage meets this and other objections to soiling. To do so I must go into the ensilage question somewhat for the benefit of such of your readers as have not had experience in that line. The silo is no longer an ex-

periment but a demonstrated fact and I claim that grass, peas, oats, rye clover, buckwheat, corn etc. can be more easily, surely and economically ensilaged than they can be converted into hay, straw and grain. I do not mean to say that no more hay should be made, or grain raised, but I do say that for stock feeding the plants properly ensilaged are cheaper and better fodder for producing beef and mutton or milk, butter and cheese. Any of the crops mentioned may be ensilaged, and when you know the proper time to cut grass to make the best hay you have the secret (open to all) of cutting any crop for the silo, for the object is to preserve the whole plant when it is at its greatest feeding value. If pease, the pod should be formed; if oats, rye or corn, the termination of the milk stage, or when the milk commences to thicken in the grain. As you may have to spend from one week to three weeks filling your silos you must use your judgment and commence a little earlier so that the last part of your crop may not be too ripe, and if it is, better make it into hay or stack for grain. But use judgment and cut the most forward crop first and you can nearly always get all you intend into your silos. You can cut your crop, haul it in, cut it up and put it in the silo much easier, cheaper and quicker than you can make hay, straw and grain. It will take less barn room. It will be in condensed form and more easily fed out. It will produce better milk and butter, and better beef and mutton for less money and leave you the manure at your barn to be applied to the land in such quantities and at such time as required. Keep in mind that I mean that the cattle be fed ensilage summer and winter and that their exercise should be had in a barn-field or large barn-yard. If you grow the proper crops to make a correct ration for beef or milk you do not need to use much, if any, ground grain. Aim to produce a combination of crops equal to the best pasture grass and you can produce butter in mid-winter equal to June production. If you feed properly you have no waste. I fear I am making this letter too long and feel I must cut it short here. It has been proved by experience

that soiling a la Quincy, is better than pasturing and my claim is that stall feeding combined with ensilage is an improvement on soiling. I will be pleased to answer from experience any questions in reference to the silo and ensilage.

Yours,  
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## Marsh Making.

THE GREAT TANTRAMAR GROWING IN  
MAGNITUDE.

SOME INTERESTING FACTS GLEANED  
FROM MR. W. F. GEORGE OF SACK-  
VILLE, N. B.

One of our representatives when in conversation with Mr. George a short time ago gathered the following facts and figures from him, which will be of interest not only to marsh proprietors but to those of our readers who have only heard of 'marsh making' from a distance, as it were:—

"You cannot" said Mr. G., "have a really correct idea of the way we make marsh until you personally visit the field of operation. There are thousands of acres of bog or marsh land at the head of the Tantramar, hundreds upon hundreds of which have been converted into excellent marsh, and large tracts of it are now under the process of formation. The moss, growing upon those great wastes is in some places 4 to 5 feet deep, and black mud to a considerable depth is as a rule found beneath it. Most of this bog is above high water mark, and its value depends entirely upon the location. If it is far removed from the rivers it is worth about \$2 per acre, but if near them and consequently easy to drain the price is set at about \$8. When this bog land is drained it settles several feet, and then large canals are dug, leading from the nearest river, through which the tide flows, decaying the moss and leaving a rich deposit of mud behind it. The bogs are generally to be found lying between the marsh and the upland, and consequently in most instances the canals have to penetrate the marsh first. This brings the water on hay producing property which is an objection to some,