

THE SILO.

A St. John Man Farming in Nauwigewank Pronounces it a Success.

A representative of the AGRICULTURIST recently called upon Mr. S. Z. Dickson of this city, for the purpose of gathering from him his opinion of the silo, obtained from two years experience upon his farm at Nauwigewank, N. B. Mr. Dickson made the following remarks upon the subject:—

"I have my silo built inside of my barn, and in order to do this I took out the left bay, and erected it from the bottom of the cellar upwards to the height of 17 feet. It measures 23x11, and has three walls of stone, being the sides of the basement, and one of wood which is inside the building. To prevent the penetration of moisture I took 2x3 deals and stood them upright edgewise sixteen inches apart, all along the four walls. The distances between the deals gave me the requisite dead air space. I then double boarded the deals, placing tar paper between the boards. The corners of a silo should not be square, but must be built across to enable the contents to pack thoroughly (see Fig. 1) My silo has a

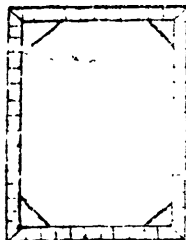


FIG. 1.—SILO.

capacity of over 86 tons. The ensilage consists of corn, clover and oats grown together and cut in half inch pieces. It never sours with me. In pressing your ensilage, as in everything else, there is a proper and an improper way to do it. The method I have adopted is to my judgment the proper one. I obtained the idea from the pages of an agricultural journal and consider it worth my subscription money a dozen times over. The centre of the silo should be built up high and more compact than the rest, and then gradually taper down to the sides—making a cone as it were. The weights placed upon the cone will cause it to sink and bulge out pressing the ensilage against the sides of the silo. You can grow 20 tons of ensilage to the acre, but I calculate on 12 to 15 in order to be on the safe side. From an economical standpoint there can be no question but that the silo is a desirable thing to

have, especially if your farm is a small one. I cultivate ten acre of upland and fifteen of intervale, and keep forty head of cattle besides other stock. I bank so that a good entrance is made could not do this without the silo. The price of upland hay averages \$8 per ton: the first floor is flush with the ground in ensilage costs about \$1.50 per ton. Two front. The hay is taken in through a door directly under the peak of the roof are as good as one ton of upland hay. This is making \$3 do the work of \$16. Ensilage mixed with other food is excellent feed for milking cows. The milk is richer, and the cows are benefited by Water is conveyed to the building from the diet in the same manner as when an elevated spring through galvanized iron pipes, which are never frozen.

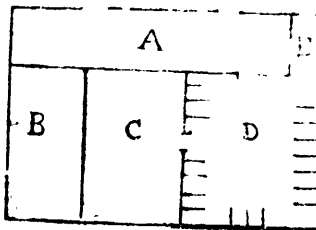


FIG. 2.—BASEMENT.

A, Manure Cellar; B, Silo; C, Root cellar; D, Basement for Cattle Stalls; E, Entrance.

systematic feeding, especially when your chief products are milk and butter, as it is in my case. I always have my feed weighed; and allow 30 lbs. of ensilage, 4 lbs. bran, 2 lbs. cotton seed-wheat and 2 lbs. of cornmeal or buckwheat shorts per head per day, morning and night, with a small quantity of intervale hay in addition at noon. Following this system one of my cows produced 11,000 lbs. of milk in one year. I have not as yet confined myself to any special breed of cattle, but can boast of Ayrshire, Jersey and Holstein strains. My experience with the silo, although it does not quite cover two years, is that no farmer should be without one. No man has a right to say he cannot afford to build one, but he has a perfect right to say that he cannot afford to go without one." Mr. Dickson's barn although not very large, being only 64x43, is well planned.

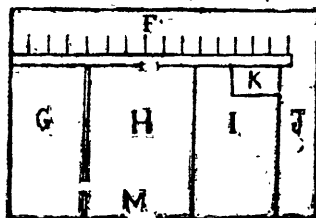


FIG. 3.—GROUND FLOOR.

F, Cattle Stalls; G, Silo; H, Barn Floor; M, Entrance; K, Water Tank; L, Hay Bay; J, Feed Room.

It is four stories high including the basement. Fig. 2, shows the way in

which the basement is arranged and Fig. 3, represents the ground floor. The building is built against the side of a head of cattle besides other stock. I bank so that a good entrance is made could not do this without the silo. The price of upland hay averages \$8 per ton: the first floor is flush with the ground in ensilage costs about \$1.50 per ton. Two front. The hay is taken in through a door directly under the peak of the roof are as good as one ton of upland hay. This is making \$3 do the work of \$16. Ensilage mixed with other food is excellent feed for milking cows. The milk is richer, and the cows are benefited by Water is conveyed to the building from the diet in the same manner as when an elevated spring through galvanized iron pipes, which are never frozen.

The Harrow.

The use of the harrow is, pretty generally, well understood by our farmers, but very few of them use it for harrowing a field of oats or corn after it is up. But the very best results follow such practice and the crops may be safely and beneficially harrowed until they are six inches high. The writer once hired a farm-hand who proved to be a good man seldom requiring to be told how to go about any farm work, allotted to him. One morning when he came for orders he was told to take the slant-tooth-smoothing-harrow and with the teeth slanting backwards, to harrow a nice four acre field of corn then about three inches high. Alec hesitated, thinking a joke was being perpetrated upon him, but upon the directions being repeated he went to the stables and tool house and made ready. Feeling it a "scandalous shame" to "destroy that beautiful field of corn," he determined to make an attempt to save it. The writer having in the mean time started for the city, Alec appealed to the foreman and finally to the lady of the house and then in a resigned manner drove horses and harrow into the field. For a minute or two he stopped every harrow length to note the effect and then with a "well never" expression on his brightening face, drove gaily along to make up lost time. That farm was situated on a road between two towns, less than eight miles apart, and the day being fine a good many teams went by, the majority of which stopped and the occupants wondered at our "foolishness," but as the season advanced towards the harvest they often stopped to point out to their friends the "finest field of corn hereabouts."