OHIO MODES OF ENSILAGE.

How 10 DRILL, CUT AND OTHER POINTS IN PRACTICE.

EDS. COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.—While I would not for a moment think of calling in question the editorial instructions in regard to filling a silo, found on page 693, I would like to put the "Ohio idea" on record in regard both as to planting and cutting ensilage fodder. Here, in Ohio, the common grain drill is almost exclusively used in planting ensilage corn. To do this, all the force feed holes are filled up, except two. selecting two holes $3\frac{1}{2}$ feet apart. These are open to their full capacity, feeding out not far from 16 quarts per acre. This year there has been a great change in opinion respecting the amount of seed needed per acre, and many will not drill in over 12 quarts per acre next year. The object is to get greater muturity of fodder, and a heavy growth of corn cars.

The season I put in a field of ensilage corn, using less than 1? quarts per fore, and nearly every stalk has a fine ear of corn, that in value approaches one-half that of the fodder. (1) The growing sentiment is that this is the proper way to harvest corn where it is all to be fed on the farm. The fodder is then all saved. There is no husking and oribbling corn, and keeping it away from vermin. The miller is cheated (?) out of his toll, and the labor of going to mill saved. While for stock, there can be no loss in the nutritive qualities of the corn, but a gain, as the grain never becomes hardened, and full of its natural juices, it goes into the system of the animal ready at once to be assimilated with but little of the work of digestion necessary with dry grain.

In drilling in a field, it is a matter of much experience to ceatter just about enough by hand in the furrow, but the drill does it accurately and expeditiously, with straight rows, and the drill also does good service in giving the ground one more good working.

The filling of the big silces is going on actively about here, and it is all being cut with sweep rake reapers. I have never seen ensilage corn so large but that it could be readily cut with such a reaper, and delivered in good gavels, and as compared with hand cutting it reduces the cost of cutting materially. The reapers of Messrs. Wing, Blair, Kent, Breek and others were going yesterday, and they moved down tons per hour, but no one should attempt to cut but one row at a time, and then there can be no entanglements. No one here now thinks of binding these gavels of fodder to handle. The low waggons are provided with a cleated walking plank, fastened to the rear end of the rack, and a man picks up one of these gavels in his arms, and walks up the plank, and deposits it crosswise of the rack, and they are taken from the wagon in armfulls and laid upon the cutting box, where the machine feeder strings them in between the feed rollers. The stalks are thus only handled once in the field, and once at the cutter, which m kes the economy of labor as great as can be devised, although I understand a Canton, O., genius is at work upon a machine which he proposes to attach to the rear of the wagon, where it is expected to pick up and deliver on the load these heavy gavels, and thus reduce the cutting of ensilage practically to machine labor.

Nearly all the ensilage in Ohio is cut into the pits with tread and sweep horse-powers, but I am prepared to believe, since the ensilage corn is allowed to stand a few weeks longer to mature, that a few farmers will cooperate, and time the ensilage cutting somewhat, and own small engines in company, and an engine will thus be used to cut for two or three furmers, and allow all the teams to go into the field on the fodder

1) Sensible enough, but surely this food is not what is usually understood as "corn ensilage"! It is worth while to build siloes to put matured crops into? Would not they do as well if died and stacked? A. R. J. F.

wagons. Mr. Emory, Mr. Brcok, Henry Camp, and Mr. Wing, are this year using small engines in filling their huge silos, and there is such a never-tired action about them as compared with the teams on the sweeps, or treads, that \$150 for a good engine does not seem a very great price after all to pay for one, where one outs from 10 to 30 acres of ensilage, as some farmers do in Ohio.

Last week I saw the silo of Mr. Swan of Eent, O., the "boss" milkman of that city, and it seems in some respects the most complete silo I have yet seen. It is built of wood, a building of itself, forming an L to his fine basement barn. 30 by 16 feet, with 14 feet posts. It is built all above ground, of studding 2 by 8 inches, covered with drop siding. It is lined up on the inside with inch boards, and the dead airspace filled in with pounded-down sawdust. The walls on the inside are furrowed up with quarter-inch stuff, and then lathed and plastered, the plaster being made of Akron water-lime cement. Divided into two pits, with a knock-down door, made in sections between the two, and a similar one at the end opening out on a level with the feeding floor of his stable, Mr. Swan seemed to have a silo that must be near perfection in the preservation of ensilage. A Baldwin ensilage cutter, with carrier, deposited the ensilage in either pit, and aside from his own lot, the cost of putting the ensillage in the pits was thought not to exceed 15 cents per ton, while the cost of raising it, he said, was not nearly so much as his field corn.

The Coit Brothers, near hero, are now engaged filling their 200-ton silo, with field corn exclusively; and it will be fed almost wholly to steers and fattening cattle. Should the milk business brighten up, they will next year build another silo, holding 400 to 600 tons, and milk 100 cows for the Cleveland milk trade; and Messrs. Wing and Camp will also silo their field corn this year. Besides the new ones erected hereabout, Messrs. Blair, Camp, Kent and others have put up additional silos, and the outlook is now that silos have come to stay, and it would not take much of a prophet to hazard the guess that not many years will elapse before many a dairyman will have a special silo to hold a soiling crop, with which, if necessary, he can bridge over such droughts as the one just closed, and not force his dairy to roam pastures brown and bare, seeking green herbage, and finding only ragweed answering to any description of green. (1) J. G.

-Western Reserve, O., Sept. 20.

" Dear Sir,—I consider that in laying down land to permanent pasture it is advisable to sow with the perennial seeds a certain quantity of annual and biennial grasses. It is quite true that if the soil is in very high condition at $c_{2,2}$ time of sowing, and an abundance of manure is used during the first year or two, perennial plants may give at once a fairly good pasture, but such is not the ordinary state of land when laid down. Compared with the perennial plants, the annual and biennial plants produce but few roots and their growth is chiefly above ground; by using a portion of these plants you obtain much more herbage during the first two years, and the decay of the roots at the end of the life of these plants furnishes a supply of food to the perennial herbage.

"In reference to your further question whether sainfoin or lucerne should form a portion of the seed sown for a permanent pasture, I think that lucerne should always form a portion of the seed sown. Of all the plants known to me, lucerne is the one which yields in its produce the largest amount of nitrogen where none has been applied in manure,

⁽¹⁾ Mr. Saunders, superintendent of the Experimental farms, tells me that, in his extensive inpection of farms in the States, he found a great majority of the siloes empty. The impression on his mind evidently was that their day is over. A. R. J. E.