

so flavoured by the corn that the cattle ate it greedily, but it takes much extra work to stack it this way.

Fodder may be stood up against a wall or partition or on top of a mow in a barn, and will keep in this way if it is dry when brought in and is not in too great bulk.

STORING IN SILO.

The ideal way of storing fodder corn is in a silo. It is very much to be preferred to stacking. Some of the advantages may be briefly stated as follows: Ensilage is a much more valuable food on account of its succulence; it takes the place of the green grass of summer. It is more economical, as it is all eaten up clean, while the coarse stalks of the dry fodder are often left. It makes straw more useful as it softens and flavours it so that it is assimilated better. It is much more convenient to use and eliminates going out in the snow for fodder. It is more palatable, and stock thrive better on food they like.

The old prejudice against ensilage is largely dying out. However, one occasionally comes across some remnants of it among people who have never seen ensilage fed. In case it still exists in the minds of some of our readers, the following definite statements are made: Cattle like ensilage very much; sometimes, cows that have never seen it refuse it at first as they might any new food, but they soon get very fond of it. It has no ill effects on the milk either in flavour or richness. It has no ill effects on the health or longevity of cattle, but rather, when fed wisely, it improves their general condition.

While silos are as yet quite few in number in Manitoba, they are increasing, and with the spread of mixed farming they are sure to become more common. No up-to-date dairy farm is complete without a silo, and for other types of animal husbandry they are almost as needful.

The round silo is much to be preferred to the four-sided one. The corners of the latter cause uneven settling and are more subject to mould and freezing. A great many of the first silos made were of this latter type and were made by boarding up a corner of a mow in a barn. They are largely being replaced by cylindrical silos of cement or wooden stave construction. These two latter are the best types of silo. The cement silo has the advantage of solidity and durability. There is no danger of its being blown over by summer winds, and if well made it will last several lifetimes. The wooden stave silo has the advantage of cheapness and of being less subject to freezing than is the cement. We believe that it is the more desirable silo for use in Manitoba, where low winter temperatures make the freezing of the ensilage a consideration that lessens the desirability of cement. With a stave silo, there is very little of this difficulty if the ensilage be used out uniformly and not too slowly. A stave silo, if made of good material, will last fifteen or twenty years, so that lack of durability is not at all a serious objection against it. The method of constructing a stave silo will not be discussed in this bulletin, as it has been well described by J. H. Grisdale, B.Agr., Director of Experimental Farms, in Bulletin No. 35, 'The Stave Silo,' which may be obtained by applying to the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa.

The nearer to full development that corn can be brought, the better the grade of ensilage it will make. With the best efforts that can be made in Manitoba both in selecting varieties and in cultivating for the hastening of maturity, corn for the silo is likely to be rather on the green side. The quality of the ensilage made from this corn can be considerably improved if the corn be allowed to lie on the ground for about five days or a week after it is cut by the binder before it is cut up and stored in the silo. This dries out a little of the superfluous moisture and brings on a maturing process in the stalks that makes an ensilage of less acidity than is obtained from green corn taken directly to the silo.

One of the principal difficulties in the way of the *greater adoption* of silos is the cost of silo-filling equipment. It is necessary to have a machine to cut up the corn