

One of the incidental advantages of a corn crop is that when well cultivated it thoroughly cleans the land, no matter how weedy it may be, and hence is as useful in this respect as a summer fallow or a root crop.

MODES OF CULTIVATION.

While the usual method of growing corn for fodder is in rows, it may also be planted in hills 3 feet apart each way with almost equally good results as to the weight of yield, while the plants being thus more exposed to sunlight will produce ears more freely. Some varieties grow much stronger than others, are more leafy, and stool more, sending up several shoots from the base. The Thoroughbred White Flint is probably the best example of this class. An acre of this variety grown at the Central Experimental Farm in 1890, cut and weighed green gave a little over thirty tons. Twenty tons to the acre is a fairly good yield.

RELATIVE VALUE OF ENSILAGE AND HAY.

Opinions differ as to the relative value of ensilage and hay; some careful observers claim that two tons of well-prepared ensilage are equal to one ton of hay, while others hold that three tons are required to furnish the same quantity of nutriment. It is not easy to demonstrate accurately the relative value of the two, for the reason that the corn when converted into ensilage has undergone changes which make it more easily digested, and hence in feeding, the nutritious matter is more completely assimilated and is not subject to so much waste as when hay is fed.

METHODS OF PRESERVATION.

Corn may be cut green, stacked in the field until dry—when it loses about half its weight—and stored near the barn during winter and cut up as required, or it may be placed in a silo and converted into ensilage. The early forms of silos were constructed of stone or brick and partly below ground, but the more recent structures are of wood with air spaces between to keep out frost. They can be made most cheaply in a mow of the barn, but when it is not convenient to do this a silo may be built against the barn, on the outside of it. It may be built of 2x12 timber sheeted with rough inch lumber on either side, then covered with dressed lumber with the joints broken. Full particulars for the construction of such a building will be found in the bulletin already mentioned, No. 4, of the Dairy series.