

DIRECTIONS HOW TO MAKE ENSILAGE.

The Southern Fertilizing Company, in order to throw all the light possible on the subject of ensilage for the benefit of our farmers, made enquiry of Mr. C. W. Garrett, of Halifax county, N. C., a large stock raiser, and he sent them the following directions, which will be of great value to those who contemplate trying the experiment. We believe it will be of vast benefit to our section:

ENFIELD, HALIFAX CO., N. C., December 3, 1885.

MY DEAR SIR:—I am just in receipt of your favor of the 27th ultimo, inquiring about my experience with ensilage. I gladly comply with your request.

I have been putting up ensilage and feeding it for over five years, and my experience causes me to value it more and more highly as I learn how to take care of it more cheaply. When I built my first silos, in the summer of 1880, the idea was that only those built of cement or brick, in the ground, would answer the purpose, and costing at least \$5 per ton to build. Now they are built on top of the ground, entirely of wood and earth, and at a cost of from 75 cents to \$1 per ton. These keep the ensilage as well as those constructed of cement or brick, are much more convenient, and involve less labor to feed from. I have two wood silos, built in 1881, above ground, and holding 180 tons, both costing not more than \$125, the repairs since not exceeding \$25, which are now in good order and full of ensilage, and have been filled every year since they were built. The contents, without exception, have been fed in good condition. The silos I built in 1880 (of cement below the ground,) held 125 tons, and cost me about \$3 per ton. These also have been filled every year since, (sometimes twice a year,) and the ensilage was not any better preserved than in those built of wood. Since I began to make ensilage, in the fall of 1880, I have fed my horses, mules and cows almost exclusively on it, and have yet to see any bad results from it; on the contrary, I have been able to keep them in much better condition than before I commenced its use. In the year 1879, I had nine mules and horses and about as many cattle, and besides the long forage I could conveniently make on my farm, I paid out over \$700 for hay bought by the car-load in Richmond. I am now feeding fifty or sixty horses and mules and thirty cattle, and pay not nothing for hay, and my farm is no larger now than it was then. The extra manure I now produce pays me fully, I am persuaded, for the cost of the ensilage. I use corn and cow-peas exclusively for ensilage—the latter makes the best ensilage.

For the past three years I have been using corn cobs for the purpose, after it was sufficiently matured to sustain no injury, when the blades were ripe enough for fodder. I pull the corn, then cut the stalks down to the ground (blades on,) haul and cut them in three-quarter-inch lengths, and pack in the silo; then weight it as usual. This makes a very desirable food; the stock all like it, and I have never seen any bad effects from it. During the three years named, I have put up 100 tons per year from this source. My experience is that land producing five barrels of corn to the acre will make five tons of ensilage, or a ton to the barrel. I regard the ensilage as more valuable than the corn, and the cost of putting it into the silo is less than seventy-five cents per ton. I grow corn exclusively for ensilage, most of it made in the United States is from corn grown expressly for the purpose. I am of opinion that at the time I cut it, it is as valuable for ensilage as at any period of its growth—hence a great saving in making both a crop of corn and ensilage. I see that others are adopting this plan to advantage.

My great plan for ensilage is the ordinary field or row pea. Of this I put up about 200 tons yearly, and it is greatly preferred by my stock to that made of corn. This pea crop I grow chiefly after wheat and oats. I break the land as soon as the wheat is taken off, then plant in drills three feet apart, eight or twelve peas in a hill, using the Eureka corn planter, dropping every twenty-one inches; side them up once or twice if needed, and grass is troublesome; plant from 25th of June to the 10th of July, which gives ample time for the maturity of the plant for ensilage, producing from five to ten tons per acre, at a cost not exceeding \$1.50 per ton, and worth 25 per cent more in feed value than corn at any stage of its growth. With this plant properly utilized with the system of ensilage, the south can feed and raise sheep, cattle, mules and horses as cheaply as any portion of the United States, except the very far west. This fact will be demonstrated some day. I give to my mules and cows about fifty pounds of ensilage each, per day. I have often seen published a statement that corn stalks or any other suitable material made good ensilage without chopping up fine with cutter. For fear of loss I have been afraid to try it. A neighbor who built a silo three years ago had his silo machinery and cutter burnt up last winter. The silo was rebuilt last summer and filled with corn stalks and pea-vines uncut. This ensilage is as good as any I have ever seen—wetter than mine, that was cut fine, and is a little more trouble to take from the silo than that cut fine. I shall put up a large portion of mine next year without cutting. This fact renders it possible for every farmer who makes a one-horse crop to put up ensilage, as the great bar to their doing so was the outlay of money for cutter, machinery, &c. This may all be obtained now. The only way to acquire is the building of a silo, at a cost of not over \$1 per ton, and which any one can do of ordinary mechanical capacity, without the help of a skilled mechanic. Knowing its great value, I earnestly hope the southern people will adopt this system. It is an outrage, that having such advantages we should be so dependent.

That your friends may not go wrong in the construction of the above-ground silo, I will give here a description of it in detail: These silos were built in 1881, and have been filled four times, the ensilage being always well preserved. First, I dug a trench for foundation sills, forty-three feet long, fourteen feet wide and eight inches deep. Into these I put the sills of white-oak, all heart, ten inches square, framing a sill of the same across the middle. This makes the foundation for two silos, inside measure twenty feet wide. I put studs of heart-oak into these sills sixteen feet long, two by six

inches, two feet apart, intending the silos to be ten feet deep; then with one inch plank boarded up each side the studs ten feet high; fill the spaces between the studs and inner and outer wall of plank with sand (sawdust answers as well) thus making an airtight wall, which is all that is necessary, however it may be done. The six feet of studding above the walls or body of the silo is necessary for the purpose of filling, tramping, weighting, etc. I have one door to each silo, at the outer end, made by having the two middle studs three feet apart; to these hang two doors eighteen inches wide by five feet long, to the inner edge of studs, doors to open outward. Then close the doors and nail on board to outer edge of studs, and fill between doors and boards with each and you have the same walls as the other part of the silo. When you wish to open the doors rip off the boards in front, when the earth falls and the doors open outward exposing the ensilage. Of course the studs are framed into plates above, which should be done in a substantial manner, as the pressure from weighting the silo is quite heavy. My roofs extend three feet beyond the sides and ends, to prevent rain from being blown in on the ensilage. After filling the silo I first cover the ensilage with inch plank, laying them down lengthwise; then cover with earth eighteen inches deep, and you may rest assured that your ensilage is safe. I prefer common earth for weighting, for two reasons, first, it is more easily handled; and second, it excludes the air better than anything else. When feeding the ensilage first take out in front of the doors from bottom to top, about two feet; then on each side until the entire end is taken out; then put in good substantial props to hold the planks and keep the weights from bending them down, which repeat, propping every three feet, as the ensilage is taken out, until the whole is exhausted. Care should be taken that this propping be well done, otherwise the planks above may give away, and endanger the safety of the feeders.

It has been well said that "our people must learn to grow everything for man and beast before they can claim to be self-sustaining;" and more, they must learn to make it without running into debt. No general prosperity can prevail until we can make what we consume before we consume it. Easy credit will destroy any people; it demoralizes the thrifty and makes paupers of the unthrifty.

Very truly yours, C. W. GARRETT.

To Mr. John Ott, Sec., &c., Richmond, Va.

THE RAPIDS OF NIAGARA.

A Philadelphia Cooper's Dangerous but Successful Experiment. C. D. Graham, the Philadelphia cooper, floated successfully through the rapids of Niagara, below the falls, in a cask of his own devising. An account says: "A small boat towed the tank out into the river to a point where the current would catch it, and then Graham was started on what might have turned out to be his trip to eternity. The towing process took only a few minutes, and then the stream caught the cask and started on towards the rapids and the whirlpool. At first it moved slowly along, then faster and faster, until the mad current dashed it on with its full force. The cask bounded up and down over the great waves, and several times turned a complete somersault, but, generally speaking, the wider portion remained uppermost, although it twisted around like a top. The cask kept pretty well in the centre of the river until it reached the whirlpool when it struck a strong side current and was carried swiftly along, reaching the waters beyond in safety. From here the journey was comparatively quiet."

It was in endeavoring to swim these rapids that Capt. Webb, the English swimmer, lost his life two years ago.

PROHIBITION AND HIGH LICENSE.

[Troy (N. Y.) Times.] For thirty-five years, with only a brief interval of license under string regulations, the State of Maine has had upon its statute book a prohibitory liquor law. But the fact is notorious that intoxicants are widely sold, so that the individual who desires a stimulant experiences very little difficulty in procuring it. The Prohibition candidate for Governor this year is reported as having said in his speech accepting the nomination: "It is high time something should be done in this State to put down the liquor traffic." And this after thirty-five years of legal prohibition! In the numerous towns in small country villages the thirsty meet with no trouble in satisfying their appetite when they are known to be trustworthy. Delegates to the Prohibition Convention complained bitterly that the law is not obeyed, and local officials seem indisposed to enforce it. In one town of only 5000 inhabitants, a delegate said, there are no less than forty saloons, and in similar condition of affairs prevails in other Prohibition States. The law is disregarded because public sentiment in its behalf is not sufficiently strong to exercise a prevailing moral sentiment in its favor. And such must be the result wherever laws are made the expediency of which is denied or doubted by any considerable proportion of those who are intended to be affected thereby.

How much better would it be if temperance legislation were directed toward the adoption of stringent High-License laws. They could be enforced. They would limit the number of places in which liquor is sold quite as much as any prohibitory law has done or can do. Besides, they would bring some return to the State and help support the pauper victims of rum.

ADVICE TO MOTHERS.

Are you disturbed at night and broken of your rest by a sick child suffering and crying with pain of cutting teeth? If so, send at once a bottle of Mrs. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP FOR CHILDREN TEETHING. It is so valuable that no mother can afford to be without it. It will relieve the poor little sufferer immediately. Depend upon it, mothers, there is no mistake about it. It cures dysentery and diarrhoea, regulates the bowels and stomach, cures wind colic, softens the gums, reduces inflammation, and gives tone and energy to the whole system. It is pleasant to the taste, and is the best medicine for children in the world. It is sold by all druggists and is for sale by all druggists throughout the world. Price 25 cents a bottle.

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CLIPPING COUPONS.

What a Clerk Earned by a Week's Work on a Bond Worth \$50,000,000.

Albert Gregory is a \$50 a month clerk in the President's office of the New York Central Railroad. He will begin to enjoy a brief vacation on Monday, which he has earned by a novel week's work. This was clipping the duty coupons from the \$50,000,000 of United States bonds owned by the Vanderbilt family. He got through with the job yesterday, and will rusticate at Babylon, Long Island, to try to rid himself of the week's glamour of work in the President's office.

He related his experience to a Star reporter yesterday: "Somebody has to clip the coupons every year, and every year it's a different person. No one has ever been known to be twice appointed to the duty, and no one has the slightest pretension that he is to be selected. 'Report for duty to President Depew,' was the order I received on Tuesday morning last. Mr. Depew sent me to President Thomas L. James of the Lincoln National Bank, who was in charge of the matter. He took me into a small apartment in the Vanderbilt vault, in Forty-second street, and there was Mr. Cornelius Vanderbilt. He unlocked his personal safe, pulled out a million dollars in bonds, and, pointing to a long, keen, bright pair of shears, told me to go to work. He and Mr. James went out and locked me up with that fortune in bonds and the shears."

The solitary clerk clipped, and clipped, and clipped all through the sweltering heat of Tuesday, and continued his monotonous work with the shears daily until yesterday, when he had gone through the mass of bonds belonging to the different millionaire members of the family. He finished at noon, and carried a note from Mr. James to Mr. Depew, saying he had done his work well and faithfully.

"Take a week's vacation," said Mr. Depew. "I think you've earned it, and here's something to help you enjoy yourself." It was a \$50 bill that was slipped into the lucky clerk's hands.

THE ELECTRIC LIGHTS.

Wilmington Review. The first week of the contract made with the city by the Wilmington Electric Lighting Company is closed. The light seems to give general satisfaction. It is a clear, steady, powerful light and is, we understand, much better than that used in Richmond or Norfolk. There is even a gleam of light from the lamps in the woods around the city and we have been told that the reflection can be seen at the Sound, eight miles distant. There are not enough lights, it is true, to go round

but the system is to be improved by removing the lanterns from the corners and placing them in the middle of the street. The lights are at the intersections of alternate streets and the mistake has heretofore been in the corner lights. To these have been raised on poles 30 to 35 feet high but the company is now changing this and having them swung in the middle of the street. As it is, a gentleman tells us that he can stand at the intersection now, where the lights are not placed, and read a book and tell the time of night by his watch, from the corners beyond him. The alteration of the corner lights is just as was recommended by us in our first comments on the system and we think that the diffusion of the light will be greatly increased thereby.

The contract with the city is governed by the moon table, but we noticed last night that we had moonlight and electric light at the same time.

The station where the dynamo and engines are located is considered one of the best equipped in the country. There are two Bal automatic engines and boilers for regular use, besides an engine and boiler in reserve to be called upon in case of accident to others. The dynamo and lamps are of the celebrated Thomson electric system, which are said to be best in use for reliability and steadiness of light.

The Wilmington Electric Lighting Company is composed of a number of our leading citizens and Mr. E. P. Bailey the general manager has been under the instructions of Mr. McNett, the general agent, and Mr. F. A. Brooks, an expert, ever since March 1st, and is now perfectly familiar with the system.

THE HOLD ON LIFE.

John Kelly thought Samuel J. Tilden too old and frail to run a second time for President. John Kelly is dead. Zacherly, Chandler fought to keep Tilden out of the White House. Chandler is dead. Grant was president when Tilden claimed to be his successor. Grant is dead. Hancock was nominated as a more likely candidate to live through the Presidency than Tilden. Hancock is dead. Hendricks seemed to have a long life ahead of him as compared with the man at the head of "the old ticket." Hendricks is dead. Seymour, McClellan, all the old candidates, are dead; and the large majority directs the Democratic policy from Greystone, and commands the Viking as she steams gaily o'er the ocean wave.

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Await the rheumatic sufferer who resorts to Hostetter's Stomach Bitters. That this benignant cordial and depurant is a far more reliable remedy than colchicum and other poisons used to expel the rheumatic virus from the blood, is a fact that experience has satisfactorily demonstrated. Also enjoys the advantage of being—unlike them—perfectly safe. With many persons a certain predisposition to rheumatism exists, which renders them liable to its attacks after exposure to wet weather, to currents of air, changes of temperature, or to cold when the body is hot. Such persons should take a wine glass or two of the Bitters as soon as possible after incurring risk from the above causes, as this superior protective remedy nullifies the hurtful influence. For the functional derangements which accompany rheumatism, such as colic, spasms in the stomach, palpitation of the heart, imperfect digestion, &c., the Bitters is also a most useful remedy. It is only necessary in obstinate cases to use it with persistency.

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