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THURSDAY, MAY 31, 1883.

THE PRESERVATION OF OUR FORESTS.

Commenting on the enormous destruction of timber in this country, and quoting from a Northern paper in regard to the exhaustion of the supply both in New England and the North-west, our able contemporary, the Chronicle, which has heretofore discussed the subject, makes an earnest appeal to the Southern people to husband this great source of wealth, and not to permit the control of it to fall into the hands of outside capitalists and syndicates. "We have no doubt," says the Chronicle, "that within a few years there will be a lumber boom in the South. When that boom shall have come, the outsider ought not to reap the lion's share of profit. Already much of the cedar and walnut supply has been quietly absorbed by Europe and the North for a mere song of money compensation. Much valuable timber of all other kinds is in the hands of Southern people, and they will be enjoying the part of Esau, with modern improvements, if they part with that splendid inheritance for what may be easily understood as a 'mess of pottage.'"

The forests of North Carolina, which cover nearly four-fifths of the area of the State, are known to be the richest on the continent, both in variety and value. So exuberant is the State's wealth in valuable timber of all sorts, that we may mention as an illustration that in the mountain region from Hime to the westward, it has been customary to use black walnut rails to build worm fences around the farms. Only day before yesterday we saw lying at a railroad station about fifty miles from this city (and therefore far East of the mountains) a pile of magnificent black walnut logs, which a Northern man had bought on a speculation for about \$200 per thousand. For several years past the agents of Northern manufacturers have been engaged in traveling through Western North Carolina buying the standing trees for a mere song, and after marking them, leaving them for future use, or sale on speculation. We are happy to learn that the owners of such timber lands have begun to appreciate their value more, and when they sell are demanding prices nearer the real value of the timber on them.

And, speaking of the general subject of our forests and their preservation, we would be glad to see the "no fence law" adopted in every county of the State—except those containing large bodies of wild pasture lands, in which it would be impracticable—because, in addition to its many other advantages, it contributes more than anything else to the reproduction of forests. With cattle trampling down and browsing upon the young growth at will, the reproduction of timber will be impossible. We have become an enthusiastic supporter of the no fence law from observation of its effects, and conversations with the farmers of some of the counties in which it prevails. We have found that those who were almost ready to shoulder their guns to prevent the adoption of the law in their counties, have almost invariably expressed an equal willingness to fight against a repeal of the law when proposed. There is, so far as we can learn, not a township or county in the State where the law prevails that is not unanimous in the determination to continue it, and the result will be that such counties will easily and steadily keep the lead in agricultural development, and in the preservation of their timber.

ADDITIONAL EXHIBITS AT BOSTON.

It is pleasant to know that North Carolina will be so well represented at the Manufacturers and Mechanics' Institute Fair at Boston next fall. In addition to the exhibit of our Agricultural Department, to which we have already called attention, we learn that it is the intention of the Seaboard Air Line Company to make a full and interesting exhibit of the varied products of our State. In order to do this it will be necessary for our people to render all the aid they can in supplying the representatives of that company with such specimens of our products as they have or can get, and to this end we now call upon them to possess any mineral, agricultural or manufactured article of our State, which they may possess, and which will be of permanent interest to place in exhibition, and report the same to Mr. Frank W. Clark, General Freight Agent of the Seaboard Air Line, at Wilmington, or Raleigh, or Charlotte. Any such article will be carefully handled and preserved, and, if desired, will be returned to the owner as soon as the Boston Exhibition closes. Specimens of glass, ornate woods, woven or cotton fabrics, models of mechanical inventions, seeds, plants, building stones, or any other products of North Carolina, will be taken for exhibition and duly accounted for. The Seaboard Air Line, which traverses the State, diagonally from Norfolk to Charlotte, ought to receive liberal aid in this praiseworthy effort to supplement the Agricultural Department of the State at Boston, and we hope it will receive it at the hands of our people. It has already made quite an extensive collection, and is anxious to have it as nearly complete as possible. Let the people aid them as much as possible. The Richmond & Danville road made a very handsome display of our products at Atlanta, and the Seaboard Air Line expects to beat it at Boston.

ENSLAUGE.

How to Treat it as Told by Prof. J. M. Kelly.

We slip the following on the ensilage question, which will be found of interest to farmers, from a letter in the Charleston News and Courier, written by Prof. J. M. Kelly, of the State University, who has given the subject thorough study:

My own experience with ensilage dates from the summer of 1879. After reading the accounts of the French experiments I soon arrived at the conclusion that they were of comparatively little value to the great body of our farmers. Few Southern farmers have either the money or the inclination to build silos costing hundreds of dollars, and to buy machinery costing hundreds more for the purpose of feeding the results of ensilage. I deemed it best, therefore, to make my earlier experiments as simple as possible. As they were carried on in a section of country generally the upper portion of the State in its agricultural and other features, I will give them somewhat in detail.

A pit 3 feet long, 6 feet wide and 6 feet deep was dug on the northern side of a small grove. The soil was a stiff loam resting upon a dry and compact bed of clay. The sides of the pit were neither bricked up nor cemented. The corn in consequence of the long continued drought was dry and wilted when harvested. It was cut on the 15th of September, when the ears were beginning to fill, and immediately carted to the pit. The stalks were laid lengthwise in the silo and packed down layer by layer. The mass was carried vertically upwards, 6 feet above the surface in order to allow for its settling. About 5 feet of clay was thrown on top and it was allowed to stand for 24 hours. At the expiration of that time it had settled down within a few inches of the surface. It was then thoroughly trod and more clay thrown upon the top and sides. In a few days more the mass was several inches below the surface. The pit was closely watched and every crack carefully stopped. The corn weighed about 15,000 pounds. As the capacity of the silo was 234 cubic feet the ensilage weighed upwards of 40 pounds to the cubic foot. The pit was opened on December 13 of the same year. The ensilage proved to be of excellent quality. Its color was greenish yellow, its taste insipid and its odor alcoholic. It was greatly relished by our cattle. The silo was opened by taking off the covering of earth and boards at one end. The portion of ensilage uncovered was removed by making a vertical section, from the top to the bottom of the silo. The heavy, superincumbent pressure on the remaining portion of the mass prevents the entrance of the air at the exposed end. The superficial layer of ensilage immediately in contact with the bottom and sides of the silo was covered with mold and slightly damaged to the depth of an inch or so. The loss from this and all other sources amounted to about 400 pounds.

In 1880 two additional silos were prepared. Both were like No. 1—simply pits dug in the clay soil. No. 2 was 10 feet deep, 10 feet wide and 20 feet long. The corn was cut August 4th and 5th, and immediately hauled to the silo in carts, where it was dumped down after being weighed in adjoining scale-room. It was then, through a No. 11 Sinclair's feed cutter, driven by a one-horse railway (tread) power. This cutter, although it repeatedly sliced up a cart-load of corn weighing 500 pounds at a time, was simple and cheap, such as could be used for many other farm purposes. The corn fell from the cutter directly into the pit, where it was packed down by heavy tramping. The silo was filled with 35,000 pounds of corn and 25,000 pounds of green (second crop) clover. The mass was carried up 5 feet above the surface. The process of filling occupied three days. The ensilage was covered with a few inches of chaff, boards were placed across the top, and the required weight, about 100 pounds to the square foot of surface, applied. This weight was furnished by covering of red clay, weighing about 80 pounds to the cubic foot. The mass in a few days had settled down well within the pit. A rough shed was placed over the silo to protect it from the weather.

Silo No. 2, 11 1/2 by 10 by 20 feet was partly filled in the same way with 40,000 pounds of corn and 5000 pounds of German millet. It was weighted with old bricks. Silo No. 1 was enlarged and filled with 15,000 pounds of second crop clover. Nos. 2 and 3 were opened during the winter of 1880-81. The ensilage proved to be of excellent quality and every pound of it was eaten by our stock. No. 1 was not opened until the following winter, 1881-82—fifteen months after it was filled. This ensilage (clover) was somewhat more acid than that of Nos. 2 and 3, and was eaten with less relish by the cattle.

THE OBJECTION TO EARLY SILAGE. The great objection to silos with earthen walls is the falling in of the sides during winter weather. When emptied of their contents it is almost impossible to prevent the heaving and disintegrating action of the frost upon the damp clay. To ensure the uniform descending pressure so essential to the success of the process the walls must be perpendicular and smooth, and hence the only remedy is to enlarge the silo. It is often inconvenient and expensive, and sometimes impossible, to do this.

Encouraged by the successful experiments of the preceding years I determined to construct a silo of a more permanent character. Two were accordingly excavated on the upper side of a hill-side, each about 22 feet long, 12 feet wide and 12 feet deep. They were strengthened on the inside by a brick wall lined with cement, and were covered by a projection of the roof of the barn. The cost of the two was about \$200. In consequence of the long continued drought the crops planted for ensilage were almost failures, and only one silo was partly filled with 40,000 pounds of corn, 11,780 pounds of clover and 4,785 pounds of sorghum. The silo was opened last winter (1882-83) with the same gratifying results as before.

The foregoing statements show that I have put up about 300,000 POUNDS OF ENSILAGE, and that my experiments, continued for four years, have been uniformly successful. From my own experience, supported by that of hundreds of farmers in German sections of our country, I think I can safely claim for the process of ensilage that with ordinary care success is the rule and failure the exception. J. M. KELLY.

Miscellaneous.

CAUGHT A BAD COLD. The SUMMER COLDS and Coughs are quite as dangerous as those of midwinter. But they yield to the same treatment and ought to be taken in time.

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Miscellaneous.

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TWO CAR LOADS KEROSENE OIL. J. H. McADEN.

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