experience in feeding cattle ever since I was old enough to feed them, and always fed corn, ground up, cob and all, and consider it the cheapest food, and the best to feed to fattening steers in the winter.

MY EXPERIENCE WITH ENSILAGE.

By JOHN URQUHART, Columbia County, Wis.

Canned Fodder.—My experience with ensilage for two seasons has been very satisfactory to me, and beneficial to my stock in having nature's natural green food to feed through the winter, and the stock appreciate that kind of food. We are advised at our institutes to raise and can fruit for our families, and I think it is good advice. In the silo we have a great canning institution, or factory for getting good and cheap food for our stock.

Possibilities of Ensilage.—The possibilities of this food in the present and future no man can tell. Just think of a man wintering his stock cheaper than he can pasture it in summer. Ensilage has revolutionized the dairy interest in Wisconsin, and the beef interest, too, so that we can almost compete in cheapness of food with the western ranches. I do not know of any other food so cheap that we could substitute for ensilage.

Forced to Build a Silo.—When I built my first silo, John Gould had not yet escaped from the stone silo in Ohio, to inform us how to make sweet and sour apple pies and sweet and sour ensilage. It is an old adage that necessity is the mother of invention. Necessity was the mother of my silo. If I had not been compelled by scarcity of feed, it is doubtful if I would have built a silo yet.

No feed meant no milk, no butter, and you all know when a man has a herd of thoroughbred dairy cattle that would never do, for you must feed to make them give milk to make butter, whether crops grow or not. I never had seen a silo until I built one and filled it according to book instructions with field corn, nearly matured, and it made the best ensilage that I ever saw. I think forty lbs. of this ensilage was equal in feeding value to fifty lbs. of the ensilage I had this year. I have fed ensilage to cattle, horses, hogs and poultry, with the very best results.

How I Manage the Crop.—In planting ensilage corn, I use a horse planter. I put a boy on and he uses the lever nearly as fast as he can. I plant about eight quarts to the acre; this year I got about 25 tons of ensilage to the acre. I use a spring-tooth cultivator, and find it best for corn; use Belle City feed cutter, and it gives me the very best satisfaction. I draw corn to silo on trucks, with long reach, and wood or flat hay racks. I cut in gavels of about forty to fifty pounds each, with butts out from the standing corn. I drive team alongside of corn, then throw gavels on trucks. This saves walking up and down plank, so often, behind wagon as some recommend. I haul
and cut about 30 tons per day, then let it heat up to 125 to 135° filling one day and letting it rest until ensilage gets hot enough; keep filling in this way until the silo is full, then cover with tarred paper and straw. Be sure and have your silo air tight, and your ensilage will come out sweet and all right.

Cost Six Acres Ensilage.—I will give what the ensilage cost me per acre in the silo. The following figures are for six acres that I raised last season: Rent of six acres, at $4 per acre, $24; plowing six acres, at $1.25 per acre, $7.50; harrowing, three times, $3.75; planting, one half day, two men and team, $2; cultivating, four times, $7.50; making cost of growing and getting corn ready to cut, $47.50. It takes seven men and four teams to run cutter. Two men cutting and loading in field, $3; two men and two teams, drawing, $5; two teams and one man on power, $3.75; one man feeding, $1.50; one man spreading ensilage, $1.50; oil and incidentals, $1, making $15.25 per day for hauling, cutting and filling. Add interest on machinery, $10, and you have a total cost of growing, cutting and putting in silo, six acres, or 150 tons, $133.55, which will make your ensilage cost you 89c. per ton.

Fifty pounds per day is an average ration for a cow, with the usual meal ration; $1.05 will feed a cow ensilage for four months. It will cost $18 to feed a cow with hay for six months, leaving a balance of $13.55 in favor of ensilage, which is quite an item if you have 30 or 40 cows to winter.

I have filled one of my silos with ice this winter, making it do double duty. The silo has come to stay with me.

EXPERIENCE IN TAYLOR COUNTY.

By G. W. ADAMS, Taylor County, Wis.

Cheap Forage.—My experience with the silo is only of one year's standing. While attending the farmers' institute held at Medford, during the early part of the winter of 1887, the question of cheap forage was discussed, and how best to preserve it so as to obtain the greatest feeding value for the time and money expended. With hay at from $10 to $20 per ton, it was out of the question with us farmers of Taylor County to think of keeping stock through the winter. In fact we did not like the idea of paying out so much money every year just for the pleasure of keeping stock. While listening to able discussions of cheap forage, and the silo as a means of preserving the crop in the best possible manner, I thought I saw an opening in the clouds, and the light of intelligent farming was being spread abroad in the land. The farmers of Taylor County had discussed the unprofitable business of keeping stock on hay, and many of them had concluded that it did not pay to keep stock when it required the hay from three to four acres to feed a cow through the winter.