

**A LECTURE ON ENSILAGE: ITS INFLUENCE
UPON BRITISH AGRICULTURE. DELIVERED
UNDER THE AUSPICES OF H. R. H. THE PRINCE
OF WALES, AT THE SOUTH KENSINGTON
MUSEUM; SOUTHDOWN SHEEP: THEIR
HISTORY, BREEDING, AND MANAGEMENT**

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A lecture on Ensilage: its influence upon British agriculture. Delivered under the auspices of H. R. H. the prince of wales, at the South Kensington museum; Southdown Sheep: Their history, breeding, and management by Henry Woods

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HENRY WOODS

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Institute of Agriculture,

SESSION 1884.

A LECTURE
ON
ENSILAGE:

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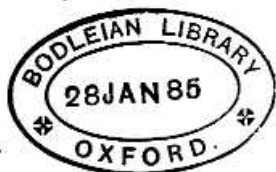
BY

HENRY WOODS.

*ENLARGED AND REVISED, WITH APPENDICES AND
TABLES OF ANALYSES.*

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PREFACE.

THIS little work contains, in a revised and enlarged form, with appendices &c., the lecture on the practical utility of the Ensilage system and possible advantages from introducing it into British farming, which I had the great honour of delivering before His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, a numerous and distinguished assembly of ladies, noblemen, and gentlemen, and the students of the Institute of Agriculture, at South Kensington Museum, on the evening of Monday, March 17. I trust the publication will not be thought to call for any apology. If it should, I must plead the importance of the subject, and the hope I have that the facts recorded in these pages will be of service and value to some, at least, of those for whose benefit they are chiefly intended.

HENRY WOODS.

MERTON: *March 1884.*

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THE LECTURE.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS, MY LORDS, LADIES, AND GENTLEMEN :—

The title of our lecture 'Ensilage—Its Influence upon British Agriculture,' pre-supposes, on the part of the distinguished assembly which I have the honour and privilege of addressing, some acquaintance with the Silo-process—that method of storage by means of which green crops are preserved and converted into the cattle food called Ensilage. Many books have been published on the system, and from time to time our agricultural journals have described at length the opening of Silos in various parts of the Kingdom, and recorded the results of Ensilage experiments, simple and elaborate.

'Never prophesy unless you know' is a maxim for which I have great respect. It was present to my mind twelve or fourteen months ago when, in closing a lecture to the Wayland Agricultural Association on the 'Origin, History, and Practice of Ensilage,' I ventured to predict that the Silo was destined to become an important factor in the practice of British agriculture—a source of relief and profit to the distressed and almost distracted farmer. Yet, whatever some persons may have thought, there was nothing rash or reckless in this forecast; founded as it was on the data of several experiments conducted at Merton, at the instance of Lord Walsingham. This evening I repeat the prediction with still stronger emphasis, and will lay before you, as concisely as possible, the evidence on which I rely in support of my conclusion.

ADVANCE OF SYSTEM.

North, south, east, and west, in Ireland and Scotland, as well as in our own Kingdom, the system has gained ground, and Silos have been greatly multiplied, in the past year.

At the close of last year I issued a circular letter with a number