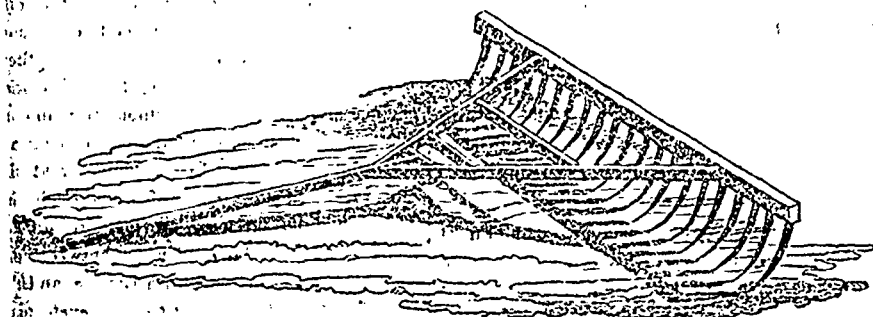


"AGRICULTURE NOT ONLY GIVES RICHES TO A NATION, BUT THE ONLY RICHES SHE CAN CALL HER OWN."—Dr. Johnson.

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"HAND DRAG RAKE."

HAY-MAKING.

As but few farmers appear to understand properly the mode of curing hay, so that it may retain a desirable green colour and sweet flavoured taste, we beg to give them some hints for doing this, derived from our own experience.

In the month of July, which is the usual hay-making month in this country, there is more or less cloudy and rainy weather, which is not adapted for drying hay. The mowers should be kept employed, as much as possible, in such weather, so that when it becomes fine, all hands may be stringing along the mown grass. The swarths should never be opened except on a fine sunshiny day, and at the time this is done, the grass should be well shaken apart and equally read over the ground. As soon as the upper surface is dry, turn it well over; this being done, commence raking into windrows, such time that the whole may be made up into small cocks before night, which should weigh about a half-cwt. each. The second day these cocks must remain untouched; and on the third day, if the weather be fine, they should be opened and thrown into rows, or made up into about two swarths in width, or if the weather be very heavy three swarths in width should be better, and time should be taken to gather the whole into windrow and cocks before night, with great care that none of the hay should be left open.

On the fourth day these cocks will only require to be opened for an hour or two, when they will be fit for the stack or the

To complete the process, about one bushel of salt for every ton of hay should be sown in alternate layers over the mow or stack.

The crown of hay stacks should in all cases be thatched, as soon as sufficient time has been given them to become solid.

The advantages of curing hay on the plan proposed are obviously the following:—By shortening the period, when the hay is openly exposed to the parching influence of the sun; the colour of it is more perfectly preserved, and consequently the quality; and the fermentation which takes place while in the cocks, diminishes that principle, so as to prevent injuriously heating in the stack or mow. It may at times be impracticable to act fully up to the plan laid down, as thunder storms and other inevitable causes may intervene, yet the nearer it is acted upon, the better will be the quality of the hay.

The accompanying "Hand Drag Rake," will be found an acquisition to the hay maker, and extremely useful in raking barley and other stubbles, and is simple in its construction; but the "Revolving Rake," an illustration of which was given in the March number of *The Cultivator*, although more expensive, will be found preferable for hay-making, as it would save a great amount of manual labour.

UNDERDRAINING.

This is a suitable month to make some experiments in underdraining on the fallow-lands. The importance of this operation, especially on heavy clay soils, is incalculable; indeed, there are but few farms, however well situated, but what have more or less unproductive, marshy, or springing ground, which might be brought into cultivation with a trifling expense, and the land doubled in value in a single year. In sections of the country where the land lies considerably undulating, the vale or flat intervening between the rise and the fall, is apt to be unfit for the production of grain, and

the common practice is to seed those places down with the English cultivated grasses: whereas if they were properly underdrained, they would produce an abundance of grain or roots of every description, and not only increase the value of the land, but add much to its beauty and comfort in its management.

The process of underdraining is so simple, that it may be performed by any labouring man at all conversant with the use of the spade. The only difficulty in their construction is to find the natural fall for the water, which may happen when the land intended to be drained is nearly on a water level, or where it is very uneven on the surface.—Nature has provided the best and most convenient engineer for to obviate this difficulty. The drain after being dug the desired depth, should be left open until after a shower of rain, and the parts that are sunk too deep will be filled with water, and by sinking (a little lower) the parts of the bottom of the drain that are not covered with water, the natural fall may be found.

As we have had some practical experience on the subject, and have witnessed its beneficial effects in numerous instances, we take a pleasure in making a few suggestions to our subscribers, and hope they will give the subject due consideration.

The open drain should be about 20 inches wide and 24 deep. There are a variety of plans of constructing a course for the water. We will however let a few suffice for the present. The most substantial one is made by using common cobble stones taken from the field, by laying them in the bottom of the drain, as though laying the foundation of two separate walls, facing each other about 8 inches asunder and about 6 inches in height, and covering the whole over with flat stones; then covering them over with a layer of straw or small brush to prevent the soil from filling into the drain. A drain constructed properly on this principle, and sunk a sufficient depth to prevent the frost from penetrating, will last for centuries.

In many parts of the country stones are not sufficiently abundant for the purpose of underdrainage; where this occurs, we would advise the farmer to procure the young growth of cedars, and lay two poles in the bottom of the drain, about the same distance apart above mentioned; then provide larger pieces, say 1 foot in diameter, split them through the centre, and use them as a covering. If small growth cedars cannot be had conveniently, by splitting the large trunks into pieces averaging 4 inches in diameter, they will make an excellent substitute; and when cedar cannot be had, white oak will be found probably the next most durable wood, and is frequently used. The ditch must be filled up as above described.

(To be Continued).