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AND RURAL HOME

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Trade increases the wealth and glory of a country; but its real strength and stamina are to be looked for among the cultivators of the land.—Lord Chatham

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The Value of Modern Hay Making Machinery

I Would Just as Soon Give Up the Self Binder as My Hay Making Machinery—A. C. Hallman, Waterloo Co., Ont.

I USED to dread the hard labor of hay-making under the old system of cocking and pitching by hand. There was a time when we thought the only way to make real good hay was by putting it in good-sized cocks for several days. This theory has been exploded to my entire satisfaction and my own experience has proved it. I would just as soon give up the self-binder as my hay-making machinery, and we all know the value of the self-binder. I consider one just as indispensable as the other and have come to this conclusion, after using modern hay-making machinery for some 15 years.

I was always very particular in trying to make good hay; I am still particular. I am convinced, that, taking it for a number of years, I make better hay by a rapid process with machinery than by the old slow process of hand labor. And labor is one of the greatest problems with which we have to deal at this present crisis. Modern labor-saving machinery is the only hope of carrying on our farming operations.

One of the great advantages with machinery is the rapidity of the process. The weather may not be too favorable, but with the machinery we can get the hay cured and in the barn very often before we could get it in cocks under the old system. Then probably we would have to wait for nearly a week before it could be drawn in, and in many cases it would first have to be turned over and allowed to dry before bringing in.

What I consider full equipment is, first a wide-cutting mow, which leaves the grass spread better than a short-cutter bar, not doubling it as much with the divider and with it you always get a stronger gear; second, a combined side delivery rake and tedder. This will make the hay in nice windows and by reversing, it will do the tending. This rake is indispensable for rapid hay-making with a loader. The old-fashioned steel rake is also valuable for the second raking. This should be a two-horse rake so you can change from one to the other without changing horses and thus not lose any time.

The next machine is the hay loader, which is certainly a great help and a labor-saver. One man can put on a load if necessary. The horses soon become accustomed to straddling the row. Of course if you have a boy or girl to drive the team, it is all the better. For rapid work there should be two men on the load and a driver. The special advantage of the side delivery rake is that it sets the hay up twice and turns the dry side in and the green or damp side out, thus giving the sun and air a chance to dry it out very quickly.

I consider the hay ready to be drawn in when two-thirds of it is dry. The other third is absorbed by the dry hay and it will never spoil. This is a rule which my father practised with both hay and grain. I have practised it ever since I started farming and have never had spoiled grain or hay when I followed this rule. It is always advisable to sprinkle some salt on the hay when a little damp, or at any time.

This will prevent it from moulding through sweating. Horse hay forks with or without slings or a rack lifter are necessary to make the outfit complete. I would not consider this article complete without mentioning the flat hay rack. The man who does not use it does not know what he is missing, especially with a hay loader. The sliding bottom attachment which the front end slides to the rear and is loaded first, then with a simple contrivance is brought back to its proper position and the rear loaded, is a great advantage. This is particularly convenient when one man does the loading.

Just how many men or how many dollars a man could save by owning such equipment, I am not going to say. You can gather this from what I have said in this article. Suffice it to say that even if

a man had plenty of help (unless he likes hard work better than I do), he would be foolish to attempt to make hay in the old way. I consider my hay-making machinery one of my best investments in farm machinery and could not do without it. I have handled all kinds of hay, including alfalfa, with good success.

Hay Making Made Easy

C. G. McKilloch, Glengarry Co., Ont.

If there is one branch of farm work where, more than any other, up-to-date machinery is necessary, I think that it is hay-making. No other crop is as perishable and consequently no other crop should be handled with as little loss of time from the standing condition to the mow. It is possible that a slightly better quality of hay can be made by the old method of cocking if the quantity is small, but certainly any advantage it may have for a small quantity is more than made up by the danger of having the operations running into bad weather or the hay becoming too ripe toward the end of the season, if the crop to be handled is large.

To begin with the mower, my preference is for a seven-foot knife if the fields are reasonably smooth; six-foot if not smooth. If kept in good shape, the wide machines will cut anything that the narrow ones will. Next comes the side delivery rake. Many people object to this implement because the sulky rake is necessary for a second raking anyway. However, if you have a loader you want the side delivery rake and with it you can get along without a tedder. However, if the side delivery rake is not one with reverse action a tedder is a good thing to have also, although not an absolute necessity.

As to the loader, I suppose there is no farm machine about which as much difference of opinion has been expressed. My experience with hay loaders goes back about 25 years. At that time my uncle, much to the amazement of his neighbors, introduced the first one into our locality and I used to sit on the fence after school hours and watch it work. My practical experience with a loader goes back 13 years when I had my first taste of building for one. After the first sense of giddiness had passed away, I became an enthusiast and have remained such ever since. That same loader is still doing good work, a fact which vouches for their longevity. My experience with a loader is that one man on the load is sufficient. If you have a boy or girl to drive so much the better but it is not necessary, especially with a steady team that will not try to rush things too much. If a perky son has help enough that he would feel able to put two men on the load he would be better to use two wagons and have them load alternately, or have one man rake while the other loaded.

One of the great mistakes which is (Continued on page 30.)

Hay Making Sixty Years Ago and Today.

WHEN asked to write something about hay-making, my memory reverted back to over 60 years ago, when I was a boy. The machine thought of was the scythe that the men swung from morning until night. It fell to the lot of the boys to shake out the swaths of fresh cut grass, where the crop was heavy. Every stump (and they were plentiful) had a forkful on top. When properly dried it had to be hand-raked and forked into windrows. It took an expert teamster to drive a wagon hauled by a yoke of oxen or span of horses between the stumps and over the knolls. Then the hardest work of all came,—the storing of it in the little barns. Hay was nearly all stored above the horses and put in from the outside through a small door about two and a half feet square. The boys worked inside near the roof in the heat and dust; work that left them with an impression never to be forgotten. If a man of that time could have been suddenly transferred to the present and see the system of hay-making practised on our well equipped farms with the easy-running mowers, tedders, rakes, loaders, slings and forks for unloading in the large convenient barns and nearly all of the work being performed by horses, it would have been almost too much for him to believe. He would probably have pinched himself to see whether or not he was dreaming.

These machines and conveniences that we have to-day and are so lightly thought of by the boys, have been a gradual evolution that turn. My father bought the first of these bright minds of an inventive nature has been brought about by thousands of bright minds of an inventive nature. My father bought the second combined reaper and mower that came into our township, 53 years ago. At that time it was the talk of the neighborhood for miles around. It was considered a good working machine, but if put up new at an auction sale to-day, it would bring only the price of old iron.

It would be impossible, with the amount of hay that has to be handled with the present supply of labor, to save the hay crop if it was not for the highly efficient machines with which up-to-date farms are supplied—by Henry Glendinning, Ontario Co., Ont.