

THE HAY TEDDER.

Much curiosity having been excited among our readers in regard to this novel and effective implement, we present herewith an engraving of "The American Hay Tedder," manufactured by the "Ames Plow Co.," of Boston, Mass., and extract from their circular on the subject the following particulars in relation to its utility and merits :—

"The introduction of this new and important invention marks a new era in the operation of hay-making, effecting, as it does, such an immense saving of time and labour, and at a season when they are of such value, as to establish itself at once, as one of the most valuable and effective labour saving machines ever offered to the farming community. The real practical value of the machine cannot be fully appreciated, except by those who have seen it in operation; but its perfectly simple and mechanical arrangement render it apparent, at first sight, that it must prove an effective machine for turning or tedding hay, and well worthy the attention of all interested in hay-making.

Till within a few years, all the necessary processes for harvesting this staple were performed with only the aid of the scythe and the hand-rake and the fork. This involved the employment of extra labour, and at prices much above the average cost of farm hands. The process was slow, and necessarily extended over a period of two or three days, after starting with the scythe, before the hay was cured sufficiently to be carted to the barn. The proper period for cutting grass is short at the best. It is liable to the interruption of storms and sudden showers. It thus happened that under the old system, the most sagacious farmer could not hope to cut all his hay at the best time, or house his whole crop without having a portion injured more or less by unfavourable weather.

The invention of the mowing machine, the horse-rake and the horse-fork had materially changed this for the better; each of these performing in its place the work of several men.

The mower leaves the grass evenly distributed over the surface of the ground, a non-conducting layer exposed to the scorching rays of the sun on the upper side, but liable to remain wet underneath till evening—thus making still more necessary a thorough opening or shaking out of the swath, the labour of performing which is even greater than when grass has been cut with a scythe; and again, since the use of mowing machines has become so general, the farmer is enabled to cut far more grass than formerly, which—in many cases—involves the necessity of hiring additional help to properly take care of it, while in others he hesitates to mow down as large a quantity as he otherwise would, unless he has the adequate means of properly securing his crop without danger from storms. Too large a quantity of grass is often cut, and

the farmer is unable to give the curing of his hay that care and attention that it deserves, or expend upon it the amount of time and labour *actually necessary* to thoroughly fit it for the hay-mow.

The natural result has been an inferior quality of hay, and it is a well known fact among dealers that the general quality of the crop, as offered in the market, is not so good as that produced before the advent of the mowing machine.

In a majority of cases, "haying" necessarily extends over a period of a month or six weeks—thus putting the farmer to great expense of time and labour alone; but aside from these disadvantages, *he is compelled to cut parts of his crop before it has attained sufficient growth, and others, after the proper time for cutting has passed, as it will not answer to cut faster than it can be properly cured.* Every experienced farmer knows that there is *just the right time* at which grass should be cut, and *only* at that time in order that it may possess full weight, and retain its colour and flavour.

Hence the need of a machine was soon felt, which should follow in the path of the mower to shake out the grass as soon as wilted, and leave it tossed up lightly; and a machine that should not only do the work *well*, but *quickly*, so as to entirely avoid the necessity of hiring extra labor for the purpose.

The American Hay Tedder was first patented in December, 1866, and though it has been in the field but two seasons, has obtained a wide popularity, and the unqualified approval of all.

The proprietors take pleasure in offering to the farmers of this country a simple, durable, and perfect Hay Tedder, *and the only perfect Hay-Maker ever invented.* By the use of this machine, all extra help is dispensed with, and the farmer is enabled (in ordinary haying weather) to properly cure all the grass he may see fit to cut, and get it into the barn on the *same day*, thereby not only effecting a great saving of labour, but avoiding all risk from changes of the weather, etc., to which hay is subjected, when allowed to remain for two days or more after it is mown. And not only is it *quickly* dried, but it is done in the most *thorough manner*, for the arrangement and operation of the forks is such as to not merely *turn* the hay, but also to thoroughly open and shake out *every* *whisp*—leaving it lightly turned up, its fibres crossed in every direction, and in the very best condition for the admission of the air and the sun's rays. Its action is so rapid, and the effect so thorough, that it is fully capable of curing—ready for the barn—any given amount of grass in less time than twenty men can do it with the hand fork; while the draft upon the horse is very light. On large farms, the Tedder is often put into the field immediately after the grass is mown, and kept in operation until the hay is evenly and perfectly dried, giving the farmer ample time to rake, load, and cart it to the barn in the afternoon; and at the close of the day, he has the satisfaction of seeing his hay