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The Hay Harvest.

September 14, 1898.

Where only a moderate amount of hay is to be made the grass can be cut just as the bloom is beginning to fall, when it will contain the largest amount of digestible matter in the best possible condition. It can be raked up before it is thoroughly dried, placed in small shocks and thus dried, placed in small shocks and thus allowed to cure partially in the shade. If the weather is damp and perfect drying does not result, the shock can be opened during the middle of the day and again closed up at night to keep off the dew. The hay will then retain its green color. The blades will not become hrittle, thus causing a loss when handled. This is the ideal method of cutting and curing hay. If the hay can then be placed under a shed or in a barn, it will come out in the best possible condition.

possible condition.

The same general methods apply to small The same general methods apply to small quantities of clover, cowpeas, millet or any other forage crop, except that they must be dried out much more thoroughly. The stems and thick leaves are very succulent and contain large amounts of moisture. The hay may appear quite dry but if special pains is not taken to examine it carefully, pains is not taken to examine it carefully, there is danger of its being put into the mow or stack while it contains large amounts of moisture. Under certain con-ditions, no harm will result from this, but if the weeks following hay harvest should be moist and damp, dusty and moldy hay will result. It is better, consequently, to cut this hay, allow it to dry partially, then rake it into large heaps and allow it to remain until thoroughly cured. If the weather is very dry, like the climate in Colorado, California and other western states where alfalfa is grown largely, these piles answer very nicely. The forage is allowed to cure partially in the shade, which enables it to retain its color and prevents its becoming harsh and woody. In more moist climates it is probably better to make well formed cocks to prevent

injury by dew or light showers.

In stacking hay, as with small grains, the one important feature is to keep the middles high and solid. This is done by allowing the hay to drop from the stacker on to the centre of the stack and con-tinually tramping this portion. When the stack is completed, cover it with some coarse material if this can be obtained, like wild hay, and weight it down. Go over the outside of the stack with a rake, removing all loose material and pulling down the outer layer so that water will be turned off, as from a thatched roof.

In case timothy is wanted for seed, allow the seeds to become thoroughly brown, then cut with a self binder and shock the same as with small grains. Set the binder as low as possible so that all the leaves and blades will be preserved. Allow to dry thoroughly in the field or thrash at once. The ordinary thrashing machine can be used for this purpose if properly adjusted. The hay from the seed timothy is not as valuable for feed as early cut hay because it has been allowed to stand until fully ripe, but it is of considerable value and should always be preserved, says a writer in The New England Homestead, authority for the foregoing.

* * *

The Cost of Bad Roads. According to the office of Road Inquiry of the United States Department of Agriculture the expense of moving farm products and supplies on all the country roads is twenty-five cents per ton per mile; whereas in the districts of the United States and other countries, where the roads are good, the cost is only about one-third of this amount. It is estimated that this extra cost of haulage in the United States, extra cost of haulage in the United States, due to bad roads, amounts in the aggregate to more than the entire expenditure of the national Government; and taking into account all of the hauling done on the public roads the loss is equal to one-fourth of the home value of all the farm products of the United States. This loss is sufficient in a few years to make every American roadway the very best, and it would be a profitable investment if the appropriation were made for that purpose.

But the increase in the cost of haulage is by no means the only loss resulting from bad roads. The loss of perishable products for want of access to market, the failure to reach the market when the prices are good, and the failure to cultivate products which would be profitable if markets were accessible, add many millions to the actual tax of bad roads. Besides the bad condition of the roads during large portions of the year causes the enforced idleness of numbers of men and draught animals which in itself is a serious loss. In other ways the cost of bad roads is largely increased, so that they are really a burden to the people.—Farming.

The Care of Harness.

Give the harness a good cleaning at least once a year. Take it apart so that every portion can be cleaned and well oiled. If the harness is badly soiled, wash before oiling. Soak in soapsuds made by dissolv-ing a small quantity of hard soap in enough water to cover the harness per-fectly. Soak, then use a stiff brush and carefully remove every particle of dirt, then rinse thoroughly in lukewarm water. Always dry the harness in a shady place so that the leather will not become stiff and hard. After the water has dried off perfectly, but while the leather is still soft, apply some good harness oil. After a couple of hours, if there be any superfluons oil left that dld not penetrate the leather wipe it off or it will become sticky and accumulate dust which will not come off except by scraping.

See that every part of the harness is made strong enough for the heaviest pullmade strong enough for the heaviest pulling. If any part is weak have it repaired immediately. Be very particular to have good strong lines supplied with strong snaps which work well. Have the collar well fitted to the horse before commencing heavy work. The shoulders of the horse may have changed since last fall, especially if it be a young horse. In order to have a collar fit well each horse must have its own separate collar, which should not be worn by any other horse. See that the

own separate collar, which should not be worn by any other horse. See that the collar is always kept clean and properly fitted and with the use of a little common sense the horse will not be likely to have sore shoulders.

If caught in a rain and the harness becomes wet it should not be removed immediately. Cover the horse with a light blanket after being put into the stable and let the harness remain on for a couple of hours. This will prevent it becoming stiff and hard. This treatment may seem cruel to the horse but it is far more cruel to put on the stiff, unyielding harness in the morning and make the horse work in it. When the weather is very warm in summer it will not be necessary or even desirable to blanket the horse but simply leave the harness should never be kept in a damp place, as the bits, buckles, etc., will become rusty while the leather will mold and rot. As an example of what good care of the harness will do, I will state that I have used a pair of harness for 15 years and they are still good for several seasons. I have also used one pair of leather fly nets for 16 seasons.—L. O. Follo, in American Agriculturist.

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