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## HOME AND FARM.

**HAYING.**—There is no other crop grown in the Province of Nova Scotia that can equal in value the hay crop. As a rule our seasons are very favorable to its being gathered. There are, however, rainy seasons as well as dry ones, and when these occur they mean serious loss to the farmer. Some hay is entirely spoiled, some seriously damaged and perhaps a part escapes with only a slight shower or none at all. It would be difficult to determine the actual loss to the entire country from a rainy season during haying. It must be enormous and a loss which every farmer feels keenly.

Few experiments have been made to determine the actual injury to grass from being wet, but enough is known to afford some intelligent direction to guide the farmer in his work. Observation shows that the grass is evidently injured if it has a rain upon it while it is drying, that as a rule it is blackened and rendered less palatable, that if wet again and dried it is still further injured, and if it remains wet for any length of time it may be spoiled altogether, becomes rotten and unfit for food.

What are these injuries? When grass is alive and has a shower of rain upon it it is evidently uninjured. On the other hand if it is cut and made into hay, when a rain comes on it it is evidently damaged considerably.

It is injured directly by having some of the valuable materials of which it is composed washed out of it. While it was alive as growing grass this was impossible but when it is dead it is the easiest thing to happen. The materials lost in this manner are whatever is soluble. During life nearly all that is in the plant is soluble, but when the plant dies some of these become insoluble, while others like sugar remain soluble and these latter are what are washed out by the rain. Then, at first sugar and similar substances are washed out. If the rain continues some time or the hay is not soon dried the starch is converted into sugar by yeast that is always present and this is washed away. The first and principal loss then by a shower is starch, sugar and similar substances. This loss is increased if the weather is hot and damp, not only by the growth of the yeast under these conditions, but moulds begin to grow and assist the loss by their presence. On the other hand if after the shower the weather clears off with cool drying winds the loss is consequently diminished.

When the weather is very unfavorable, shower following shower with hot intervals between, then not only is the above loss greatly increased but the most valuable constituents of the fodder are destroyed. The meat producing elements of the fodder are preyed upon by bacteria and spoiled.

How can these injuries be prevented? It does not injure hay to have a rain upon it as soon as cut if the rain does not continue too long.

If the right kind of mower is used the grass is left in such a condition that it will cure more quickly than if it is left as many mowing machines leave it. It will also dry quicker when such a machine is used if it happens to get wet. This is an important matter, as it will save often times a half a day in the curing and thus enable the farmer to avoid many showers.

Again the use of labor saving machines in gathering and housing the hay is of the utmost value. Such machines as the hayloaders, horse-forks etc. The use of these machines often enabling the farmer to gather in twice or three times as much hay with the same number of men as he could before.

When the hay is in cock it can be protected by hay caps, that is by pieces of cloth (factory), which have been previously prepared and oiled or greased. These are made the proper size and fastened over the tops of the cocks. There are many other ways by which the farmer can generally avoid serious loss, such as not cutting more than he can handle at once. Like all other farm operations the curing of hay eminently appeals to the farmer's good judgment.

The most favorable reports are published of the prospects for crops of all kinds in Manitoba. The conditions of the hay meadows and pastures on June 1 was better than the previous year, butter and cheese making promises to be carried on with greater energy than ever. A large number of factories are being established. The condition of live stock generally on June 1 was the best in a number of years, owing largely to the mild winter and the early date at which grass became sufficient for feeding. The total number of horses in the Province is 45,745; cattle, 148,209; sheep, 31,341; pigs, 15,744. The quantities of land which are being summer fallowed are greatly increasing. The total area prepared for crop this year is 893,492 acres, as compared with 636,295 in 1887. The wheat crop was put in this year earlier than any previous one. The total area under wheat is 623,245 acres, being an increase of 191,111 over 1887. There are 218,744 acres in oats, an increase of 63,568; barley acreage, 80,238, an increase of 24,128 acres. A larger area of flax is reported than ever, there being 13,333 acres under crop, against 8,539 in 1887. There are 11,941 acres in potatoes, being an increase of 1,150 over 1887. An encouraging increase is shown in the area of roots. Yet in the face of such statistics as these pessimists minimize the progress of the North West.

The editor of the *Maine Farmer* says there is no class of animals kept on the farm with which there is so much bad practice as with pigs. They are required to wallow in filth, lie in the wet, and breathe an atmosphere loaded with impurities, while they are fed with food entirely unfit for health or thrift.

**PREVENTIVE OF MILDEW.**—Take three pounds each of flower of sulphur and quick-lime. Slack the lime and boil with the sulphur in six gallons of water until reduced to two gallons. Allow this to settle, then pour off the clear liquid and boil it for use. An old iron pot will answer to boil it in. A gill of this liquid, mixed with five gallons of water, is an excellent prevention and cure for mildew upon plants—showered upon them as soon as the mildew appears.