

Hay is nothing but *dried grass*, it is an *alimentary preserve for cattle*, for that reason we must make sure that it contains all the nutritive juices or at least all those that could remain after the process of desiccation or of drying, and WHY also we must wait, before making use of it, until the hay is *dry*, and does not contain any of the gases which escape from the plant after it has fallen under the scythe of the husbandman; these gases are invariably the cause of sickness and often of severe diseases if the cattle is allowed to inhale or eat the plant in that state.

Let us examine HOW, by which we here mean, what qualities hay and grain should have to merit the title of *alimentary preserves*. (The qualities which they should possess for being usefully preserved, will form the subject of another article.) One hundred pounds of grass freshly cut will only give twenty five pounds of good and perfect hay. Consequently 75 pounds of gas and water must evaporate or better still be left to evaporate by helping the action of nature by intelligent manipulation.

That is the art of hay-making of which we will speak in our next number. To day we will merely observe, that as a general rule, when the hay is stored, it has yet twenty five per cent to lose which is equal to saying, that it has lost only the two thirds of what it must lose, and these two thirds essentially composed of water and vegetation, there remains the gas produced by the special fermentation which it undergoes particularly when it is packed in cocks, in tons or stored in hay lofts where no free currents of air can circulate in the interior of the mass.

It is easy to understand, that in this case which frequently happens, the hay will become heated and become so the quicker from its having been stored, especially this year, in haste, after having been washed by the numerous storms which have in many

places retarded the harvest.

Hay of that quality and stored in that manner, cannot in any case be considered as wholesome no matter how good the plants of which it is composed.

It is in a state of fermentation—it is not dry and its use will cause diarrheas, inflammation of the bowels, foundering and other accidents more or less serious.

When the farmer finds it impossible to store his hay in proper condition, and prudence should teach him to suppose and to admit the possibility that such may be the case every year—he should keep a sufficient quantity of hay from the previous year to feed his cattle during at least two months after he has stored his new hay, and not use the latter until it has become DRY and wholesome.

This advice will appear strange to some, ridiculous to others, and altogether impracticable to a third class of our readers; I will not say that I care but little about it, for I always regret that such palpable truths as 2 and 2 make four should not be generally understood and yet my assertion is as true in agriculture as the other is in arithmetic. But if according to LaFontaine “a good advice is worth an eye in one's hand,” let the farmers believe me, let them endeavour to spare as much as possible their fodder in order to have on hand at the time of hay making enough of old hay to feed their cattle during at least two months, their new crop will have time to become dry and wholesome, and they will by that prevent many diseases and losses.

We have now had a rough sketch of the reason WHY hay is wanted and HOW it must be prepared in order to be wholesome; the WHEN and WHERE have but little or nothing to do here and will find their place in another article.—Let us then say a word about new oats. Oats are generally out before they arrive at a complete state of maturity. This custom has for object to