

If it is impossible to get help, the hay loader will be found most useful. If help can be secured, the loader may be dispensed with. For unloading, no hay barn or loft should be without a track for the horse fork (a wooden track is much preferable to iron).

Have used hay caps. They proved to be far too much trouble for all the good they were. The wind would blow them off as fast as you could put them on, and this usually occurs just before a rain storm. If the hay is coiled properly, you do not require them.

The point to emphasize is cutting at the right stage of maturity.

As to cost per ton, much depends on the weather, but it will average about as follows: Timothy, \$2.00; common red clover, \$2.50; alfalfa or lucerne, \$2.50 per ton.

JOHN FIXTER.

Macdonald College Farm, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, Quebec.

LOADER AND SIDE-DELIVERY RAKE.

There are about the same number of acres as other years, but the clover is not as large an acreage as other years. Clover is very good. Very little alfalfa grown, but what is grown is looking well, started to blossom. Every farmer ought to have from one to five acres of alfalfa on his farm all the time; if not for hay, then just for hog pasture.

The stage of cutting must be governed by the amount one has to cut. We have forty acres this year—all clover—so we have to start when it is about in full bloom. I think the right time is when a few of the heads are turning brown. When cut early, it is a little hard to cure.

The cutting and curing of hay has changed a great deal in the last three or four years, on account of labor being scarce. I will give you my plan of handling hay as near as possible. Commence cutting as early as possible in the morning. I do not think the dew on it makes much difference. You can ted it that afternoon, if desired, but I find it better to let it lie till the next morning, about 10 o'clock, especially if you are cutting in the early stages, up to when the heads are half ripe, then you can ted it the same day. After tedding it, the next morning, if weather is good, and hay not very heavy, you may be able to draw a little of it in; but it will be best to ted it again in the afternoon, and the next morning, as soon as the dew is off, put it up in windrows with side-delivery rake, then it is all ready to load with the hay loader and start drawing. Hay is not left in coils as it used to be; it is put in windrow with rake, and loaded with the hay loader, and unloaded with the hay fork or slings. The change came about by scarcity of labor, and the implements do just as well. Hay caps are not seen or used here. I think if a farmer was going to make good hay out of alfalfa, they would be all right.

I do not know the average cost per ton in making and storing hay. I have heard said that it cost about \$5.00 per ton for clover and timothy. I have never tried to figure it out, as we have no scales handy.

Elgin Co., Ont.

W. B. ROBERTS.

\$1.50 PER TON OR LESS.

From present indications, hay in this locality will be an average crop this year, and better than 1907. The new meadows are very much lacking in clover. The clover made a start in the spring, but the extreme drouth of the summer and fall of 1907 killed considerable of it; in fact, in some meadows very little is left.

Not much alfalfa is grown in this locality as yet. Haying will soon be upon us, and it is well to commence in good time, provided the weather is favorable, as the crop is much more valuable than when left until overripe, and, where there is considerable acreage to be gone over, it cannot all be done at once. As soon as the first clover blossoms turn brown, the clover is ready to cut.

My method is to mow in the morning, then, about eleven o'clock, start the tedder going; and, if it is good drying weather, the hay will be fit to store in the afternoon; but if too sappy, I let it lie until the following day. But should there be appearance of rain, I would coil, let stand a day, and store the following day.

I do not think coiling improves the hay to the extent of the extra labor involved in coiling, and especially when using the loader. We have always used the horse fork for unloading, and find it very satisfactory. It is important that the hay be evenly spread in the mow and well tramped. I have never used hay caps. In curing hay, it is well to keep in mind the old adage, "Make hay while the sun shines." Cure quickly and store, as too much sun will lessen its value quite as much as a shower of rain. With a good set of haying machinery, hay can be stored for \$1.50 per ton, or less.

Bruce Co., Ont.

J. L. TOLTON.

CLOVER SCARCE IN FRONTENAC COUNTY.

Your letter to hand. The acreage of meadows in Frontenac is probably less than in 1907. So much of the new seeding being plowed up will account for this. Meadows are very promising at date of writing, except on shallow land, which is showing the effects of the prevailing drouth. If we get a good rain within a week or ten days, it is likely that meadows will be good.

morning as soon as the dew is off, putting up in the evening before the dew falls, and turning out long enough to dry well before drawing in, is a usual method.

When the hay is heavy, the tedder is very useful, although there are not many of these implements. The same may be said of hay loaders. Unloading is done by the fork, sometimes slings, dumped in the mow by horse-power. We know nothing of hay caps. Hay was largely a failure in 1907. Prospects now are a great deal better.

As to the cost of making and storing hay, it is hard to speak definitely, as so much depends upon local conditions. It would be somewhere around \$1.50 to \$3.00 per ton.

FRONTENAC.

SWEAT HAY IN THE COIL.

The acreage of hay is smaller this year than in 1907 or previous years. The promise of meadows is greater, and they have more clover. Alfalfa is not much used in this locality.

I like to commence cutting clover before the heads turn brown, and timothy after the first blossom. When weather is favorable, I mow in the forenoon, start to ted about 10 a. m., and go over it a couple of times; start to rake and coil it between 3 and 4 p. m.; leave in coils for two nights. On the third morning, shake in rows and ted again. Start to draw in about 12 o'clock. I prefer the hay loader for scattered hay, as it is faster, and use a hay fork for unloading, being

careful to keep hay well spread in mow, for if left high in center, it is more apt to heat.

The most important controllable factors in the curing of good hay are to cut it before it gets woody, have it dry, but not so dry as to lose its leaves, before putting in the barn. Coiling and shaking are very important, so as to have it sweat in the coil, then it will not take as heavy a sweat in the mow.

The cost of making and storing hay depends a great deal on the weather.

Renfrew Co., Ont.

JAS. HY. BROMLEY.



Unloading Hay.



The Hay Loader.