

HAY CAPS.

We are indebted to G. W. Baker, Esq., of Ottawa, for the following letter on Hay Caps:—

ROUND HILL, NORTHAMPTON, MASS. }
June 25th, 1855. }

To the Editor of the Hampshire Gazette.

Sir,—

Permit me through your respectable journal, to advise my brother farmers to supply themselves with a most useful and economical article of covers to protect their hay against rain, which I have fully tested for the last five years to my entire satisfaction. They are made in the following manner, — viz: stout unbleached cotton sheeting should be purchased — (such as is made by the Lyman Mills Co. at Holyoke) from 36 to 40 inches wide — the latter is best — which should be cut in lengths of 40 to 45 inch. the latter is more useful. To make 50 of them, (and no extensive farmer should have less than 100.) would require about a gallon of linseed oil, which should be simmered with 4 pounds of beeswax and a quart of japan added after it is taken from the fire; — when cold the mixture should be about the thickness of lard in summer, if not more oil or wax should be added. The cloth should then be passed over, (to use a sea expression.) with the hand on one side only, and then dried in the sun.

When dry the females of the family will in a very short time sew into each corner a stone of the weight of about 5 to 6 ounces which completes the affair. I do not think I am extravagant in saying they will pay their cost in one season, and will last ten years if taken good care of. Large covers made in the same manner, to cover the whole of a load of hay, with heavier weights of course would be an admirable protection against sudden showers, but as I have not often made hay at a distance from home I have never required them. I keep three horses one is about thirty, one about eighteen, and one about fourteen years old. I have never known either of them to be sick for one hour. The heaves are unknown in my stable, which may fairly be attributed to the fact, that no musty hay ever enters my barn; and it is possible that the milk of cows may be as unwholesome if they are fed on badly cured hay, as if they were fed on what is called swill in the cities.

Since I wrote the above (now 2d July.) we have had one entire rainy day, when my neighbors hay was thoroughly soaked, while mine was as safely covered as if it had been packed away in the barn. My manager thinks that one third of the cost of some new covers just made, was paid for on that day. One word more on the subject of hay making, and I have done. It is always my practice to commence mowing when my grass is ready, without stopping "to count the clouds," and even if it sprinkled, if my men choose to take their scythes into the field I make no objection. The result has been after long experience, that I have had more than my share of good luck in this critical branch of business. It is said that our ancestors considered it a good rule to take an umbrella or great coat on their horseback journeys if the weather was fair, but if it was cloudy or rainy, they might do as the pleased.

Respectfully yours,
EDWARD CLARKE.

The Hon'ble Amasa Walker of the county of Worcester in this State thinks that twenty thousand dollars would have been saved during the late wet weather, to the farmers in that county alone, had they have been supplied with the hay caps referred to; Mr. Clarke is also of opinion, that the saving to the farmers in the west during the wet weather would have been incalculable, had they have had them to cover their wheat stacks.