

## Simple Remedies for Bloat and Colic.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

Alfalfa is a great feed, and here, in a soil that is naturally adapted to it, there is much of it planted. The lot owners (whose places run from 5 to 20 acres) plant all the headridges and fence corners with it for pasturage, tethering their cows on this for two hours, three times a day. Many of the fruit growers keep just one cow, and with this for pasturage they need pay out nothing for feed, and have all the milk, cream and butter-they need.

Like fire, however, "it is a good servant, but a bad master," and many of our neighbors have found out the bad master part. Three of them in one week each lost a cow from gas caused by an over-feed of alfalfa. This morning it was raining and I tethered our cow out for her usual two hours on the alfalfa, and had our scare.

It may help some others to know how I tackled it. I first turned the cow into the corral, and chased her around it for 10 or 15 minutes, but found it was not improving any, so I got a neighbor on the 'phone (that 'phone, by the way, has paid for itself time after time in just such emergencies) and asked his treatment. It was new to me and I tried it. He said to take a twig about an inch through, and a foot long, and tie it into a halter or bridle, and use it as a bit, and thus force her to keep her mouth open and gradually bring up the grass. Another neighbor happened along just at the time, and he suggested soda, so I dissolved half a cup in warm water. There was a fine chance with the cow's mouth held open by the bit, and I tipped her head up and dumped the soda water down. Instead of the twig I just took a bridle that I had, with a very large rubber bit, that I had used for training a colt, and it worked as well as the stick could have done.

Whether it was the soda, or the bit that did the work, I can't say positively, though I am inclined to think it was the bit, from the fact that I put it in her mouth before I went for the soda. I don't see how the soda could have acted so quickly; something certainly did, for in a few minutes we could see her come right back to normal.

Later I found out that another man had a cow that they gave up as gone, and went away and left her, but before leaving, one of them had heard of this bit business, and he tied a chip in her mouth. Upon coming back later she was getting better, and finally she got up.

Of course these two cases are not conclusive evidence, as they were tried along with other treatment, and it may be that it merely assisted, or it may be that the other treatment of drenches and exercise merely assisted the bit.

As to the merits of soda as a drench, there may be some question, because, while it might neutralize the gas formed by alfalfa, it is as likely to generate another gas that might be as harmful. In the case of our cow, if that was the case, the bit did a double job, for she got rid of all the gas there was, and in that case we'll have to cheer for the bit, and give it double credit.

While on this subject I might mention a case of colic that we had with an in-foal mare. We were out for dinner at a neighbor's, and put the mare in a stall where some oat hay had been left. We had been feeding her on alfalfa, and the sudden change caused an acute attack of colic. We took her out and let her roll all she wanted to till we got some hot water on, and then gave her a drench. We were not a little puzzled to know what to do, as an in-foal mare must be handled with care. But we mixed up what we thought would be a harmless dose, but still healing and ought to give relief. We took 1 lb. of ginger in about a quart of hot milk. Put a blanket on the mare to keep her warm, and walked her up and down the yard;—in about ten minutes she was all right again. I can't say whether this is a scientifically correct treatment, but it evidently did the work.

Perhaps some of "The Farmer's Advocate" readers may have a more reliable cure, and still would not be liable to cause an abortion. There are plenty of colic cures, but few take into account the pregnant mares, and it is no small problem, yet one must act quickly, but avoid many of the drugs we know would work in ordinary cases. I am merely giving this as an instance where, virtually, it was heat that did the work, but perhaps you may feel that a treatment with a little more "zip" in it is necessary in many cases.

B. C.

WALTER M. WRIGHT.

## FARM.

### It is Time to Start Haying.

Since the hard frosts which have occurred during the recent weeks and the comparative dry weather which prevailed for some time over a large section of Ontario, reports have come to hand that the hay crop is not going to be as heavy as was formerly expected. Hay is among the most important crops grown on most general farms of the country, and anything which points to a shortage should mean greater precautions and better methods in handling the crop and putting it in the barn. Clover is likely to be rather short and the old meadows, largely composed of

which are more frequent as a general thing late in June than they are on in July. Some delay cutting on this account, but one of the most successful farmers we have ever known, and one who has made many tons of choice hay each year remarked on a certain occasion that he never waited on weather to do anything. Some of his hay got wet but it was all cut at the proper time, and in the end he believes he was the gainer.

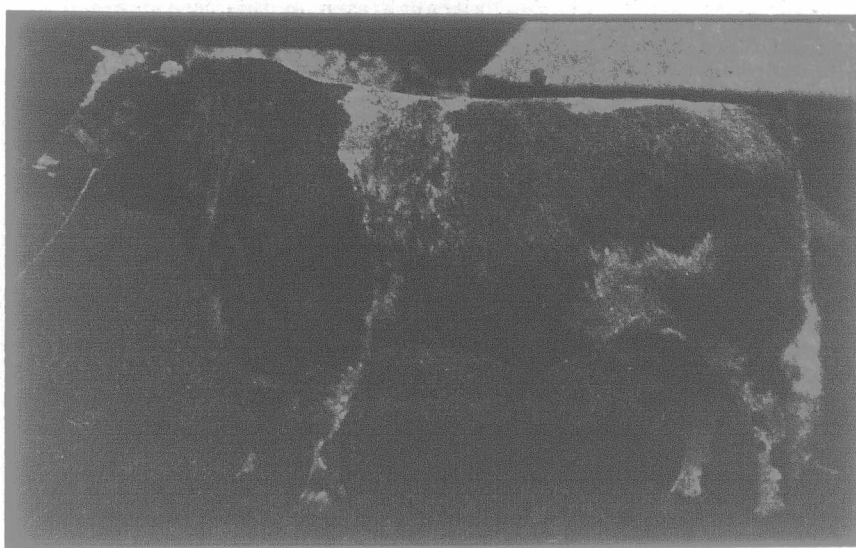
There was a time when the coming of haying was dreaded on the farm. In those days timothy was the main crop and it grew long and coarse, and had to be handled by hand from the grass stage to the hay loft. Times have changed. The mowing machine makes cutting a very short job; the tedder facilitates curing; the side-delivery rake and the loader do their part in getting the hay on to the wagon; and the hay fork and slings accomplish all the tugging part of placing the hay safely in the mow. These labor-saving devices have done away with all the drudgery of hay making.

The tedder is used to best advantage in heavy crops, especially of clover, and to kick the water out of any hay which may have received a heavy rain after being cut. For making hay fast nothing equals the tedder. Some practice cutting a strip of hay early in the morning, tedding it two or three times during the day, and rake up toward evening. This hay is usually ready to draw the next day soon after the dew is off.

Where the hay-tedder is used no coiling up is done unless bad weather threatens and the hay cannot be gotten into the barn before rain is likely to fall. With the loader it is, by many, considered practically essential to have a side-delivery rake, but where great care is practiced the old dump rake may be used and the wind-rows are kept small. It is not so difficult to do this where the crop is rather light. The side-delivery rake is claimed by some to be almost as valuable as a tedder in shaking up the swath, allowing the air to do its work in drying the hay. Where the loader is not in general use it is by many considered advisable to coil the hay, and let it stand a day or so before drawing. This undoubtedly makes the best hay possible and with very little lost time from the coiling, because there is so much gained in the time taken to pitch the hay on to the wagon. Some, where two pitchers are available, do the coiling with the dump rake, pulling the wind-rows into large piles. This works out all right where two men are available to pitch the hay, but where one man must do the work it makes rather strenuous labor for him, pulling the wads apart. Where this is practiced it is not advisable to pull too many rakesful together. The smaller the dumps the easier the hay is handled, and raking in this way saves a good deal of gathering up.

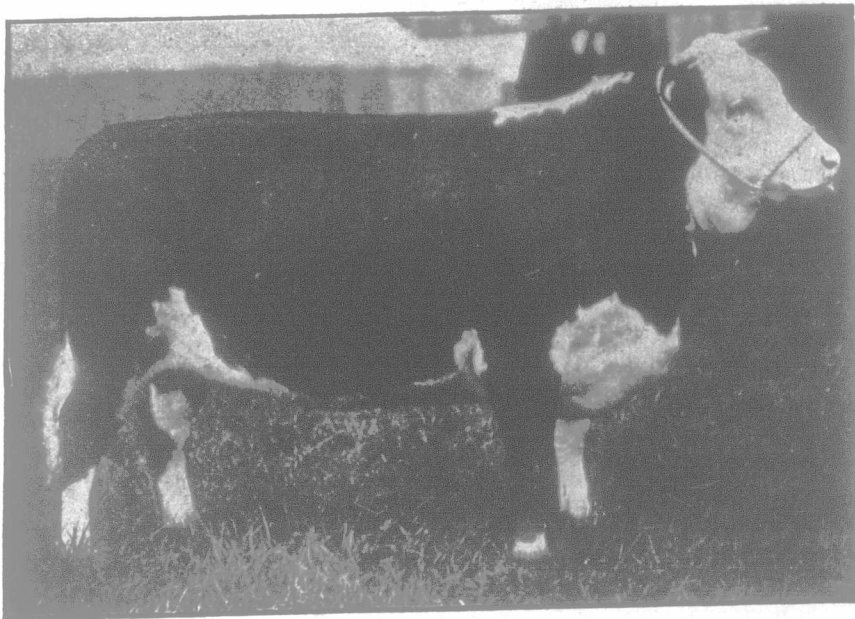
Hay forks and slings are now so common that no description is necessary. Where short slings are used or where the hay fork is operated it is well to build the load in sections. Build half the rack up and then the other half. This makes the load come off much more easily, and it does not bind nearly so much. In connection with loaders there is a new home-made device being used by some in the form of a divided rack, half of which is so constructed that it rolls back and forward, making it very handy to put on the entire load with the loader. The movable section is loaded and pulled up to the front of the rack forming the front half of the load, then the back half is built up. By using this, one man on the load, if he works hard, is sufficient, besides, of course, a boy to drive the team. It saves a man on the wagon, and this means considerable to the average farmer.

We have never seen figures from practical farmers giving an idea of what it costs to produce hay. If any of our readers can give this in-



Gainford Royal Champion.  
Champion at the Bath and West.

timothy, were even harder hit by the frost than were the new seeds. A lighter crop of clover has some advantages. It is not so difficult to make good hay from it as from a very heavy stand where it is necessary to use the tedder frequently, and even then a part of the crop is often not very well cured. There is a tendency however, when a crop is backward, short and not likely to give a heavy yield to delay cutting too long. True, considerable growth is made after the clover commences to bloom, but if left until the bloom is all gone the feeding value of the crop is impaired and a loss sustained. When grains and feeds containing a high percentage of protein material are so high in price, it is very important that all the protein possible be saved



Hereford Heifer, Stanway Gem.  
A champion in England.

in the hay crop to go into the barn and be available for stock next winter.

As a general thing with the clover crop it is advisable to cut early. Watch the field carefully, and when the crop seems to be just about full bloom cutting should be started. By the time it is finished and the hay housed it will be plenty far advanced. Alfalfa, of course, should be cut before very much bloom appears, and just when new shoots start out at the base of the plants. Cut too early it is very sappy and difficult to cure. Timothy is more easily cured than any of the clovers. Successful growers cut timothy just after the first bloom has fallen.

Many do not like to start haying too early, because, in the experience of those who have farmed for many years, it has been found that very often early-cut fields are caught with rains,