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Corn fodder

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CORN FODDER.

R. P. SPEER.

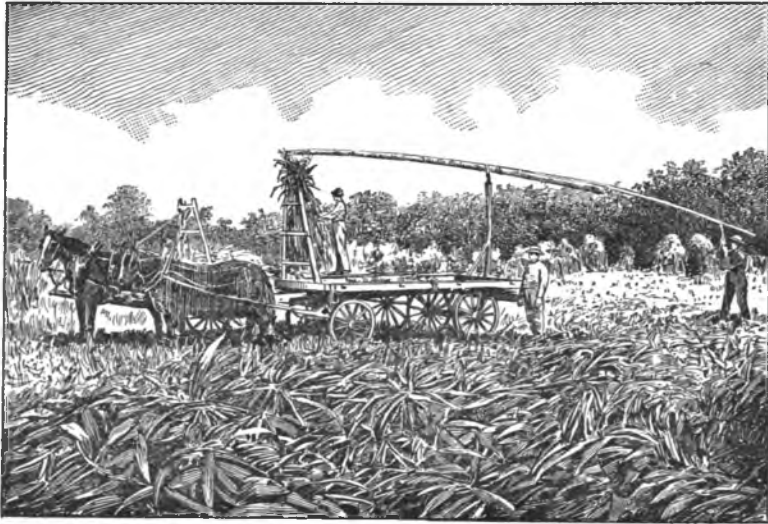
To save poor rusted timothy hay, and let better fodder go to waste in the corn fields, has always been the rule in the west. Here are a few facts which are worth considering. If a corn crop is cut when the ears are well dented, (nearly ripe) the fodder will contain digestible nutrients per ton as follows : Albuminoids 66 pounds ; Carbohydrates 868 pounds, and fat 20 pounds. To cut it earlier, would cause it to be less nutritious.

On a preceding page of this bulletin we stated, that digestible albuminoids and fats were worth 3.343 cents per pound, and that carbohydrates were worth 0.6 cents per pound in Iowa. Therefore, a little figuring will show, that a ton of good corn fodder is worth \$8.08 or \$16.16 per acre, as average corn fields in Iowa yield two tons of field dried fodder per acre. In former years, the average yield of hay from timothy meadows has not exceeded one and one half tons per acre. The digestible nutrients in one ton of good timothy hay are as follows : Albuminoids 73.4 pounds ; carbohydrates 825 pounds, and fat 20.6 pounds ; therefore a ton of timothy hay is worth \$8.08 per ton, or \$12.12 per acre. We find that there is no difference between the values of a ton of good timothy hay and a ton of corn fodder ; but on account of the greater yield of the latter, an acre of corn fodder is worth \$4.04 more than the hay from an acre of timothy.

We should also consider the facts, that corn is well adapted to our climate and not liable to suffer from fungous diseases ; while timothy crops are injured frequently by rust. Like timothy hay, corn fodder has a wide nutritive ratio and should be fed with wheat bran, oil cake or something which is rich in albuminoids.

That it is very hard work to move corn fodder from the fields to the barns or stacks, is the principal excuse which is offered for allowing it to be wasted. As mechanics make heavy work lighter very frequently by using levers or dericks, can't we make the hauling of our heavy corn fodder lighter

also by imitating them. A picture of a very cheap, simple and practical contrivance for loading and unloading corn fodder will be found below.



Fasten a piece of timber four by six inches across the hind end of a hay rack with four bolts. Through the center of this cross-piece make a two by four inch mortise, in which insert the tenon of a four by four inch post six and one half or seven feet long, which should be braced on each side and in front.

Bore an inch hole in the top of the post ten inches deep. Get your blacksmith to make a contrivance similar to the row-lock of a boat, or to a clevis welded at the middle of its closed end to the end of a round iron a little less than one inch in diameter and twelve inches long, which should have a shoulder ten inches from its lower end projecting one half of an inch to rest on the top of the post. From the projection to the holes for the clevis pin should be ten or twelve inches. Then get a strong four by six piece of timber or a seasoned oak pole from the woods twenty feet long and bore a hole through it eleven or twelve feet from the front end for the "clevis pin." Bolt or spike a strong two by four inch stud on the top of the sweep, so that it will increase the length of its hind end eight feet or more for the purpose of giving sufficient leverage to raise a shock of one hundred hills of

corn easily. The sweep should be adjusted by weights in front of the post, so that the front end will be a little heavier than the hind end. Fasten ten feet of rope to the hind end, and also a rope with a small hook on its lower end, to the front end of the sweep with a loop, so that it can be moved backwards or forwards in loading. After throwing the forward rope over a shock of corn and placing the hook over the rope, it should be drawn tightly around it before an attempt is made to raise the shock. With this machine, a man and two sixteen year old boys can load a wagon heavily with corn shocks of reasonable sizes in ten minutes.

It can also be used for loading green ensilage fodder by throwing bunches of the fodder on ropes with loops in both ends. It is very easy to load a second wagon alongside of the one to which the sweep is attached, and if the shocks are well tied with binding twine, it is easy also to unload them on stacks of reasonable highth or in the barn. All that is necessary to make the work light and rapid, is a post of sufficient highth; sufficient leverage, and a little practice. I have such a contrivance, and I will not carry corn fodder up a plank hereafter.

CORRECTION.

An error appears on page 390 of this Bulletin in giving the Committee of the College Board of Trustees on Experiment Station. It should read:

HON. S. P. YEOMANS.

HON. EUGENE SECOR.

HON. C. M. DUNBAR.