

STACKING WHEAT TO REDUCE COST

Efficient Methods of Harvesting
Materially Lessen Expense
of Production.

BUNDLE WAGONS ARE USEFUL

Western Methods of Transportation
Save Time and Labor—Sweating
Process Improves Color and
Test Weight of Grain.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The acreage covered per day by a given crew in stacking wheat depends upon the yield, distance hauled, size of loads and methods used.

For example, two men and four horses with either one or two of the bundle wagons which are commonly found in the wheat-growing sections of the Northwest, where both men pitch and no one is required on the load, will be able to stack more wheat, other things being equal, than will two men following the usual practice in the East of one pitching while the other man loads. The wagons used in the two cases are usually very different, the Western "bundle wagon" being especially built for use in the manner above mentioned, whereas with the type of wagon usually found in the East it would be impossible to haul a very large load in this way, because of the difficulty of putting many bundles on such a wagon in such a way that they would carry well. Although the loads hauled on the Western bundle wagons do not contain quite so many bundles as do those in the East when loaded by hand, they are put on in less time and with one-half the man labor, which more than offsets this objection.

Most Efficient Crew.

This combination is probably the most efficient crew which can be used in stacking wheat, provided the haul is not too long. It is especially recommended for consideration by Eastern wheat growers, as in many cases it would be an easy matter to place a temporary rack on other wagons, thus making them well suited for use in the manner described. The adoption of this method would materially reduce the cost of stacking.

Stacking Improves Quality of Wheat.

Where stacking is properly done the grain is better protected in stacks than in shocks. In wet seasons or when thrashing cannot be done soon after cutting, the importance of this protection is increased. A sweating process also takes place in the stack, which improves to some extent the color, condition and test weight of the grain and its milling and baking qualities. The improvement may be sufficient to obtain a better market grade, with resulting higher price when sold. A similar sweating process apparently may take place in shock-thrashed wheat after being placed in the bin, but to take advantage of this the farmer must have storage room for his thrashed grain and must also get it thrashed from the shock while it is in as good condition as when placed in the stack.

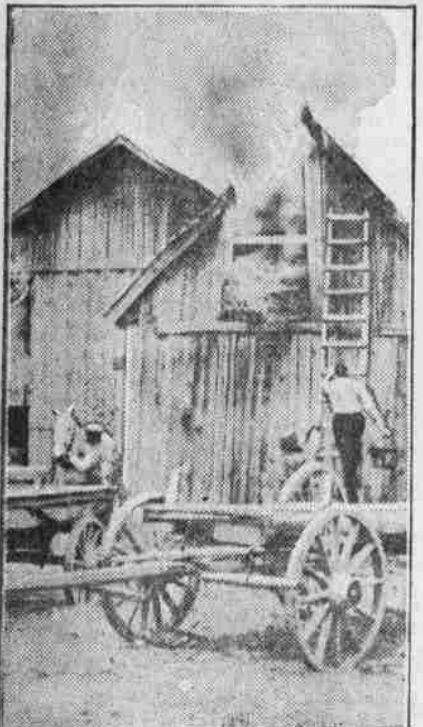
GUARD AGAINST FIRE IN HAY

Spontaneous Ignition May Result by
Storing Improperly Cured Alfalfa or Clover.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

A well-filled mow or a big stack of hay, symbol ordinarily of happy prosperity, may contain within it the lurking spirit of a fire that will sweep a farmstead.

Many destructive blazes have been caused by a spontaneous ignition of hay, especially clover and alfalfa. The first cutting of the latter seems to be most dangerous. If hay of this kind has rain or dew on it or if the stacks



Fire Due to Spontaneous Ignition.

are not cured thoroughly, the moisture will cause fermentation which may produce sufficient heat to start a fire. The combustion, however, cannot continue long without oxygen and may cease without coming to the surface. Its presence can be detected by a peculiar sooty odor or by smoke irritating to the eyes.

DAIRY THE

PLAN TO MAKE GOOD BUTTER

Quality Is Improved If Standard Methods and Care Are Practiced by Farmer.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The butter made on the farms of the United States may be materially improved in quality in most cases, if standard methods are employed and greater care is exercised in carrying out the necessary details. The department gives the following outline of the essential steps to be taken in making good farm butter:

1. Produce clean milk and cream. Cool the cream immediately after it comes from the separator. Clean and sterilize all utensils.
2. Ripen or sour the cream at from 45 degrees to 75 degrees F. until mildly sour. Always use a thermometer in order to know that the right temperature is reached.
3. Cool the cream to churning temperature or below and hold at that temperature for at least two hours before churning.
4. Use a churning temperature—usually between 52 degrees and 66 degrees F.—that will require 30 or 40 minutes to obtain butter.
5. Clean and scald the churn, then half fill it with cold water and revolve until churn is thoroughly cooled, after which empty the water.
6. Pour the cream into the churn through a strainer.
7. Add butter color—from 20 to 35 drops to a gallon of cream—except late in the spring and early in the summer.
8. Put the cover on tight; revolve the churn several times; stop with bottom up and remove stopper to permit escape of gas; repeat until no more gas forms.
9. Continue churning until butter granules are formed the size of grains of wheat.
10. Draw off the buttermilk through the hole at the bottom of the churn, using a strainer to catch particles of butter. When the buttermilk has drained out, replace the cork.
11. Prepare twice as much wash water as there is buttermilk, and at about the same temperature. Use the thermometer; do not guess at temperatures. Put one-half the water into the churn with the butter.
12. Replace the cover and revolve the churn rapidly a few times, then draw off the water. Repeat the washing with the remainder of the water.
13. The butter should still be in granular form when the washing is completed.
14. Weigh the butter.
15. Place the butter on the worker and add salt at the rate of three-quarters of an ounce to a pound of butter.
16. Work the butter until the salt is dissolved and evenly distributed. Do not overwork.
17. Pack in any convenient form for home use or make into one-pound



Drawing Off Buttermilk.

prints for market, wrapping the butter in white parchment paper and enclosing in a paraffined carton.

18. Clean the churn and all butter-making utensils.

NEAT PACKAGES FOR BUTTER

One-Pound Print Is Most Desirable, as It Presents More Attractive Appearance.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

For home use butter is frequently packed in glazed earthenware crocks, which are very satisfactory and convenient receptacles for butter on the farm. If the glazing is imperfect, however, the crock absorbs butter and soon becomes insalutary.

For market the rectangular one-pound print is the most desirable form. It presents a more attractive appearance than the crock or "country roll," is more convenient and easily handled, and can be inserted into a carton which not only protects the butter but also adds greatly to the appearance of the package. To make prints, the printer is pressed upon the butter on the table until it is completely filled, the surplus is then scraped off with the paddle and the print pressed out on parchment wrapping paper.

CURING HAY CROP IN COCK IS BEST

Method Now Generally Practiced
Where Best Quality of
Legume Is Desired.

EXTRA LABOR IS REQUIRED

Found Necessary to Get Rid of Water
in Plant Evenly—Correct Way to
Build Cock When Working
With Green Hay.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

One of the best methods of curing hay is to cure in the cock. This method is not generally practiced except in regions where unfavorable weather is the rule rather than the exception, or when the best quality of legume hay is desired. Throughout the middle West, where hay loaders are used, hay is not cocked because of the extra labor required and the inability to handle cocked hay with the hay loader.

It has been shown that it is necessary to get rid of the water in the plant evenly. On a sunny day hay must be raked after it has been in the swath a certain length of time, or the leaves will become dried out and lose color. When it is raked into the windrow a smaller proportion of the hay is exposed to the action of the sun's rays. After remaining in the windrow, where further curing is done, the time is reached when it becomes necessary to remove the hay in order to retain a good color and aroma.

Cure Hay in Cocks.

When this stage is reached the next thing to do is to put the hay into the cock, where a still smaller proportion of the hay will be exposed to the sun. The curing process is not stopped when hay is cocked, but goes on less rapidly than when in the windrow and much more slowly than when in the swath. The hay in the cock continues to lose its moisture slowly until it is cured out sufficiently to be baled or put into the stack or barn. The time required for curing will depend upon the moisture content when cocked, the amount of hay put into the cock, and also upon weather conditions.

Under ordinary conditions hay will cure in the cock in from three days to a week. Hay cocked too "green" will cause heating. The larger the cock the more danger there is of heating when undercured hay is cocked. Hay is put into cocks containing from 75 to 100 pounds of cured hay. About 100 pounds is the size most commonly used in many sections.

Cloudy and rainy weather not only retards curing but may cause heating if the rain enters the cock. When



Curing Hay in the Cock Under Caps—When Weather Conditions Make It Necessary to Cure Hay in the Cock It Is Advisable to Use Hay Caps.

cocked hay shows danger of becoming too hot it will be necessary to open the cock and scatter the hay out until it has lost enough moisture to be re-cocked.

Hay can be put in small cocks greener than in large ones. Some farmers take hay from the windrow and make very small bunches, each containing about three forkfuls of hay, before the hay is in condition to be put into a regular sized cock.

How to Cock Hay.

There are two ways to make a hay cock. One is to roll up the hay in the windrow into a rather loose cock or bunch, or to round up (cock) bunches of hay that have been bunched with a sulky or push rake, after the hay is almost cured. The bulk of the hay in this kind of a cock is not handled, being left rolled up and tangled from the action of the rake. The edges are pulled out with a pitchfork and put on top of the cock. Such cocks are subject to considerable settling, and flatten out and do not shed rain. This practice is suitable for curing in good weather, as a man can handle more than twice as much hay as when cocking the other way. It is a waste of time, however, to cock hay in this manner if it is to be exposed to rain, unless hay caps are used; for the rain will wet and spoil the hay.

The best and correct way to build a cock, when working with fairly green hay, is to take the hay, a forkful at a time, and spread it out flat. Care should be taken to build a good, symmetrical cock, in the same manner as a stack is built. The top should come to a sharp peak, and, when the last forkful is on the sides, should be raked downwards so that the stems will cause rain to run off and away from the center of the cock. Cocks built in this manner will shed considerably more rain than when most of the hay is rolled up or bunched. Well-cocked hay covered with caps can, if necessary, remain in the field over a week.

"OVER THE TOP"

By An American Arthur Guy Empey
Soldier Who Went Machine Gunner, Serving in France

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WAR IS CRUMBLING THE WALL OF CASTE THAT HAS STOOD SO LONG IN BRITISH ARMY.

Synopsis.—Fired by the sinking of the Lusitania, with the loss of American lives, Arthur Guy Empey, an American living in Jersey City, goes to England and enlists as a private in the British army. After a short experience as a recruiting officer in London, he is sent to training quarters in France, where he first hears the sound of big guns and makes the acquaintance of "cooties." After a brief period of training Empey's company is sent into the front-line trenches, where he takes his first turn on the fire step while the bullets whiz overhead. Empey learns, as comrade fails, that death lurks always in the trenches. Chaplain distinguishes himself by rescuing wounded men under hot fire. With pick and shovel Empey has experience as a trench digger in No Man's Land. Exciting experience on listening post duty. Exciting work on observation post duty. Back in rest billets Empey writes and stages a successful play.

CHAPTER XIX—Continued.

—15—

The game is honest and quite enjoyable. Sometimes you have fourteen numbers on your card covered and you are waiting for the fifteenth to be called. In an imploring voice you call out, "Come on, Watkins, chum, I'm sweating on 'Kelly's Eye.'"

Watkins generally replies, "Well, keep out of a draft, you'll catch cold."

Another game is "Pontoon," played with cards; it is the same as our "Black Jack" or "Twenty-one."

A card game called "Brag" is also popular. Using a casino deck, the dealer deals each player three cards. It is similar to our poker, except for the fact that you only use three cards and cannot draw. The deck is never shuffled until a man shows three of a kind or a "prile" as it is called. The value of the hands are, high card, a pair, a run, a flush or three of a kind or "prile." The limit is generally a penny, so it is hard to win a fortune.

The next in popularity is a card game called "Nap." It is well named. Every time I played it I went to sleep.

Whist and solo whist are played by the highbrows of the company.

When the gamblers tire of all other games they try "Banker and Broker."

I spent a week trying to teach some of the Tommies how to play poker, but because I won thirty-five francs they declared that they didn't "fawney" the game.

Tommy plays few card games; the general run never heard of poker, euchre, seven up, or pinochle. They have a game similar to pinochle called "Royal Bezique," but few know how to play it.

Generally there are two decks of cards in a section, and in a short time they are so dog-eared and greasy, you can hardly tell the ace of spades from the ace of hearts. The owners of these decks sometimes condescend to lend them after much coaxing.

So you see, Mr. Atkins has his fun mixed in with his hardships and, contrary to popular belief, the rank and file of the British army in the trenches is one big happy family. Now in Virginia, at school, I was fed on old McGuffey's primary reader, which gave me an opinion of an Englishman about equal to a '76 Minute Man's backed up by a Sinn Féiner's. But I found Tommy to be the best of mates and a gentleman through and through. He never thinks of knocking his officers. If one makes a costly mistake and Tommy pays with his blood, there is no general condemnation of the officer. He is just pitted. It is exactly the same as it was with the Light Brigade at Balaklava, to say nothing of Gallipoli, Neuve Chapelle and Loos. Personally I remember a little incident where twenty of us were sent on a trench raid, only two of us returning, but I will tell this story later on.

I said it was a big happy family, and so it is, but as in all happy families, there are servants, so in the British army there are also servants, officers' servants, or "O. S." as they are termed. In the American army the common name for them is "dog robbers." From a controversy in the English papers, Winston Churchill made the statement, as far as I can remember, that the officers' servants in the British forces totaled nearly two hundred thousand. He claimed that this removed two hundred thousand exceptionally good and well-trained fighters from the actual firing line, claiming that the officers, when selecting a man for servant's duty, generally picked the man who had been out the longest and knew the ropes.

But from my observation I find that a large percentage of the servants do go over the top, but behind the lines they very seldom engage in digging parties, fatigues, parades or drills. This work is as necessary as actually engaging in an attack, therefore I think it would be safe to say that the all-round work of the two hundred thousand is about equal to fifty thousand men who are on straight military duties. In numerous instances, officers' servants hold the rank of lance-corporals and they assume the same duties and authority of a butler, the one stripe giving him precedence over the other servants.

There are lots of amusing stories told of "O. S."

One day one of our majors went into the servants' billet and commenced "blinding" at them, saying that his horse had no straw and that he personally knew that straw had been issued for this purpose. He called the lance-corporal to account. The corporal answered, "Blime me, sir, the straw was issued, but there wasn't enough left over from the servants' beds; in fact, we had to use some of the 'ay' to 'elp out, sir.'"

It is needless to say that the servants dispensed with their soft beds that particular night.

Nevertheless it is not the fault of the individual officer, it is just the survival of a quaint old English custom. You know an Englishman cannot be changed in a day.

But the average English officer is a good sport. He will sit on a fire step and listen respectfully to Private Jones' theory of the way the war should be conducted. This war is gradually crumbling the once insurmountable wall of caste.

You would be convinced of this if you could see King George go among his men on an inspecting tour under fire, or pause before a little wooden cross in some shell-tossed field with tears in his eyes as he reads the inscription. And a little later perhaps bend over a wounded man on a stretcher, patting him on the head.



Meeting a Gas and Infantry Attack.

More than once in a hospital I seen a titled Red Cross nurse fed and carrying for a wounded soldier perhaps the one who in civil life delivered the coal at her back door, day she does not shrink from light his flag or even washing his body.

Tommy admires Albert of Belgium cause he is not a pusher of men leads them. With him it's not a of "take that trench," it is "come and we will take it."

It is amusing to notice the different characteristics of the Irish, Scotch, English soldiers. The Irish and Scotch are very impetuous, especially when comes to bayonet fighting, while Englishman, though a trifle slow, thoroughly does his bit; he is methodical and has the grip of a dog on a captured position. He is slower to think; that is the reason he never knows when he is licked.

Twenty minutes before going to the top the English Tommy will at the fire step and thoroughly examine the mechanism of his rifle to see that it is in working order and will fire eagerly. After this examination he is satisfied and ready to meet the Boche.

But the Irishman or Scotchman on the fire step, his rifle with bayonet fixed between his knees, the butt which perhaps is sinking into the ground—the bolt couldn't be opened with team of horses it is so rusty—but splits on his sleeve and slowly pulls his bayonet; when this is done he is ready to argue with Fritz.

It is not necessary to mention the colonials (the Canadians, Australians and New Zealanders), the whole world knows what they have done for England.

The Australian and New Zealand is termed the "Anzac," taking the name from the first letters of their official designation, Australian and New Zealand army corps.

Tommy divides the German army into three classes according to their fighting abilities. They rank as follows: Prussians, Bavarians and Saxons.

When up against a Prussian regiment it is a case of keep your nape below the parapet and duck. A bang bang all the time and a war is on. The Bavarians are little better, but the Saxons are fairly good sports and willing occasionally to behave as gentlemen and take it easy, but you can't trust any of them overlong.

At one point of the line the trenches were about thirty-two yards apart. This sounds horrible, but in fact it was easy, because neither side could shell the enemy's front-line trench for fear shells would drop into their own. The eliminated artillery fire.

In these trenches when up against the Prussians and Bavarians, Tommy had a hot time of it, but when the Saxons "took over" it was a picnic; they would yell across that they were Saxons and would not fire. Both sides would sit on the parapet and carry on a conversation. This generally consisted of Tommy telling them how much he loved the kaiser, while the Saxons informed Tommy that King George was a particular friend of theirs and hoped that he was doing nicely.

When the Saxons were to be relieved by Prussians or Bavarians, they would yell this information across No Man's Land and Tommy would immediately tumble into his trench and keep his head down.

If an English regiment was to be relieved by the wild Irish, Tommy would tell the Saxons, and immediately a volley of "Donner und Blitzen" could be heard and it was Fritz's turn to get a crack in his back from stooping, and the people in Berlin would close their windows.

Usually when an Irishman takes over a trench, just before "stand down" in the morning, he sticks his rifle over the top, aimed in the direction of Berlin, and engages in what is known as the "mad minute." This consists of firing fifteen shots in a minute. He is not aiming at anything in particular—just sends over each shot with a prayer, hoping that one of his strays will get some poor unsuspecting Fritz in the napper hundreds of yards behind the lines. It generally does; that's the reason the Boches hate the man from Erin's Isle.

The Saxons, though better than the Prussians and Bavarians, have a nasty trait of treachery in their makeup.

Empey, questioning a German prisoner, finds he's from New York. The interesting interview is related in the next installment.

(TO BE CONTINUED.)

Theory May Yet Be Proved.

According to one theory, primitive man came to America by a land bridge from the tablelands of Asia, in search of new hunting grounds. "It is not to be inferred," says Professor Wislizenus, "that the new world native is a direct descendant of the present Asiatic Mongolian, for the differentiation is evidently remote." Is it not possible we shall find that it was the American type that diverged into strains that passed to Asia?—Chicago Examiner.