

Novel Method of Stacking Hay

A NOVEL method of stacking hay has been in use on a small farm in the Ashburton County for a number of years, and is giving great satisfaction. It depends upon the use of a tractor for hauling, and a large low trailer with broad wheels. Essentially, the system consists in loading the hay in the paddock on to a frame on the trailer, and then dropping the frame and hay together on a stand, releasing the trailer immediately for another removable stack. It is the quick method of dropping the load which



A side view illustrating the method of constructing the stand.



A front view showing the stack in position and the trailer ready to be removed.

In practice, the frame on the trailer is loaded from the windrow by two forkers (this would be ideally performed by a mechanical loader). When the limit of height for the forkers has been reached, the load is driven exactly centrally into the stand, rising as it goes the last yard or two, on to two strong planks, about 12in. x 4in., with a long gradual ramp sawn at the end of the approach, but square at the front end. The trailer wheels must be brought to the very end of these planks when the load is nearly in position over the stand, and there stopped. The overhanging bearers will

now be some inches above the posts, and this gap is filled up by inserting a sufficiently thick rail on each side. The whole outfit is now moved cautiously forward, and the trailer wheels drop down from the planks, leaving the load perched upon the stand. The stack is then topped off with a couple of drayloads of hay, and the process is repeated with the trailer and another frame.

The unloading is much easier to do than to describe. Actually, it is done by driving through the stand, with a minute's pause to insert the packing

makes the plan practical, as no jacking is done.

The trailer must have two very strong longitudinal runners, the top edges of which are clear above the tops of the wheels. In other words, the top is smooth, except for two blocks at the very front, and the trailer can thus slide out from under the frame quite easily. A sufficient number of frames must be ready to hold the whole crop, each frame on this farm holding about four tons of hay. A frame consists of four good cross-members (say, 7in. x 3in each and 10ft. long) carrying a rough framework of poles. These cross-bearers project about 1ft. outside the wheel hubs, and this overhang rests down on to the stationary stand when the trailer is dropped from under the loaded frame. The stand (one for each frame) consists of eight posts in two rows of four, corresponding exactly to the ends of the cross-bearers.

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