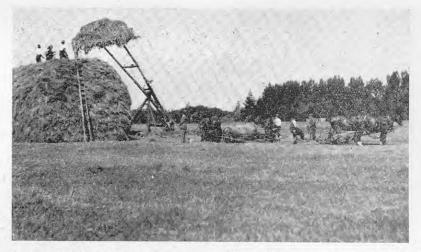
knife metal. Mowers should be oiled frequently, as oil makes the machine run easier and last longer.

## Mowing Practice

Considerable differences of opinion exist as to when is the best time of the day to cut hay. Some never cut when the grass is wet, others start mowing at any time, while some mow in the afternoon only. When large areas must be harvested, it is necessary to keep the mower going most of the day. Where the acreage is small it is customary to wait until the dew is off the grass. While this practice is desirable in some cases, in others, it is merely wasting valuable time and it should be followed only with careful judgment. The farmer should con-sider in the light of his own experience and that of his neighbours as to the earliest possible time in the morning after a heavy dew at which it is safe to start cutting under different conditions, considering the amount of moisture contained in the upper surface of the soil, whether a yield is light or heavy, the climatic conditions, and whether or not a tedder is to be All possible loss of valuable used. time, such as is entailed by having labour idle or employed at work which is less profitable and necessary than making hay, should be avoided.



Further, it is important to know how much hay to have down at one time. It is not good practice to have two or three times as much hay cut down as can be handled within a reasonable period. Loss of quality can be avoided by mowing only one day ahead of the stacking or baling; then if rain comes up, a minimum amount of hay will be damaged.

When two mowers are at work in one field, it is best for each teamster to lay off a "land" for himself and work independently. With two machines working one behind the other, if the slower team is in front, the second mower can travel only at the slow pace of the first mower. If the front mower has a breakdown, the following one is often stopped and remains idle while repairs are being made.

