



Making Hay in Unfavourable Weather

While farmers are doubtful about the merits of ensilage and the practical utility of stack cooling by the Neilson process, they should not overlook the fact that there is a way of making hay in unfavourable seasons, which is both safe and certain. We allude to the Hay Drying Machines invented by Mr Gibbs, of Gillwell Park, Essex. By these the grain is converted into hay of a superior quality, readily saleable at a good price in London and other markets, while the cost of the machine is more than half repaid in one season. Mr Fuller and Mr Wyndham of Dinton, in our county, have for some time past used these hay-dryers successfully and Mr Penruddocke, of Compton Park, has lately introduced one on his farm at Fyfield near Pewsey. The latter is one of the improved smaller sized machines – very efficient and in some respects superior to those of the larger make. In the eyes of a tenant farmer it has two chief advantages – it can be moved easily and its cost is considerably less than half that of the larger sized ones. It takes less fuel and less labour and steam power to work it. Like all hay-dryers, it requires attention, which the practical farmer is well able to bestow upon it. As the wet grass is made into hay by means of a hot blast, care must be taken that the heat is regulated so as not to scorch or set fire to the small quantity of hay on the machine at the time, or to pass it through in an unfinished state. We cannot but echo Mr Gibbs' advice to us, "Do not risk the loss of your crops by wet weather, but adopt a plan which will at least enable you to make hay and secure your crops with perfect safety and in half the usual time."

(Devizes and Wiltshire Gazette, 28th June, 1883)