Cold comfort for farmers

Dalesmen recall 1912 and all that

From our special correspondent, R. A. DONALDSON

REETH (Swaledale), Monday

The people of Swaledale have been delving into their memories for consolation for this deplorable summer and some have been recalling 1912, when many farmers in the Dales could not start haymaking until September.

It was in 1912 that a gale blew up on the day of Reeth Show—traditionally the first Wednesday in September—and tumbled down most of the marquees. It was only after that that the weather picked up and farmers were able to start grass cutting.

It is poor enough consolation, of course, too seek down the years to find one which was worse than this for frustrating weather. But, with things as they are, there is some comfort in the thought that they might have been worse.

Further setback

There is general agreement in the Dale that haymaking has been running about a month behind and heavy rain in the past few days has set it back still further.

There was a heavy downpour last night and today has been little better. For most of the time the valley has been filled with a soaking rain, pressed down by a pall of grey cloud which has rested on the hills.

On my way from Richmond to Reeth, I saw no activity in the fields, save for one man who was repairing a mower. On my way back, I found he was hedging.

There is work enough to do. While several fields have been cleared, there are some which have not even been entered, while in the remainder you may see hay which has laid in the swathe for days, hay which has been cocked, hay which has been piked and some which has reached the dutch barns, but which could not be forked in before the weather broke.

Uncertainty

How irritatingly uncertain the weather has been may be judged by fields here and there in which a start has been made on strewing cocked hay to dry, only for this work to be checked almost before it had started.

The man who was tinkering with the mower was in a field part of which had been cut almost a fortnight ago. It was brown and sodden after the heavy rain. Even given the best weather, it will need much work to get the crop gathered in.

I talked about this unhappy season with Mr. Edward Hird, who has farmed in Arkengathdale all his life. He had brought his wife into Reeth for the week's groceries, and, while she was shopping, I sat in his Land-Rover and listened to him.

Lucky man

HILL SIDE, ARKENGARTHDA

THOMAS ADDISON,

Having received instructions Mr. Fred Barningham, will Se Auction, on

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9,

The whole of his FARM STOCK comprising:—

20 HEAD of CHOICE CAT Red Cow, sd. July 15; Roan C Aug. 14; Roan Cow, in mil Cow, geld; Roan Heifer, sd. 22; 3 Roan and 2 Red F Heifers, 2 y.o.; 2 Red, 1 W 1 Black and White Heifer B. and A. Bullock Stirks; W. Bull Calves; 1 Red Bul Roan Heifer Calf, 4 to 6 m.

Roan General Purpose MA in all yokes.

2 Useful CUR DOGS.

POULTRY. — 25 R.I.R. Cross Pullets, started to year-old Hens; 2 Poultry sections; Feeders, Etc.

IMPLEMENTS. — Cou rubbers, in good ord Turner; S.H. Grasscut Rake; Hydraulic Swee Corr. Feed Trough; Mea

FURNITURE, Etc. — room Suite; Kitchen Gas Cooker, as new; P Lead Bowl and Stand; Milk Pails, and Sundr

HAY & EATAGE.— of Prime Hay, to ea with Buildings and Meadow and Pastur April 6th. May be s or in 2 lots.

Sale at 1

The Cattle are a all bred on the farm typical G.P. stamp worker.

Jesmond Hous Barnard Castle. P 238.