

feeding his Shropshires on rape, and that, as long as he keeps sheep, he will never be without it again." Four hundred to five hundred pounds of bonedust, costing \$7.50, and six pounds of seed, at 10 cents a pound, suffice for an acre. Land to be ploughed a fair depth, in the fall, harrowed and grubbed, till fine, in the spring, the seed sown broadcast and bush-harrowed or chain-harrowed in, and rolled last of all to finish with. Simple enough, is it not? And, yet, how few farmers will take the trouble to grow the crop. We still hold, as we held 20 years ago, that the outlying fields at the end of our long, narrow farms, will never be brought into good condition till this valuable plant has become one of the regular occupants of the province. No hoeing required, no expense of harvesting, and the land left after the sheep in the best possible order.

**Spring lambs.**—A well known butcher of Montreal bought, on Monday, February 3rd, four spring lambs, for which he paid \$28.00, an average of \$7.00 a piece! One of the four he sold to a butcher at Ottawa for \$10.00! Must pay, one would think; for two very fair tegs, as we should call the lambs of last year, can now be bought for the price that one of the four cost.

**Tasmanian apples,** of the finest quality, have been for some years exported to England, but we hear that a cargo, has been shipped to British Columbia, so that a very curious meeting has taken place on the Pacific Ocean: a cargo of apples on its voyage from Canada to Australasia met a cargo of apples on its voyage from Australasia to Canada!

**The influence of the moon** on the weather, which we have been asked to

touch upon, is a rather deep subject for the general reader, involving the use of a great many scientific terms. Suffice it to say, that whatever power the moon may exert upon the earth's atmosphere and the aqueous vapour suspended therein, is due to her position in what are called the *nodes*, or, in other words, to her movements about the ecliptic, upon her position relatively to the sun and the earth, and the coincident stage of solar activity.

**Top-dressing.**—The results of the experiments on manure, conducted by Mr. Shutt, at the Experiment farm at Ottawa, must by this time have convinced many a sceptic that the belief that, by exposing the manure to the influence of the sun and wind a large part of its valuable constituents must inevitably be dissipated, is not founded on reason, therefore, we shall take it for granted that the universal practice of England, and the frequent practice of all the best farmers in Northern Europe, are not erroneous, but founded on well established beneficial results which have been noted by farmers for many a series of crops, and have become part of a regular system of husbandry.

**What crops to be top-dressed.**—With us in the South-East of England, the sun has not so much power as it has here in Canada. Still it is warm enough during half the month of June, July, August, and the first half of September; quite hot enough, indeed, to dry up any amount of dung that is spread on the land: and, yet, the crops tell of its effects!

The principal crops that are top-dressed, with us, may be said to be three: permanent meadows and pastures; fall-wheat, sown after a non-manured crop; and young seeds; the usual rotation, in brief, being; roots, grain with grass-seeds, hay (2 crops), wheat. The roots would be dressed with half dung, half artificials, part of them fed off with sheep eating cake or grain, or both, the other half drawn into the yard for beasts. Where the sheep fed off the roots the young seeds of the 3rd limb of the rotation would not be top-dressed; but where mangels or carrots were grown, that are never fed off where they grow, the seeds are, we may say invariably, dunged in the winter of their first year, and we have seen, as a equal to this treatment, no less than three heavy crops of red-clover cut for hay in one summer, a superb crop of fall-wheat following in the next season.

The dung is carted on to the young seeds in the winter when the land is

**How to prepare the mizen.**—The dung used for top-dressing meadows should, as a general rule, when the farm is situated at distance from large towns and consequently not over well supplied with manure, be subjected to some sort of preparation. This is what we should recommend: let all the rough stuff, such as the cleaning out of ditches, the scrapings of the yards and court round the house, the refuse tops of swedes, carrots, &c., any bits of old mortar rubbish, &c., &c., be got together in a handy place, and laid down, in a regular form, square or oblong, about a foot to 18 inches deep. On to this layer cast the dung fresh from the yard, not forgetting to mix the fæces of the different sorts of animals together. Spread the dung level, breaking up any lumps, and when the heap is about two feet deep, make the horse and cart draw up on to the dung and unload on the part already delivered. Keep the sides neatly trimmed, and the mizen regularly built, so that shape and pressure may conduce to regularity of heat. When finished, the mizen should be about four feet high. Cover the top with at least 6 inches of the earth round the stance.

When the heap has stood for a few days—depending on the season—, it should be turned, not roughly or care-

**Smithfield Show.**—As noted in last issue of *The Farmer*, the champion of the Birmingham and Smithfield fat shows was Frederica, bred and fed by Queen Victoria. This score one more for the Scotch Shorthorn. The dam of Frederica was bred by Duthie, of Collynie, and her sire, Volunteer, was also a pure Cruickshank. The beasts next to the championship, both at Birmingham and London, were also sired by Ringleader, bred at Collynie, crossed on a polled Angus cow. It was only after a long discussion that the Queen's heifer at London won the championship from Lord Roseberry's polled Angus-Shorthorn, Fluffy, sired by Ringleader. But there is a second test at London which practically overrides the decisions of the show ring. The block test is meant to show which animal shows the finest carcass, lean meat of firm quality being the standard of merit. In this case a Scotch Highlander came 1st and the Galloways got all the rest of the money prizes. Prime Scotch, Shorthorn, Galloway, Polled Angus, West Highland and crosses about filled all the top line. The live championship for males went to a Hereford, but Sussex showed much better beef. In sheep, the Lincolns when killed, turned out worst, Leicesters next, then the other English breeds. At a year old they make good mutton, but at two years they are

much too fat and tallow. The Scotch took all the honours; Blackface 1st, Cheviot next, then the crosses. These breeds are naturally slower to mature and have in consequence a much better proportion of lean meat. The leanest and finest carcass of the lot weighed 130 lbs. (1)

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## LUCERNE.

Just found the following article on this crop in the *Eng. Ag. Gaz.* It is

not very different in its views from what we wrote above. And, again, from the same paper, in answer to correspondent:

**Top-dressing grass.**—If grass is top-dressed with dung in summer will any of its valuable constituents be lost before the grass is able to appropriate them?

**Ans.**—It is not probable that any portion of the valuable constituents of the dung will be lost, as the young grasses will appropriate them as they are liberated. The young grasses will need care and it would be well to dress them as often as possible with road-scrapings and other forms of "dirt."

**Lucerne.**—Two articles on the Cultivation of Lucerne in the new number of the Royal Agricultural Society's Journal recall attention to a subject of considerable importance to which we have alluded several times in the past. Dr. FREEM remarks, in his article on the cultivation of lucerne in England, that it is surprising that a crop possessed of such excellent credentials as a conservator of nitrogen and a resistor of drought is not cultivated

(1) Very good flavour the Black-faces, but not enough fat for a Southern Englishman. Ho.



HAMPSHIRE DOWN RAM LAMBS,

The property of Mr. Jas. Flower, Chilmark, England.—(From *Farming*.)

hard with frost and there is no danger of the land being cut up with the narrow wheels of the tumbrels, not by any means because there is any fear of doing the same job in summer.

**When done.**—It is in summer that the meadows within a reasonable distance from the great metropolis are top-dressed. Hundreds of carts may be seen every morning throughout the year returning, after having delivered their loads of hay, from the markets, loaded with dung that will be within an hour or two upset on the meadows, as soon as the hay is carried, say, about the second week in June. These hay-farms, at Uxbridge, Hounslow, Finchley, grow nothing else but hay—all permanent grass, the land is never ploughed, and the crops are always abundant, as, indeed, they ought to be, though they may vary a little according to the season.

Fall-wheat is sometimes top-dressed when, from paucity of dung, it has not been convenient to manure the previous crop; for instance, when it follows beans which have taken the place of clover in the rotation to avoid the too frequent recurrence of that very capricious plant.

lessly, but inside out, mixing the top and bottom layers of rubbish and earth together, and throwing the lumps, broken up, into the centre. In from ten days to a fortnight, the manure will be ready to be put on the land and, may be used whenever it is convenient to the farmer to undertake the work.

As for composts, we have no doubt of their utility; but we hardly think that where labour is so dear as it is here, it will pay to make them.

**Food and butter.**—On the question of the value of some sort of succulent food for butter production, C. E. Chapman stated in a New York Farm Institute that he had tested sixty herds and had found a *higher per cent of butter fat and more milk in every case where succulent food in the form of either roots or ensilage was fed.*—*Hourd.*

**The "block-test."**—Kind of the writer of the following to allow that: "at a year old the English sheep make good mutton." The Sussex beast was always a great favourite with South country butchers.