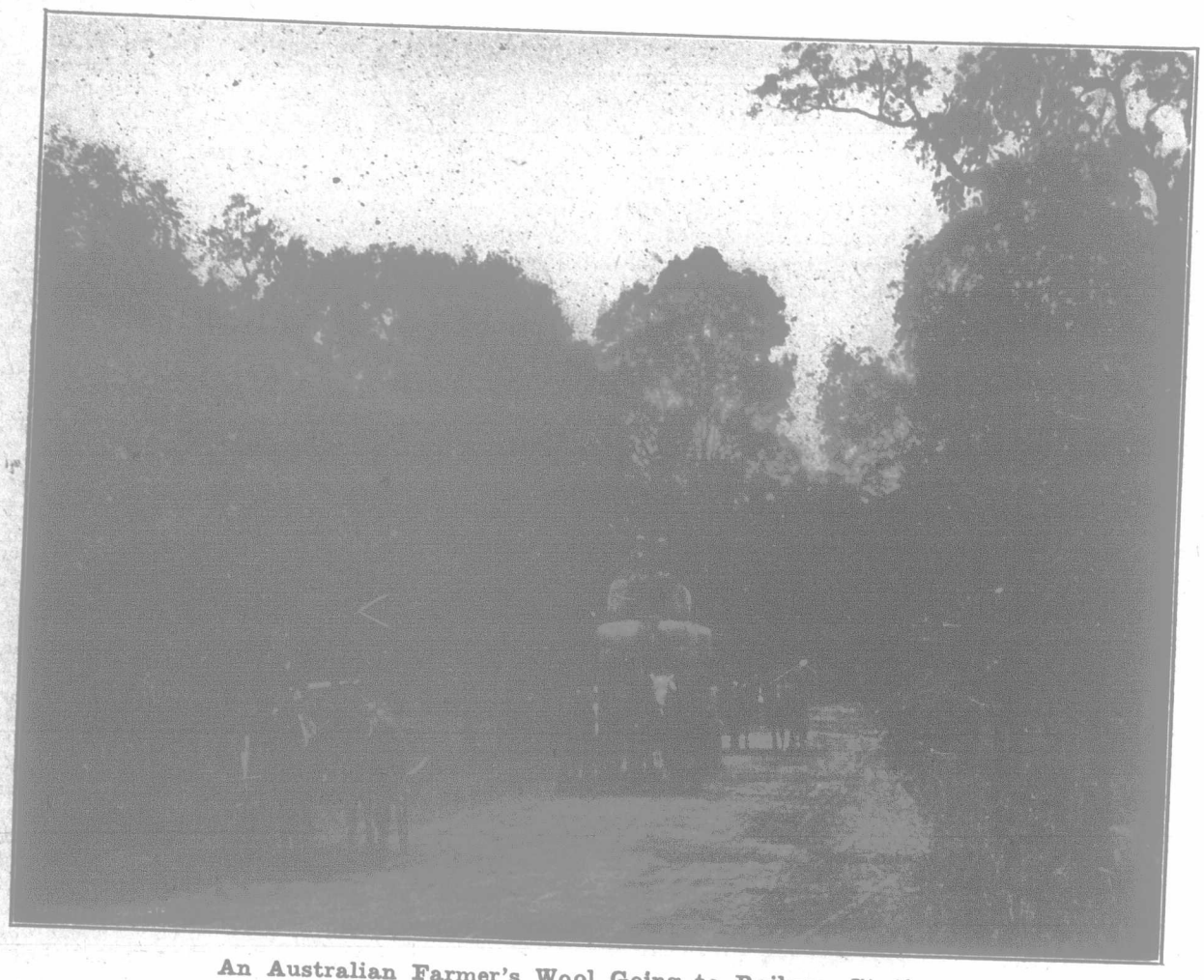

An Australian Farmer's Wool Going to Railway Station.

bute the corn uniformly, keeping leaves, stalks and ears mixed in a uniform-settling mass a long sack or jointed pipe is necessary. No device which does not reach close down to the bottom can prevent the leaves and lighter parts fluttering to one side. The ideal thing for the purpose is the pipe illustrated and described in our issue of May 2nd. For the information of new readers and old ones who may have mislaid their copies, we produce it again :

The hood, which fits over the mouth of blower pipe, has an opening fourteen inches square, and is reinforced with two bands of iron, each provided with a pair of ears placed near the upper corners. Through these pass the ropes by which the pipe is suspended. The second length tapers from square to a round shape eight inches in diameter, and is five feet long, as is every length below that. The regular lengths of pipe are about nine inches in diameter at the upper end, and eight inches at the lower end, thus giving free play. The various lengths of pipe are coupled with rings, chains and snaps, as indicated. After the two upper turns, they are placed on the quarter turn, so as to make it more easy to bend the pipe in any direction desired. Of course, the bottom end of each length fits loosely into the top of the length below it. The hood is constructed with an extra-heavy thickness of galvanized iron, most of it being No. 24, while the back was still stronger (No. 22). The round sections of the pipe were constructed of No. 26.

To erect this pipe, attach ropes to the hood and draw up to top of silo, hooking on length after length. The bottom one may hang about ten feet clear of the floor, and may be pulled around for a time by means of a rope, until the silo has been filled a few feet, after which it may be conveniently led around by a man holding it with the opening shoulder-high, or lower.

By way of suggesting improvements, based upon experience, we would propose having the mouth only 12 inches square. Be sure to secure extra heavy metal for the hood, particularly the back of it, and do not forget to have the chains of successive lengths placed on the quarter turn. The cost of this pipe was fourteen dollars.

TRAMP ! TRAMP !! TRAMP !!!

Excellent though the distributing pipe is, it will be found a mistake to make it take the place of a second man. At least one good active tramper (not tramp) is needed to keep walking over the corn and especially around the outside pressing down with his foot next the wall. Some advise the use of a cement rammer, but we doubt the advantage of it over tramping. It is generally advised to keep the outside higher than the centre. The writer of this article is frankly skeptical, having been always inclined to the opposite opinion, arguing that a convex layer on settling will press outward against the wall whereas a concave layer would settle away from it, leaving an air space between the silage and the wall, especially near the top of the silo. However this may be, there are no two opinions about the desirability of tramping the edges well.

As the doors are put in place it is well to fit them with tar paper, covering the inner space smoothly, the edges of the paper projecting outwardly. Chinks or holes in the walls may be filled with soft clay as one comes to them.

PROTECTING THE TOP—WHEN TO COMMENCE FEEDING.

When the silo is filled the corn is ready to feed. Unlimited quantities may be allowed the cattle for the first week and by care in removing the surface layer very little waste will be entailed—none at all if one can use it fast enough. Last year we finished filling on October 7th. Feeding commenced at once and continued till the last of May, recommenced in July and will finally conclude with about the date of this issue. During this period of 280 days or so this 150-ton silo has supplied an average of about 25 head of stock, mostly cows.

Even though one does not need the feed badly it is often well to feed a few feet off the top and then leave the silo, as the spoiled layer will be much thinner than when the loose top layer is left exposed. When it is not desired to feed at all for some weeks a good plan is to pull the ears off the last few loads and then twenty or thirty barrels of water may be put on. It is claimed this will help to seal the surface.

Whether to tramp or not after filling is a question. Some claim it is better not to tramp then, as tramping would disturb the jelly-like layer which gradually forms. We are not sure whether it is best or not. Our plan is to feed immediately. Sowing oats over the top has been often recommended, but the economy of it remains to be demonstrated. Probably it is better to save the oats.

COST OF SILO FILLING.

The cost of silo filling has been variously estimated at from forty cents to one dollar per ton of capacity, depending upon weather and other factors, also whether a second set-up is made to refill. We refilled last year and owing to bad weather, plus accident to the outfit in the meantime, we had to wait two weeks for the second turn. It added materially to the total cost. We do not expect to refill in future, but shall merely blow the roof full and spread that around as the silage settles.

At the Iowa Experiment Station the cost of silo filling has been 60 to 75 cents per ton. Prof. W. J. Kennedy, formerly of that station, in an article published in these columns last year, also gave the figures of a large farmer in that State, who had his own corn binder, cutting box and gasoline engine, and estimated the cost at $54.60 per day, putting up 85 to 90 tons, at an average cost of 60 to 65 cents per ton.

Perhaps we had better conclude this article with a few figures from Weldwood. Cutting 15 1-3 acres by hand and putting the crop of 150 tons or better in the silo required :

367½ hours of men's labor costing	$ 66.21
201 hours of horses' labor costing	22.37
23 hours for outfit and 2 attendants @ $1.00 per hr.	23.00
	$111.58

This is $7.25 per acre for cutting and ensiling or 74 cents per ton of estimated capacity.

The total labor cost of growing and storing 150 tons from 15 1-3 acres was $1.65 per ton.

The corn was Longfellow, Bailey, Whitecap Dent and Leaming varieties, planted 42 inches x 44 inches, averaging three or four stalks to the hill. It was heavily eared and well matured. The cost, though not excessive, was materially increased by the corn being lodged and crooked, by the extra expense of refilling, entailing some shocking, and by bad weather at the second filling. Withal it made excellent and economical feed.

Some Facts and Figures about Australia.

To the vast majority of dwellers in this sister Dominion of the North, the great island continent of Australia is, more or less, an unknown quantity. So busy are we with our own pursuits and national affairs that we have little time to pause and think of the progress and development of the lands of our kinsmen's choice. No one attempts to deny the congratulatory position Canada occupies among nations to-day, but let her realize more generally that there are other countries which, although separated by thousands of miles of ocean, are by no means unworthy rivals and completely out of the reckoning.

The Commonwealth of Australia, composed of six States, is the fifth of the earth's continents. Her area is slightly larger than that of the United States of America, whereas her population, though steadily and satisfactorily increasing, shows but an average density of 1.5 persons to the square mile, the most sparsely-populated of

State School Bee and Garden, Balingup.