

interesting lessons on the treatment of the calves of such cows as are only lightly affected have been learnt. Well may the reporter of the *Witness*, from which paper we borrow this account, say, in concluding his report: "The value of such an experiment made by Mr. Edwards, entirely at his own expense, to the live-stock breeders of the Dominion cannot be over-estimated."

*Rape*.—We have received the following letter, from M. Guèvremont, Sheriff of Sorel :

Dear Sir,—I see by the JOURNAL OF AGRICULTURE, that *rape* is an excellent food for sheep. My brother wants to try it on a couple of *arpents*. Will you be good enough to tell me how much seed is needed for that extent of land, and how it ought to be sown.

As it is not to be found in Sorel could you send me the seed, the price of which I will remit to you at once.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient servant,

G. GUÈVREMONT,

*Sheriff.*

(From the French).

In reply, we may as well describe succinctly the best way of preparing the land for the *rape*-crop ; how to sow the seed ; and the most profitable way of consuming it.

*Rape* should, like green crops in general, invariably follow the last grain-crop of a rotation. It takes the place of part of the "hoed-crops," but is much less costly to grow, seeing that, if sown thick enough, it requires absolutely no hand-labour.

Plough the stubble in the late fall ; in spring, when the land is thoroughly dry, pass the grubber, or any drag harrow, across the furrow and then in the opposite direction, gathering any couch-grass or other root weeds that may have been brought to the surface ; spread a light dressing of dung and plough it in, not too deep ; harrow till the land is all equal to the tread ; sow 5 lbs. of seed to the *arpent* ; pass a chain-harrow over the land—if you have no chain-harrow, a bush-harrow will do—and finish with a rolling.

This should be done early in the season ; it would be as well to make two sowings, one about May 20th, the other about the 15th of June. The first sowing should be fit for feeding-off by the end of July, and the other will come *en suite*.

An *arpent* of *rape* should fatten, with a trifle of oats and pease, about 9 or even 10 lambs of the year, depending, of course, on the size of the lambs. About a pint of the mixed grain and pulse *per caput* is enough. The full grown *rape*-plant is about three feet six inches in height, and the feeding-off should not be begun too soon. As we have frequently related in this periodical, *rape* stands almost any amount of frost in the fall ; it will keep good till the 10th of December, and never scours sheep. The only danger there is in feeding it off is in introducing sheep into a field of it when their bellies are empty. The best plan is to let the flock fill their bellies well, and then turn them into the *rape* at once for, say, a couple of hours in the afternoon ; then, remove them for the night ; the next day turn them in a little earlier, and let them remain till about 5 p. m., before taking them out ; on the third day, after introducing the flock into the *rape* at, say, 10 a. m., that is, when the dew is off, they may be allowed to remain there entirely.

We need hardly repeat that sheep should not be put into a whole piece of *rape*, to eat their way through it, thereby trampling down and destroying more than they consume. Means of dividing a field can be easily found, as we have more than once pointed out in the JOURNAL and the more frequently the flock is shifted, the better will the sheep do. The mixture of grain and pease can be given in any common troughs, and, as the weather gets colder, a little clover-hay, or even straw-chaff, will be very acceptable, though as long as the season remains mild, the sheep will not look at it.

Only conceive, dear readers, what a boon the cultivation of this plant would be to the occupants of the long narrow farms in the eastern part of the province ! The fields furthest from the homestead rarely, if ever, see the dung-cart ; grain-crops are continually being repeated on them ; if crops they can be called ; while, a little labour, a few bushels of bone-dust—say, 6 bushels to the *arpent*—and 5 lbs. of seed, at some 10 cents a pound, will give you the most fattening of foods, to say nothing of the enormous benefits the dung and urine of the sheep will confer upon the land for the use of the ensuing crops ; benefits so enormous that any one who has not seen them will almost believe them, when brought practically before his eyes, to be miraculous.

To those who never saw the effect of sheep-pasturing on *rape*, this will appear utterly incre-