JUNE 18th, 1908.

[HE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

UNLOADING CONVENIENCES

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate"

We note, in your June 4th issue, page 791, two valuable articles on the use of unloading slings and hay-carrier contrivances, which, as many of vour readers are aware, are manufactured by our-While our friend, Mr. W. B. Rittenhouse, selves. of Lincoln Co., states that he has never heard of the return rope and pulley being used outside of his locality, we may say that it has been used by ourselves for the last ten years, and we find it to be an excellent device, which should be on every car, for, as he truly says, the carrier comes back readily by weight, "with no human energy wasted." His cut illustrates something like a cast-iron weight; we find that a sand bag is much preferable, as it is safer, in case it might touch any person in its descent; therefore, we always advocate the use of a sand-bag sufficient in weight to draw the car back.

We were very much pleased to see Mr. Rittenhouse's article, as well as that of "Old Subscriber," for we can have no greater evidence of the interest that is being taken by progressive farmers in labor-saving devices than to see such articles as these in your paper from time to time. There is nothing else so satisfactory in the solution of these matters as to have it from the We feel somewhat practical men themselves. flattered, also, that we can join hands with "Old Subscriber " as well, in his very important article on page 971, illustrating the use of unloading slings. It is evident he can appreciate a good thing when he has it, and is, like Mr. Rittenhouse, desirous of not losing any human energy

Labor-saving devices are the order of the day, and the fact that men are becoming wise to these facts to a very large degree accounts for the enormous trade being done in this line of goods. We are living in an age in which it is a question of the survival of the fittest. As "Old Subscriber " expresses himself, it is much better for the horse to do the work instead of the man, as in the old way, which, he says, " is a great consideration to anyone who values time, and has no desire to do things by main strength and awkwardness, at the loss of a lot of sweat." TOLTON BROS., LIMITED.

Wellington Co., Ont.

RAPE AS A FALL FEED FOR LAMBS

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate ":

About this time of year, many Eastern farmers who have never sown rape are wondering whether it would pay them to sow some this year. Perhaps a few words from one who has had some experience in growing it will persuade them to try it. After they have grown one crop, they will be sure to keep on growing it. We have been growing it for fifteen years, and prize it more highly every year, and now we would as soon think of letting spring pass without sowing our grain crop as neglecting to sow a piece of rape. We grow it exclusively as fall feed for our lambs, although it could also be grown to advantage as pasture for hogs. The preparation of the ground for rape should be the same as for turnips, as they resemble each other very much, the main difference being that, in rape, all the strength of the plant goes into the stalk and leaves, ininto the root, as in turnips. Rape seed is exactly like turnip seed, and can be sown with the turnip-seed drill at the rate of 11 pounds per acre. It must be sown thinner than turnips, as the plants do not need thinning with the hoe. As rape is a gross feeder, and grows very rapidly, it is fit to turn lambs on about two months after sowing. The first week of July is about the right time to sow, as it is then ready for the lambs by the middle of September, by which time they will have the clover aftermath well eaten off. In sowing rape, if you wish to give it a good start, after putting on a good coat of farmyard manure, apply about 400 pounds of superphosphate per acre. This fertilizer contains plant food which is readily available to the young plants, which brings them on very quickly. lambs should be turned in when the rape is dry, not when it is wet or the lambs are hungry, or they will scour or bloat, and left in for an hcur each day till it is well eaten off, or at least till they are well used to it, when they can be left on We find rape very profitable. A moderate estiit all the time. mate is that an acre of rape will support 121 lambs for two months. When our lambs are running on the rape, we give them all the grain they will eat, which is about one pound per head, and on this diet they put on flesh rapidly, the best-doing ones fully one pound per head daily, while a flock will average fully three-quarters of a pound increase. If the increase be estimated at the moderate figure of four cents per pound (which is very low, considering the price of lambs at present, but could be taken as an average price year in and year out), and the grain eaten charged at one cent. per pound, you will see that the return from the acre of rape will be \$15. The advantage of growing so profitable a crop,

and one that has neither to be cut, narvested, stored nor hauled to market, as is the case with grain, has only to be tried once to be appreciated.

It is hardly necessary to point out that the following crop off the rape ground is most grati-No other preparation or system of manurfying. ing land can compare with this for putting land in condition to grow bountiful crops

A. SHEPHERD. Prince Edward Island.

RESULTS OF EXPERIMENTS IN SUMMER SOWING OF ALFALFA.

The experiments conducted by the Purdue Uniersity (Indiana) Agricultural Experiment Station, in co-operation with farmers in various parts of Indiana, to test the practicability of sowing alfalfa in summer or early autumn, were repeated last year, with results very similar, but somewhat more favorable, than those of the year before, a full report and discussion of which was published by the Station last June, in Bulletin No. 122

The 1907 sowings included 80 plots (mostly quarter acres) on as many different farms, and in 52 counties in the State. The time of seeding varied from July 10 to September 30, but over 90 per cent. of the seedings were made during the month of August. The aim in each case was to sow as soon as the soil could be put into good condition after removing some June or July harvested crop. The time of sowing seems to have had no particular effect upon results, except that in the northern part of the State none of the September seedings were good. In southern Indiana, two out of three September seedings gave good results.

The seedings were made under a great variety of conditions as to preceding crops, 18 different ones being represented, including various small grains, legumes, timothy, millet, sorghum, rape,



Effective Cement Culvert, Lambton Co., Ont.

truck, corn, and pasture; but none seems to be a

growth did not seem to make any difference. Winter injury, due to standing water and ice, was reported in 8 cases.

In 40 of the experiments a barrel of lime was applied to one-half of the plot, but no particular conclusions can be drawn up to this time as to the effect of lime. In a few cases, where the lime was not applied until the time of sowing, it injured the stand, as might be expected. In some other cases it seems to have had some effect in preventing winter-killing, due, probably, to its effect upon the physical condition of the soil.

Special manuring or fertilization was practiced in only a few cases, in most of which the effect seems to have been distinctly favorable.

Artificial inoculation was practiced in only two cases, but 32 out of 68 cases reported showed the bacterial nodules present on the roots. On the University Farm, four seedings of al-

falfa were made during the summer, from July 31 to September 10. The seedings of July 31st and August 10 are now in excellent condition; that of August 24 is fair, while the seeding made on September 10 is practically a failure.

On the whole, the results of these experiments corroborate those of the previous year, and it may be said that, so far as the possibilities of success with alfalfa are concerned, there is nothing against July and August seeding, and there seem to be a good many points in its favor. It seems that the causes of failure must be looked for in the soil conditions. All kinds of soils have given good results, and all kinds of soils have Good drainage is essential, produced failures. and a poor physical condition of the soil favors winter-killing. It seems that a fertile, well-drained soil may almost certainly be expected to give good results, whether light or heavy in Summer seeding reduces the trouble texture. with weeds to a minimum. Artificial inoculation seems to be necessary in about half of the locations where these experiments were conducted. A. T. WIANCKO, Agriculturist.

Purdue University Experiment Station.

THE COUNTRY BEAUTIFUL.

A week-end trip of fifty miles north of London, in Middlesex and Huron Counties, in Western Ontario, in the leafy month of June, is a rare treat, and reveals one of the finest farming districts in the Dominion. Sixty years ago the writer drove through this same section of country, from London to Clinton, in a rickety stage-coach, the greater part of the land being then in forest, or fields thickly studded with stumps, the farmhouses being mostly built of logs; but the settlers, even then, realized that they had secured a goodly heritage in the strong clay-loam soil, nearly every acre of which would be suitable for cultivation and crop-raising when cleared. The settlers were nearly all English, Irish and Scotch immigrants, with a colony of Welsh, most of whom had worked for a few years with farmers in more easterly counties, and learned to use with dexterity the axe, the ox team and the grain cradle, and, with strong arms and stout hearts, had no fear of the arduous task of subduing the forest and bringing the land into cultivation.

A visitor passing through the same country to-day, seeing the comfortable and tasteful brick houses and large frame barns with basement stabling, and the well-fenced fields, free from and mostly free from weeds, and co with promising crops of grain and grass, and many fields freshly planted with corn, finds it difficult to realize that the transformation has been effected in so short a period of time, and cannot but admire the energy, industry and enterprise which has wrought such important changes in a generation. It would be difficult to find another district of equal dimensions in which so many farms are so nearly similar in surface appearance, nearly every farm being a copy of its neighbor-almost level, and with scarcely an acre of waste land in sight in a half-day's travel by train, and yet no evidences of lack of drainage, while the soil seems capable of growing any class of crops in abundance. And yet one cannot but notice differences and degrees of condition of the crops on different farms, as in every district, due to good, and less capable, management in the matter of rotation, preparation and cultivation. or the lack of these essentials. Hence, while perhaps on nine out of ten farms passed everything evidences good management, here and there the opposite is observed, thistles, mustard and other weeds being more noticeable than the grain crops. robbing them of moisture and occupying space to no good purpose. It is but just to say, however. that this district is freer from noxious weeds than most sections of the Province. A feature of this tract of country is that much of it, owing to the scarcity and high cost of labor, has been seeded to grass and devoted to pasturage, few cattle or other stock are seen in the fields, and one wonders how the farmers are making their money. It may be that some of the cattle put on pasture early have been shipped earlier than usual because of the good market prices prevailing; and it may be that those who

ilar favorit

All kinds of soil were represented in the experiments, from heavy clay to light sand, and all gave both good and poor results. On 39 clay and clay-loam soils, 33 good stands were secured, 30 of which were in good condition in late fall, and 3 medium; 4 gave medium stands and late fall conditions, and 2 were failures. Out of 34 plots on heavy soils reported in spring, 15 were good, 13 medium, and 6 poor. Of 36 on light loam and sandy soils, 24 gave good stands, 18 of which were reported good in late fall, 5 medium, and 1 failure; 8 gave medium stands, one of which failed during fall; 4 gave poor stands, 1 of which failed during fall. Out of 26 plots on light soils reported in spring, 17 were good, 8 medium, and 1 poor. These figures indicate that more good stands were secured on the clay soils than on the lighter soils, but the deterioration during the winter was greater on the heavy soils, and the spring reports are in favor of the lighter soils.

Fifteen of the 80 plots showed some deterioration during the fall, 8 of which were due to dry weather, 6 to excessive wet, and 1 to insect injury .- There were no cases in which weeds played any important part in injuring the stand, though 7 cases some trouble was reported. Both in years' results indicate that weeds give little trouble in summer seeding of alfalfa.

Concering winter-killing, there were 5 cases where there was 50 per cent. or more of winterkilling, 5 cases of 25 to 50 per cent., and one case of 15 per cent., giving a total of 11 cases showing more than 10 per cent. of winter-killing. There seems to be no definite relation between the date of sowing and the amount of winter-killing, and, except where very small, the amount of fall