

To lay down a field in permanent pasture we advise as follows; no grain crop, but rape is to be sown with the seeds in the following fashion:

**Preparation of the land.**—If you really intend to make your pasture permanent, it follows of necessity that you give the grasses composing it something to feed upon; therefore, they must not be sown on a worn out piece of land. The best plan to be pursued, by those who are in earnest, is to take a field that has been thoroughly cleaned by two hoed and manured crops in succession, and if the manure applied to the those crops had a large proportion of bones in it, it would be none the worst.

After the hoed crops have been harvested, the land should receive its fall-furrow, which should be a pretty deep one, as by that time the double manur-

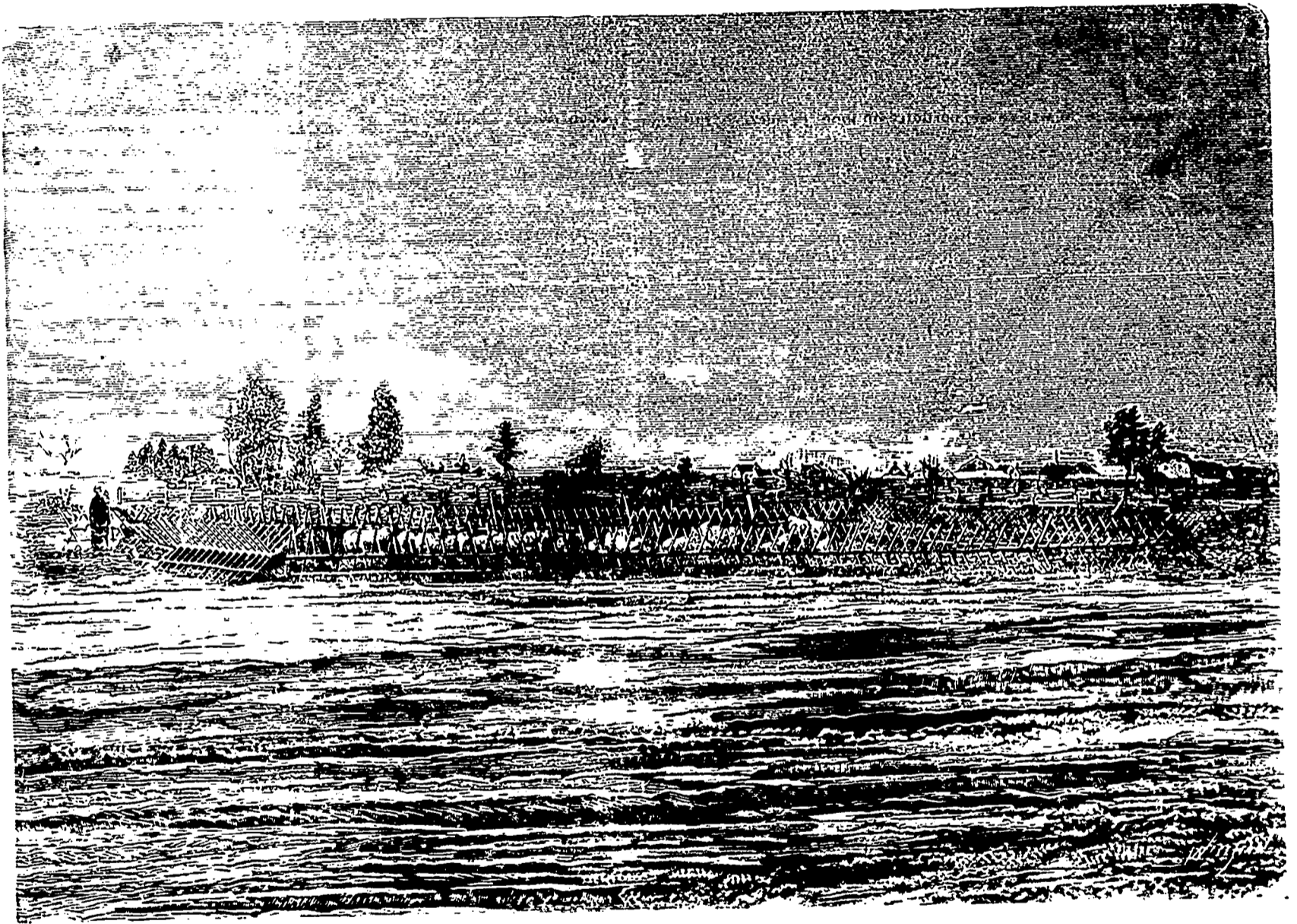
and as thick as it could stand, so thick that if the birds were not killed dead, it was almost impossible to find them without a retriever. This rape was for hurdling off in October with sheep, to be followed by wheat, and very heavy crops of wheat, sainfoin, and oats succeeded without any further manuring. But this, by the way. In the following spring, as soon as the weather is favourable, either in May or June, with sufficient amount of tillage to secure a fine tilth, apply first a thin sowing of rape, or coleseed by which name it is sometimes better known, and after being thoroughly harrowed and rolled, sow the clovers and grasses as we have recommended or, if preferred, the necessary quantities and mixtures may now be had from any of our leading seed firms, and reliable results may be anticipated. As rape

we shall find at the close of the season a thick and luxuriant sward, with all the appearance of several years' standing; in fact, it hastens the growth and shortens the time when the fields so treated may be looked upon as valuable meadow or pasture.

We do not by any means claim for this system that it is original; on the contrary, it has been carried out in practice for years, but it is certainly a matter of surprise that the plan has not been more generally adopted. Having had practical experience of this ourselves in several counties, and under varying conditions of soil and climate we can speak very confidently of its unfailling results. But perhaps there are some suggestions in carrying out this system to which attention should be given, otherwise the good results which we guarantee will, at

a general term, but in this case, we should prefer feeding-off the crop with lambs, as they would not be likely to bite so close as older sheep, and the food would come in very handy for them after they had been weaned a fortnight or so; not sooner, as it might induce scouring, and some dry food, oats and pease mixed, should be given in addition, in troughs, with some clover-chaff as soon as the lambs will eat it, which they will seldom do before the arrival of frosty mornings.

We give an engraving of our fold on rape, at Sorol, 1884. As there were no grass seeds sown in this case, the plough was kept going close up to the fold. The photograph was taken on the 7th December, just as the lambs were finishing the rape. The following crop of oats, Mr. Gustaf Gylling, who succeeded us in the occupation,



A SHEEPFOLD; LINCOLN COLLEGE FARM: SOREL; DECEMBER 7TH.

ing will have assuredly penetrated the two or three uppermost inches of the sub-soil, and there will be no danger of bringing raw material to the surface. Lay the land up as usual in the ridges you find best suited to it: there is no use in trying to make wide ridges in undrained, heavy clay soils; our best farmed Essex clays—England—are all in 5 foot ridges. And here I may as well observe that it is quite a mistake to suppose that rape, or cole seed as the Eastern-counties farmers call it, they are both very similar plants, is a light land plant. In England it is the special plant for heavy clays, too stiff to grow turnips for winter sheepfeeding. On the East Hills, in Kent, where the land is so heavy that no team of less than 4 horses can plough it, we have often shot partridges in rape up to our waist,

generates growth very quickly it will be found ready for the sheep-folding, which we recommend, before the grasses and clovers have got sufficiently advanced in growth for the injury by feeding off, which some have doubts about, and others positively object to; and if the soil is good, and other conditions favourable, a second and even a third folding may be had during the first summer of the repeated growth of rape. No one at all acquainted with farming can fail to see obvious reasons in favour of folding, as every practical man knows that the most important and even essential conditions in the cultivation of grasses and clovers is the thorough consolidation of the soil, and so in this case it is accompanied by a liberal and even distribution of valuable fertilising matter, such as a well-fed flock ensures. As a result,

least, be less satisfactory, and that is not to sow the rape too thickly, (1) and never on any account to close fold during wet weather, particularly where the soil is heavy stiff clay. But with due attention to these, no one need be under any doubt as to the ultimate success of this mode of cultivation. Laying down land to grass with a grain crop we know has been the almost universal custom, but if land is in the high state of cultivation which we would recommend for permanent pastures there is always the danger of an excessive straw crop, which invariably weakens, if it does not destroy the grass, and so incurs both disappointment and loss, which, in these days, has most carefully to be avoided.

When we say sheep-feeding, we use

(1) 4 lbs, an acre will do—broadcast—Ed.

assured us, was 70 bushels to the imperial acre of black oats. The cost of seed and manure for the rape was: seed = 6 lbs. at 12 cts. = \$0.72, and 300 lbs. of a queer sort of superphosphate = \$2.50; in all \$3.22. As the lambs went off quite fat, it was a paying affair.

When the spring arrives, as soon as the land is dryish, bush- or chain-harrow to spread the dung the sheep have left, and then roll with the heaviest roller you can find. Don't mow for hay for the first year or two, but pasture lightly, preferably with young stock, and though lightly, keep all seed-shoots down; if any seem determined to beat the cattle, mow them at once.

The hurdles in the cut were made of white-pine 4 x 4 inches for the main bar; though 3 x 3 inch stuff would do