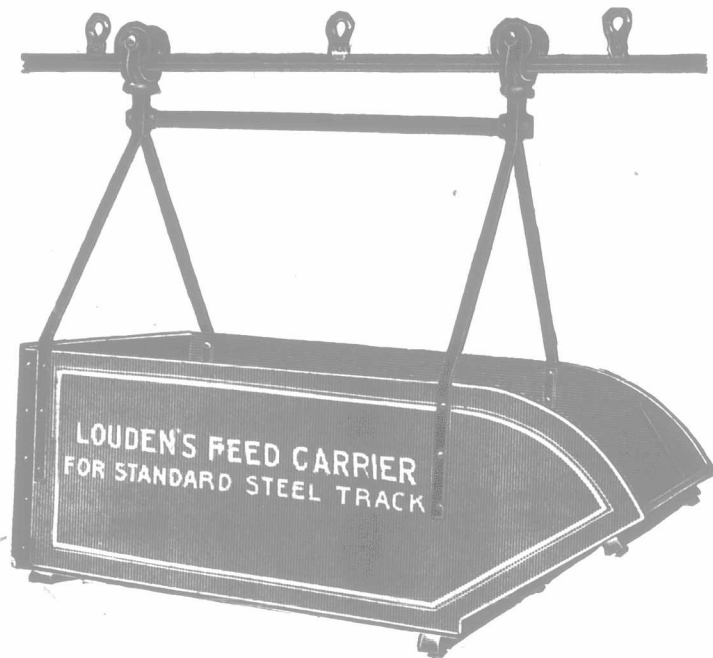


## Louden's Feed Carriers

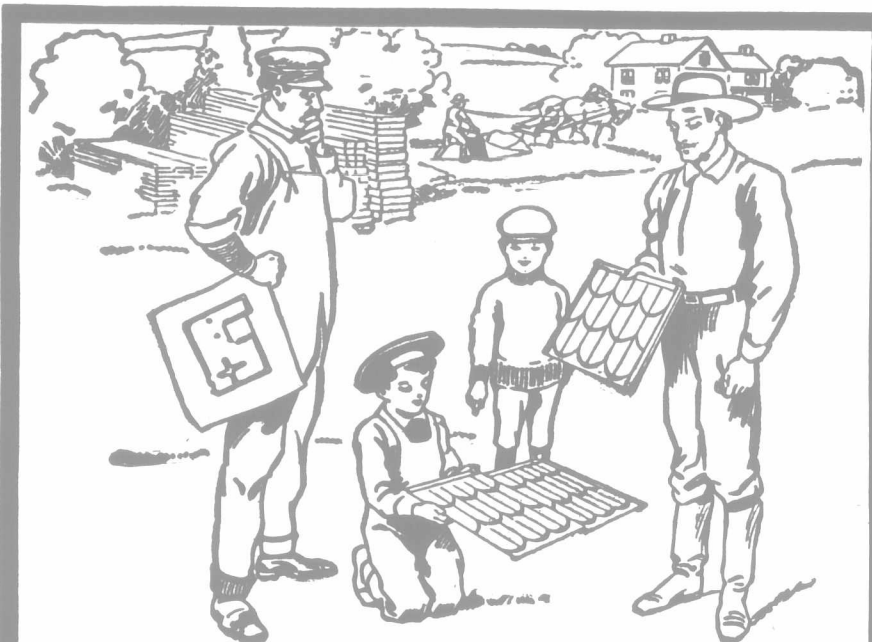
have the same kind of gear as the Litter Carriers. The box, however, is wholly different, having ends shaped so that the feed can be easily got into or out of it. Our Feed Carriers run on a steel track which can be curved in any direction and yet run perfectly.

See our exhibit at the Winter Fair Building during Fat Stock Show, which is held December 12, 13, 14 and 15.



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## Herculaneum.

By T. Ashby, Litt. D., the Director of the British School of Rome.

The name of Herculaneum, owing to the initiation by Professor Waldstein of a scheme for its excavation by international co-operation, has been much before the public during the last three years. The Italian Government has now decided that the work shall be done by Italian archeologists and with Italian money, and are of opinion that better results will be eventually attained by proceeding gradually at first than by commencing the enterprise on a large scale. Of that the officials of the Naples section of the Archeological Department of the Ministry of Public Instruction are no doubt the best judges, and we may fairly hope that, now that Italy has reserved to herself the right to carry out this important work, she will commence it promptly and carry it through to its completion, unless (which is improbable) preliminary investigations unmistakably indicate that the results of further work would not justify the undoubtedly considerable pecuniary sacrifices involved.

In the meantime let us, by shortly examining the history of Herculaneum and of the excavations which have already been made on the site, try to form an idea of what may reasonably be expected from it.

Herculaneum, according to our classical authorities, was situated between two streams at the foot of Mount Vesuvius, on a hill overlooking the sea, with a harbor which was safe at all seasons.

Of its earlier history we know nothing; its name, of course, led to a tradition of its foundation by Hercules, on his voyage, it is said, from Spain to Italy. It was in all probability of Greek origin, and belonged successively, we are told, to the Oscans, Etruscans and Samnites. It fell under the power of Rome during the Samnite wars (Liv. viii., 25), and remained faithful until the Social War, in which it joined the Italian allies. It escaped, apparently, with comparatively mild treatment for its rebellion, and was much frequented as a resort by Romans of wealth, the imperial house being among the owners of villas there in the first century A. D. It owed its vogue, no doubt, to the beauty of its situation on the shores of the Gulf of Naples, sheltered by Vesuvius on the north-east, and easily accessible by the coast road from Naples, from which it is only five miles distant. In 63 A. D., however, it suffered considerably from an earthquake, which did considerable damage throughout the region between Naples and Nocera, and was very severe at Pompeii. As to Herculaneum itself, Seneca tells us that part of the town fell, and that the stability of the rest was none too secure.

We have a contemporary record in the shape of an inscription of the restoration in 76 B. C., by Vespasian of the temple of the Mother of the Gods, which had been overthrown by this earthquake. Only three years later the town was utterly destroyed by the famous eruption of Vesuvius, which overwhelmed Pompeii, in which Pliny the Elder, then in command of the fleet at Misenum, perished from suffocation at Stabiae (the modern Castellammare), a victim both to his zeal as an observer, and to his energy in rendering aid to the distressed.

The configuration of the coast was entirely altered by this catastrophe. The rocky ridge on which the town stood—an older lava stream, no doubt, and therefore the safest place for a settlement, inasmuch as subsequent streams might be expected to take the depressions on each side of it—and these depressions themselves have alike disappeared, and the coast runs in a straight line several hundred yards further out than it did before.

Herculaneum, was, like Pompeii, overwhelmed by dust and ash, but the conditions under which they were deposited were somewhat different. At Pompeii, the ashes remained almost entirely dry, and did not, therefore, solidify; but at Herculaneum, which is closer to Vesuvius, torrents of rain must have rushed down and mingled with the ashes, which were thus, in parts, consolidated into a harder mass, though in parts they would be a good deal softer. Heavy rain acting on the material thrown up in the spring of 1906, has produced precisely similar results.

The lava streams which are found on the site of Herculaneum are at a higher level, overlaying the ashes, and belong to a later eruption. Nor is there any basis for the supposition that Herculaneum was buried by a mass of volcanic mud, which would by this time have become homogeneous and very compact.

The history of previous excavations has been told by Prof. Michele Ruggiero ("Storia degli Scavi di Ercolano," Naples, 1885).

It is commonly, but erroneously, stated that the site of Herculaneum was absolutely unknown until, in 1709, the Austrian General, Count Elbeuf, accidentally hit upon the theater, his workmen being engaged in digging a well. As a fact, he was actually searching for antiquities, and sank, not a well, but a shaft (the Italian word pozzo may mean either), with this purpose in view. The work continued for about five years, but was carried on quite irregularly, various points of the theater (which was not then recognized as such) being tried, and some portions of the buildings near it. Some statues were found, two of which (female portrait heads) are now in Dresden. In 1738, King Charles III. of Naples, commenced operations in a more thorough manner. The excavations continued for many years, and led to the discovery of the true character of the theater, to the finding of what may be a part of the forum, of three temples, of a building with colonnades erroneously called a basilica, resembling the building of Eumachia at Pompeii, adorned with fine statues, among them those of the Balbi, of a few tombs, and of a large villa, in which were found the famous papyrus rolls, now preserved in the museum at Naples, comprising the library of the owner of the villa, a follower of the Epicurean School of Philosophy. Here were also discovered some of the finest bronzes of the Naples Museum, such as the seated Mercury, the head of the bearded Dionysus, and others. In 1755 the King founded the Academy of Herculaneum for the investigation and publication of the results, and the magnificent work issued by this institution in nine folio volumes ("Le Antichità di Ercolano") caused a considerable interest in the learned world. Its publication began in 1757, and was completed in 1792.

Pompeii, however, was a good deal more easy to excavate, and the work there progressed somewhat faster. For, while at Herculaneum it was necessary to work entirely by tunnelling, at Pompeii the buildings of the ancient city could easily be laid bare in the ordinary way, owing to the lightness of the material with which they were covered.

It has sometimes been believed that the excavations of Charles III., though not carried on with sufficient care, had at least crossed, with their tunnels, the whole area of the city. Professor Barnabe, however ("Atti dei Lincei," Sec. III., Vol. II., p. 751), is of the opinion that the area covered by these researches was not very extensive. Nor do we know with accuracy the extent and size of the ancient city.

The excavations were carried on for a while under his successor, Ferdinand IV., but abandoned in 1776, and not resumed until 1828. A group of houses was discovered at a depth of only forty feet, and the work was continued until 1855, with many interruptions.

It was not taken up again until 1869, when very little success was attained, and since 1875 practically nothing has been done except repairs.

The work has always been carried on under considerable difficulties, owing to the existence of the town of Resina above the site, and the considerable depth of the excavations below the surface, necessitating their prosecution entirely by subterranean galleries, except in the case of the Scavi Nuovi of the nineteenth century. It has, indeed, often been the case that the materials from the cutting were simply used to fill up a previous one, instead of being transported to the surface; and the system of excavation led to the buildings themselves being often seriously damaged.

The theater is the only one of the buildings examined in the eighteenth century which is still accessible, and, faintly lighted as it is, its plan obscured by the buttresses which have been built to support the rock above, it is no easy matter to form an accurate idea of it. The