

frequent irrigations will give better and more economic results than heavy irrigations extended over long intervals. If a pasture is to produce maximum returns it is necessary to keep it growing continuously throughout the season. It is sometimes stated that growing grass under irrigation is an unprofitable undertaking on account of the large supply of moisture required by the pastures. The water requirement of grass is no higher than that of lucerne; but it is waste of water to apply by means of irrigation as much to grass as would be done in the case of lucerne.

Where grass is sown in spring there will probably be a fair amount of feed at the end of the first summer. Under such circumstances light grazing should be carried out, thus allowing sorrel and other weeds to be eaten off and encouraging the grasses to stool out before coming into seed. The young pasture must not be eaten too closely or over-consolidated by the trampling of stock.

SUBDIVISION OF FIELDS, AND PROVISION OF SHELTER.

It is generally advisable to divide a large field into sections, the number of divisions being dependent on the size of the field, the method of irrigation employed, and the number of stock being grazed. The value of changing stock from one section to another, and thus allowing each section spells in rotation, cannot be overemphasized. This practice is extremely important when dealing with irrigated grass. Nothing will more quickly ruin an irrigated pasture than continuous grazing, and the only way in which this can be avoided is to subdivide the grazing-field. In the case, say, of a 30-acre field it is desirable to subdivide it into three 10-acre fields. This will allow for the animals being changed from one field to another while irrigation is being carried out. It should never be necessary to irrigate a pasture while the animals are grazing upon it, since they would considerably damage it by cutting up the turf with their feet. For these and other reasons the practice of alternating from one pasture to another ensures fresher, better, and far more abundant feed.

Provision of shelter-trees for the stock depasturing on the grass is highly important. As the animals spend the bulk of their time in the fields, provision should be made, by the planting of adequate belts or clumps of trees, to shelter them from the hot sun or cold biting winds.



FIG. 60. LUCERNE STACKS AT GALLOWAY IRRIGATION FARM.