

Books on Agriculture

Publications That Are of Value to the Professional Man, the Librarian or the Farmer

The following list of works on agriculture is purely suggestive. It is compiled from lists of scores of books, each one having its own peculiar merit. But for the professional man who has but limited time for outside reading, and who desires to broaden his knowledge in the realm of agriculture, the books enumerated will prove to be excellent.

First of all, mention should be made of the many valuable reports and bulletins issued by the Federal and the several provincial Departments of Agriculture. Almost all of these can be had free of charge by making application to the department issuing them. The Publications Branch of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa issues a catalogue of their publications for free distribution, and doubtless similar lists can be obtained from the provincial authorities. The reports include separate treatises on the different kinds of live stock; specific animal diseases; dairying and dairy products; the growing of many varieties of farm crops, fruits, flowers and vegetables; the use of fertilizers, and the best methods of combating insect and weed pests.

The Commission of Conservation has issued a number of brief reports on Agricultural Conditions in Canada. The following are still in print: Agricultural Survey 1910, Work of the Committee on Lands, 1910; Agricultural Production in Canada, Agricultural Conditions in Canada, 1911, Agricultural Survey, 1912.

Perhaps the most complete and comprehensive work on agriculture is Bailey's "Cyclopedic of American Agriculture" which treats of practically all phases of the subject. It is in four large beautifully illustrated volumes, price \$20.00.

A smaller, though excellent work is "Agriculture" by F. H. Storer in three volumes, price \$5.00.

"Physics of Agriculture" by F. H. King, price \$1.75, treats on the nature, origin and composition of soils, soil moisture and its conservation, drainage and tillage, road construction and maintenance, atmosphere and weather influence upon soils; motors and machinery.

"Soils" by C. W. Burrett, price \$1.25, treats on soils, their properties, improvement and management and the problems of crop growing and crop feeding.

"Talks on Manures" by Joseph Harris, price \$1.50. Treats in a popular and readable way of stable manure, clovering, liming and applying muck and peat, restoring worn out land, care and production of manures, etc.

"Elements of Agriculture" by G. F. Warren, price \$1.50. This is a short work in one volume on general agriculture. It includes chapters on plants, animals, soils, fertility, crops, insects, weeds, farm management, the home and the

rural community. If one could have only one book on agriculture, this is the best one that could be selected from those mentioned in this bibliography.

"The Cereals in America" by Thos. F. Hunt; price \$1.75. In this book the cereals are treated under the heads: variety, fertilization, culture, harvesting, production, use and marketing.

"Soiling Crops and the Silo" by Thos. Shaw; price \$1.50. This book treats on crops most suitable for soiling and siloing such as maize, clovers, cereals, millets and roots and gives instructions for construction of silos and the feeding of silage.

"Types and Breeds of Farm Animals", by Chas. S. Plumb; price, \$2.50. It describes the various breeds of horses, cattle, sheep and swine, with short histories of each breed.

"Farm Dairying" by Laura Rose; price \$1.25. In this book the dairy industry is presented in a simple and practical way. There are chapters on buildings, equipment, feeding and watering of the cows, making and care of butter and cheese, the ice house and diseases common to cows and their treatment.

"Poultry Craft" by John H. Robinson, price \$1.50. This book describes the various breeds of poultry and gives instructions for their breeding, care and handling.

"Co-operation among Farmers" by John Lee Coulter, price 75 cents. It treats of co-operation in production, storing and marketing of butter, cheese, meats, eggs, fruits, vegetables and others farm products.

"The Nature-study Idea" by L. H. Bailey; price \$1.25. This is an interpretation of the new school movement to put the young into relation and sympathy with Nature.

"Report of the Commission on Country Life", price 75 cents. It is a record of the findings of the Commission regarding the deficiencies in country life and the general corrective forces that should be set in motion.

"Health on the Farm" by H. F. Harris, price 75 cents. It contains chapters on house sanitation, hygiene of childhood, proper eating, value of various foods, cooking, avoidable diseases, etc.

Classes for Farmers

The Government of Prince Edward Island carried out a series of training classes for farmers and their families during the early part of February. The courses covered two weeks and experts in the several branches of farming took charge of the work. Special railway rates were obtained for those desiring to attend. No examinations were required, but for those who attended for the full course scholarships of the value of \$5.00 were provided.

The total attendance for all the classes was 550. Sixty took the household science course, and 425 qualified for scholarships. The arrangements in the various branches were well made, and the instructors

Springtime Hints For the Farmers

"To each season its work," might well be taken as a watchword by farmers. In few other industries does the seasonal factor count for so much as it does in agriculture. The farmer who neglects to sow his grain at the proper time is certain to be an unsuccessful farmer. Similarly, the farmer who fails to have the summer's supply of wood cut and piled during the winter season is very likely to be haphazard in all his work. Successful farming is based on orderliness. Each little piece of work on the farm falls to some one specific week of the fifty-two in the year. Failure to recognize that fact and to be governed accordingly, spells confusion and lowered efficiency—"To each season its work."

The notes that follow are little pointers that should help the farmer with his spring work. They are written by a practical farmer who has had wide experience in Canadian agriculture and are merely little reminders of work that must be attended to in the spring.

Water-courses should be looked after, and furrows opened up, so as to let off the surplus water before the sun dries it up and bakes the soil. Well drained fields hasten seeding.

If heavy loam or clayey soils are worked when they are wet, they will bake and crack open when dry, and good crops need not be expected. When the soil is in a suitable condition, however, not an hour should be lost. Early seeding gives the best results.

Systematic crop rotation gives the best results. If it has not already been given a trial, apply it to a portion of the farm. The experiment will prove its value.

Sow grain and a heavy seedling of grasses and clovers on the land that was in hoed crops last season.

Plough up the old sod that has been down two or three years and sow corn or roots, or plant potatoes. A heavy seeding of peas will also give good results.

The new, heavy-seeded meadows will give heavier crops than the old ones. New thick-bottom pastures, two years down will feed more cattle than old, thin, worn-out meadows.

Keep all animals out of the pastures during April. Stunted pastures mean stunted animals later on. Give the pastures a chance to make a fair growth during the early spring; then the stock will have something to feed on all summer.

Gather the loose stones on new meadows and roll the land as soon as it is fairly dry. Grain land should not be rolled until the grain is well up.

Clean up the rubbish that has collected around the farm buildings during the winter. Clean surroundings make the farm home much more attractive and healthy.—J. F.

stated that they never attended short courses where more enthusiasm was manifested throughout.

Mink and Martin in the United States

In the fall of 1912, the officials of the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture secured the appointment of a mink farmer in Idaho as an expert to carry on experiments in the breeding of mink and marten. A 10-acre ranch in the forest reserve along the North fork of the Cour d'Alene river in Idaho was purchased. It was then equipped and placed in charge of the expert who receives a salary sufficient to compensate him for devoting his whole time to the industry of breeding these animals, especially marten. Experiments are also being conducted with mink at the national Zoological Gardens at Washington, D.C., under the immediate charge of the officials of the Department of Agriculture.—J.W.J.

Bean Growing Declining

There is good reason to believe that bean growing in Canada is on the decline. In Ontario, the yield has decreased 1.4 bushels per acre within the last nine years. Owing to continuous cropping the soil has lost certain elements which it once possessed. For this reason the farmer should know the special food requirements of his crop, and supply these elements. Barnyard manure is superior to any fertilizer, but it does not contain all the elements necessary for the growing of a good crop. A fertilizer of acid phosphate and potash with very little hydrogen will best meet the requirements of the growing bean crop.

The "Canada Year Book" for 1911 shows a marked decline in the number of bushels of beans exported to Great Britain in the five years preceding:

1907	1908	1909	1910	1911
3,849	1,547	12	4	153

The bean is one of our tender plants. Our summers are comparatively short, and beans do not get time to ripen before being killed by frost. They are also very sensitive to drought, and wet weather and are often attacked by disease. For these reasons, the crop is often a failure, and 'in-stead farmers are growing other crops that promise surer financial returns.—K. M. F.

TOWN PLANNING CONGRESS

Following the meeting convened on the 11th of December, 1912, in the city of Berlin, it has been decided that the first Ontario Congress will convene in Toronto during the month of May next. At this Congress, the proposed contribution of the Ontario Town Planning and Housing Association will be discussed and this important movement will be placed upon a permanent basis. The Secretary of the Provincial Committee is Mr. Frederick L. Riggs, who has an office at 923 Royal Bank Building, Toronto.