

# Farm Crop Queries

CONDUCTED BY PROF. HENRY G. BELL

The object of this department is to place at the service of our farm readers the advice of an acknowledged authority on all subjects pertaining to soils and crops. Address all questions to Professor Henry G. Bell, in care of The Wilson Publishing Company, Limited, Toronto, and answers will appear in this column in the order in which they are received. When writing kindly mention this paper. As space is limited it is advisable where immediate reply is necessary that a stamped and addressed envelope be enclosed with the question, when the answer will be mailed direct.



**J. C.**—I am thinking of sowing some spring wheat next spring and would like your advice regarding it. Would you use commercial fertilizer? If so, when would you supply it, and at what time in the spring should the wheat be sown?

**Ans.**—For spring wheat you should choose well drained fields with soil in fairly good state of tilth. As to variety, it is doubtful if you can do better than to sow Marquis wheat. One of the best methods to employ in order to increase the yield, and make sure of a good clover catch, if you are seeding clover and grass seed at the same time, is to apply about 200 to 300 lbs. of fertilizer per acre, at the time you are sowing the wheat. I would recommend for a medium loam soil an analysis running about 2 per cent. ammonia, 8 per cent. phosphoric acid and 2 per cent. potash. Best results will be obtained if you drill this in through the fertilizer dropping compartment of the grain drill at the time the wheat is being sown. Wheat should be sown as soon as the land will work well in the spring.

**L. M.**—I would like to know if it is advisable to put dry cornstalks in silo now? I did not get silo up in time to fill when corn was cut. How much water will it need? I am thinking that the silage will rot down like a manure heap if dry stalks are soaked with water. I have husked out most of the corn.

**Answer.**—It would not be advisable to cut up dry cornstalks to put in the silo at the present time chiefly because cornstalks in such a state contain such an amount of dry fibre. You have the wrong idea of the making of silage. It is not a case of the corn rotting down like the manure but of the material being saturated with the sugar of corn which is fermented and turned into a light acid. Precisely the same thing goes on in the silo as happens in the preserve cans where the raspberries, strawberries and other fruit have been boiled with sugar and set aside for use in winter. Now it would be impossible to cut up dry cornstalks and by mixing water with same to produce a liquid which would ferment and preserve the corn.

Under the conditions you describe, I believe you would do much better to have the corn cut up with the regular cutting box just as it is needed for feeding the stock. It may be well to sprinkle salty water on the corn just before feeding. This will add to its palatableness.

**S. G.**—How much commercial fertilizer of so-called grade of 1-8-3 would have to be sown per acre to equal ten loads of manure per acre, mostly stable manure, said loads hauled on spreader rated at eighty bushels capacity?

**Answer.**—Commercial fertilizer guaranteed (not so-called), analyzing 1-8-3, means that the fertilizer carries 1 per cent. of a ton of ammonia, 8 per cent. of a ton of phosphoric acid and 3 per cent. of a ton of potash. This means that a ton of fertilizer carries 20 lbs. of ammonia, 160 lbs.

**Clean, Wholesome,**  
and a book that will be read in future generations, by the greatest living master of English,  
**Joseph Conrad**  
The Book:  
"The Rescue," \$2.50

At All Booksellers or  
**J. M. DENT & SONS, Ltd., Pubs.**  
London, Eng., and  
38 Church St., Toronto.

## HIGH YIELDS

ARE ALWAYS PROFITABLE

Because items of outlay, such as land-rental, equipment, labor, land preparation, seed and harvesting charges, are about the same whether you get 20 bushels per acre of wheat or 40 bushels; 40 bushels per acre of oats or 85 bushels; 8 tons silage per acre or 12 tons; 80 bushels of potatoes or 20.

Ontario Agricultural College Bulletin No. 278 (Prof. A. Leitch) reports:

Per cent. of aver. yields	Per year labor income
81-90%	\$506.00
91-100%	583.00
101-110%	660.00
111-120%	737.00
Over 120%	814.00

Push your crop yields above the average and get the big labor income. For increased yields in 1921, apply Fertilizers. Write

**THE SOIL AND CROP**  
Improvement Bureau of the  
Canadian Fertilizer Association  
111 Temple Building - Toronto

## How to Skin Fur-Bearing Animals.

BY S. THOMAS.

It is just as important to know how to skin and handle the fur-bearers as to know when and how to trap them. The trapper who takes pains in skinning, stretching and handling his furs will be well rewarded for the extra time and effort spent, as he will enhance the value of his collections considerably. The better the condition the skin is in when received by the fur buyer, the less labor he has to put into it, therefore, he can well afford to pay a higher price for the properly skinned and well handled furs.

There are two ways of skinning fur-bearing animals—"cased" and "open." Skunk, mink, muskrat, coyote, otter, marten, fisher, white weasel, red fox and wild cat are skinned "cased."

The "cased" method of removing the pelts is as follows: Cut the skin down the under side of the hind legs and straight across to the root of the tail. Split the tail part way. Then remove the tail bone by slipping a split stick over the tail, grasping the stick with the right hand and holding the animal's body with the left—a quick pull and the bone slips out. Then pull the skin over the body to the front legs, keeping as clean of flesh and fat as possible. Work the front legs out. Pull the skin some more—use the knife around the ears and eyes—and take off at the end of the nose. To make the work of skinning easier, a strong cord may be looped around the hind legs and the animal suspended from the limb of a tree or some other projecting object.

Muskrat tails are worthless and should be cut off. Otter tails should be split open on the under side the entire length, spread out flat and the edges fastened to the board with tacks.

Raccoon, beaver, badger, timber wolf and mole should be skinned "open." The "open" method of skinning is cutting the skin down the belly from the chin to the root of the tail, then peeling it from the body, using the knife whenever necessary. The fur should be tacked on to a wide, flat board to dry. Beaver should be stretched as round as possible. Procure a hoop and fasten the skin at four points in the hoop. Then gradually stretch between these fastenings, using a large bag needle, passing the string through the skin and around the hoop.

### Preparing the Skin.

After the skin is taken from the carcass, it should be fleshed, that is, all superfluous fat and flesh should be removed. A dull knife may be used to good advantage for this work. If all fat and flesh is not taken off, the skin is liable to become tainted or hairslip, or grease-burnt. A tainted or hairslip skin is one from which the hair comes out in large bunches, and such skins are practically worthless. Grease-burnt skins crack when bent, and are of but little value. Always skit the animal as soon as possible after killing.

"Cased" skins should be put on

boards, flesh out, belly on one side and back on the other, and fastened with half a dozen tacks. Skunk, muskrat, mink, white weasel and wild cat may be shipped flesh out; skins of other fur-bearers should be turned when dry and shipped fur out.

Never dry furs near the heat of a fire or in the sun, but put them in a cool, dry place. Do not use salt or alum on your furs, as it is injurious to the skins and lessens their value.

Be careful not to over-stretch the skins. Don't try to make a large one out of a medium. You can't fool the buyer and you will be the loser, as the fur is spread over too large a surface, thereby becoming thin, and such skins will not be graded as No. 1.

### Stretching the Fur.

There are several kinds of steel fur stretchers on the market, which are very good for that purpose, and particularly useful to the beginner. However, a supply of stretching boards can be made from shingles and other soft wood. Average size mink boards should be about thirty-two inches long, four and a half inches wide at base and four inches at the shoulder, then taper to a blunt point at the nose. The skunk board ought to be about twenty-eight to thirty inches long, five to seven inches wide at base and four to six inches at the shoulder, from there coming to nearly a point, about an inch wide at the end. The muskrat board should be about twenty-two inches long, about six inches wide at base and about five and a half at shoulder, then taper to a point.

When the skins are thoroughly dry, they are ready for shipping. Pack them flat, one skin on another. Never put one skin inside another. Tie them together securely and wrap in bur-lap. Most fur houses furnish identification cards, which are sent free to the shipper. The contents of your shipment should be listed on one of these, your name and address plainly written on it and the card placed inside the bag or bundle. Also be sure your name and address are plainly written on the outside tag and that it is securely fastened to the bundle. Small packages may be shipped by parcel post. Larger bundles should go by express. Never ship by freight, as the delivery is too slow and your furs might spoil while in transit.

An important thing to the trapper is to ship his furs to a reliable house. Of course, it is hard to tell which is which unless you have done business with them before. There are many reliable fur houses who will treat the shipper "square" and most of these will hold furs separate on approval and submit a valuation. If you have any doubt in your mind regarding the house to whom you are making your shipment, it would be well to request the shipment held separate. Then if the offer is not satisfactory, you can have the furs returned.

Skin, stretch and handle your furs with care, use judgment in shipping and trapping will pay you well.

### My Home Medicine Chest.

Cuts, sores, scratches on horses, and other minor ailments, I find, may properly be cared for by the farmer. Then it is possible in some cases to relieve pain by simple treatments while waiting for the veterinarian's arrival. This, of course, presupposes a thorough knowledge of the case in question, because a wrong step may be fatal.

With this work I found a medicine chest very handy and valuable. There were a great many things which seemed to be necessary, but I finally reduced the stock of medicines to a few staple supplies. These I kept in a clean place where they might be found in a hurry when needed. I built a cabinet in the dairy barn where the milkers changed their clothes. It was a place convenient to the horse stables and pigery. In it I put the following articles: Douche pump, drench bottles, teat knife, milking tubes, two thermometers, a package of umbilical cord tape, bandages, and a milk-fever outfit. On the upper shelf I put medicines which are commonly needed. These included: Iodine, carbolic acid, lysol, castor oil, boric acid, Epsom salts, Glauber salts, saltpeter, borax, sulphur, pine tar, castile soap, a good liniment, and ointments.

I took a great deal of pride in my medicine chest, and after I had learned that it was a good investment I bought some standard bottles from the druggist. Of course, I had to see that the supplies were replenished from time to time as they were used up.

While my medicine chest was new and novel, I had lots of trouble. The men found it an excuse for not caring for the animals they were entrusted with. Instead of using precautions to prevent collar sores by keeping the collars clean, they depended on my "cure-all," which they used very freely and extravagantly. Some of them had ill effects of their own, and used my medicines profusely; and some were

### TYPewriter BARGAINS

for Xmas delivery, Standard keyboard rebuilt Typewriters, with touch method book, \$25, including express prepaid.

**DOMINION TYPEWRITER CO.**

68 Victoria St. - - - Toronto



DECEMBER 19TH.

Jesus Feeds the Multitude—St. Matthew 14. Golden Text—St. Matt. 14: 16.

13-23. When Jesus Heard. Evidently, it was when Jesus heard what Herod was saying about Him, and saw that as a result of Herod's fears His life might be in immediate danger, that He determined to withdraw to a remote place apart with His disciples. He had yet much to tell them, very much to explain and teach, and He desired to have them with Him alone. But His purpose was at this time thwarted by the action of the multitude who watched the course of the boat which conveyed Him across the lake, and followed on foot around the shore. Instead of quiet hours of rest with His immediate circle of disciples, Jesus found Himself again pressed upon by the curious, eager, enthusiastic crowd. He might have been angry, or resentful, or impatient, but He was not. He was moved with compassion. That was the effect the sight of the multitude always had upon Him. He could be angry with the meddling, officious, self-righteous scribes, but not with the hungry and uncared for people. They seemed to Him as "sheep not having a shepherd" (Mark 6: 34). He healed their sick. He "began to teach them many things" (Mark 6: 34). He "welcomed them and spake to them of the Kingdom of God, and them that had need of healing He healed" (Luke 9: 11). John says that when He saw the multitude He turned to Philip and said, "Whence are we to buy bread that these may eat?" (John 6: 5). His first thought was not of His own weariness or discomfort, but of their need.

When It Was Evening. Apparently the day passed without any effort on the part of the disciples to get food for the people. They naturally, with their limited resources, thought that impossible. Now they come to beg their Master to dismiss the people that they may go and find food for themselves. The place where they were, however, was on the northern or north-eastern side of the lake, and probably remote from villages. They might have had to go a long way for the food, with which in their eagerness and thoughtlessness they had failed to provide themselves. Jesus said, They need not depart, or, as Rev. Vers., "They have no need to go away."

The command of Jesus to His disciples to give, even though what they had to give seemed very little and altogether inadequate, illustrates a great truth of His gospel of human service. Giving is to be measured by quality and not by quantity. That which is consecrated to service is always multiplied. The kindly word or deed, the song, the prayer, is multiplied a thousand fold. That thought which a man has cherished in his heart and timidly feared to speak, becomes when spoken, an inspiration and a light, it may be, to millions and to future generations. There is no truer story in the Gospel than that of the five loaves and the two fishes.

He Went Up Into a Mountain Apart. The scenes and events of the day had moved Jesus strangely. The persistent following of the Galilean multitude and their warm attachment to Him must have appealed to Him very strongly. John tells us that Jesus saw "that they were about to come and take Him by force and make Him king." He was not yet prepared to take that step, which would at once have involved Him in war with the Roman powers. His kingdom, He believed, was not to be gained by war. And so He sent the people away, persuaded the disciples to return to Capernaum in the boat, and He Himself went apart alone into the mountain to pray. What thoughts

occupied His mind, what petitions He offered up to God, we do not know. But we may well believe He prayed for those people whom He had sent away disappointed, and for Himself that the same spirit which came upon Him at baptism would guide Him through the perilous and perplexing days which lay ahead.

It is Luke who tells us in his gospel most of what we know of Jesus' habit of prayer—how He prayed at His baptism, and after the strenuous labors of a Sabbath day in Capernaum, before setting out upon His first tour of Galilee; how He prayed before His first encounter with suspicious and jealous Pharisees, and spent all night in prayer before His choosing of the twelve; how He taught His disciples to pray, prayed with three of them in the mount of Transfiguration, prayed for Peter, and prayed in the agony of Gethsemane. Prayer was His constant resource, His communion with God. Prayer was the expression of His unwavering faith.

24-33. From the mountain of prayer Jesus went after His disciples and came unto them, walking upon the sea. The story of this amazing act is told as simply and naturally as that of the multiplying of the loaves and fishes. The evidence is as complete and full as that for any other event of Jesus' life. To reject it is to say, practically, that we know nothing with certainty of what Jesus did or said, and that no scholar of repute would assert to-day. And if Jesus did these things who and what was He? Must we not with His disciples worship Him and say, Of a truth thou art the Son of God?

A Queer Conversation.

The paper and string felt very blue—though one was snow white and one a cheerful red.

"If I were only a doll or a rocking horse, what a lot of happiness I would give," sighed the string.

"How wonderful to be a book—what good am I?" mourned the paper, dolefully.

"If we could only have a part in Christmas!"

"Have a part? Why, my dears, you have a part—the very delectablest and most important part! Why, if it were not for you there would not be any surprises to Christmas at all."

The two looked up in astonishment, for they had supposed themselves alone. There on the inkwell perched a little Christmas fairy.

"'Tis you who keep the secrets," she laughed, merrily.

"Why, half the pleasure of Christmas is trying to guess what is in the gayly tied packages. Dear me, old St. Nick could not get along without you at all."

The paper began to fairly rustle with importance. "That's so," he said cheerfully. "And I'll hold out as long as I can."

"So will I," said the string. "We'll keep them wondering a long time. I tell you, it takes chaps like us to keep a secret!"

The little fairy smiled wisely and flew away, for she saw that she was no longer needed.

## STRAIGHT HAIR MADE NATURAL WAVY.

Do you want that joy?

If so, write for Illustrated Booklet (The Good and Bad Way of Permanent Waving). We also have the Nestle Permanent Hair Waving Home Outfits.

**R. HARPER**

Nestle Permanent Hair Waver  
416 BLOOR ST. WEST, TORONTO  
Agent of  
The C. Nestle Co. for Canada.



The paper and string felt very blue—though one was snow white and one a cheerful red.

"If I were only a doll or a rocking horse, what a lot of happiness I would give," sighed the string.

"How wonderful to be a book—what good am I?" mourned the paper, dolefully.

"If we could only have a part in Christmas!"

"Have a part? Why, my dears, you have a part—the very delectablest and most important part! Why, if it were not for you there would not be any surprises to Christmas at all."

The two looked up in astonishment, for they had supposed themselves alone. There on the inkwell perched a little Christmas fairy.

"'Tis you who keep the secrets," she laughed, merrily.

"Why, half the pleasure of Christmas is trying to guess what is in the gayly tied packages. Dear me, old St. Nick could not get along without you at all."

The paper began to fairly rustle with importance. "That's so," he said cheerfully. "And I'll hold out as long as I can."

"So will I," said the string. "We'll keep them wondering a long time. I tell you, it takes chaps like us to keep a secret!"

The little fairy smiled wisely and flew away, for she saw that she was no longer needed.



## Potato Profits

Last Spring a farmer came to us telling us he was wondering whether fertilizer would help his potatoes. We said it would. He thought it over and finally said: "You tell me what fertilizers are good for potatoes and I'll try 'em out."

He bought Gunns Shur-Gain 4-8-4 and 6-13 Fertilizers—used them side by side but planted a few rows without fertilizer for a check. All rows were 40 ft. long—notice the results—

Two rows fertilized with 4-8-4	yielded 20 bushels marketable potatoes
Two " " " 6-13	" " " 10 " "
Two " " UNFERTILIZED	" " " 10 " "

In other words the judicious use of fertilizer doubled the yield.

It will pay YOU to use

**Gunns SHUR-GAIN Fertilizers**

Write for information and prices.

**GUNNS LIMITED, West Toronto.**

Agents wanted in unallotted territory.