

## RURAL COMMUNITIES CAN CONSERVE FUEL

All the anthracite coal used in eastern Canada, and much of the bituminous coal, is from mines situated in the United States. Munitions plants alone have increased the demand upon United States coal supplies by 100 million tons a year. Due to labour and transportation shortage, the output could be increased by only 42,000,000 tons. Conservation and the use of substitutes must make up the balance.

Present indications are that the coal shortage will be more serious next winter than this.

The extensive use of wood fuel, particularly in rural communities, is being urged, both in the United States and Canada, to help relieve the present situation and to avert possible disaster next winter.

Wood for next winter's use should be cut now, to allow time for seasoning.

Farmers and rural communities generally can render a distinct patriotic service by reverting to the use of wood fuel, thus, at the same time, helping to relieve the shortage of coal and of freight cars. Substitute team haul or water transportation for rail haul, so far as practicable.

It may become necessary to restrict even more closely than has yet been done, the allotment and distribution of coal in sections where wood fuel is available. Prudence demands provision against this contingency.

A large production of wood fuel is the best safeguard against extortionate prices.

Municipal wood yards will, in many cases, help solve the problem. The large operations thus involved will justify the use of power saws, and power splitters, and perhaps also of motor trucks for hauling. The labour shortage will in some cases make it desirable to transport the wood to the municipal yards in log lengths, there to be cut up and split by the use of machinery.

The farmers wood-lots should become a large factor in the wood fuel situation. It is, however, of the utmost importance that the wood-lot be not destroyed by cutting clean. Remove dead, diseased, defective and over-mature trees, leaving a sufficient stand of the thrifty stock. Protect the young growth. Retain the forest cover on all lands not suitable, or not needed for cultivation.—C.L.

## NEED OF BETTER URBAN AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The importance of promoting more scientific methods of rural as well as of urban development is engaging the attention of prominent groups of citizens in all legitimate countries. It is generally agreed that recovery after the war in each nation will be the more rapid in proportion as more effi-

cient methods are applied to secure the increase of production. Canada has never failed to apply the doctrine of Adam Smith to incite the natural efforts of the producers by means of promoting a condition of freedom amongst its citizens and encouraging the settlement of land by the real users of the land. Unfortunately, however, land speculation has been so little controlled and the planning and laying out the land for economic use has been so much neglected, that production has been hampered and bad social conditions have grown up. Incitement to natural effort by means of mere ownership of the land has proved inadequate because of these deficiencies—and the quality of the natural effort has been impaired as a result of overcrowding and bad sanitation in the cities and isolation and poverty in the country.

—T.A.

## BOOKS ON GARDENING

Accurate Knowledge Means  
Greater Production

*Home Vegetable Garden and a Patriotic Gardening Competition,\** by W. T. Macoun. Pamphlet No. 13, Central Experimental Farm. Deals with situation of the garden, preparation of the soil, planning the garden, and gives list of suitable varieties of vegetables.

*Farm Garden Bulletin No. 5,* Manitoba Agricultural College. Discusses site, location, arrangement, soil cultivation, seeds, thinning, transplanting, storing, and gives notes on the various garden crops and recommended varieties. Apply Manitoba Agricultural College, Winnipeg.

*Production in the School Garden.* Rural Education Monthly, published by Dept. of Education, Regina.

*Vacant Lot Gardening,\** Pamphlet No. 6, Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa.

*Gardening for Schools.* Ontario Dept. of Agriculture. Bulletin No. 152. Apply Dept. of Agriculture, Toronto.

*Improvement of School Grounds,* by the Ontario Dept. of Education, Toronto, Ont. Profusely illustrated. Discusses flower borders, perennials, vines, nursery stock shrubs, making of lawns, and gives plans for laying out school grounds.

*The Gardenette or City Backyard Gardening,* by Benjamin F. Albaugh. Discusses vegetable gardening and flower gardening, dealing particularly with city small yard conditions. Price \$1.25. Published by Stewart and Kidd Co., Cincinnati, Ohio.

\*May be obtained from Publications Branch, Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa.

## POULTRY LITERATURE

The "Keep Chickens" Convert  
Should Be Well Informed

*Farm Poultry,* by M. C. Herner. Discusses housing, breeds, feeding and feeding, egg production, judging of poultry, egg circles, egg preservatives, diseases, and general care and management of both fancy and utility breeds. Apply Dept. of Agriculture, Winnipeg.

*Bulletin No. 189,* Ontario Dept. of Agriculture, Toronto, deals with poultry, houses, egg production, foods, incubation, rearing chickens, fattening, care and management of fancy and utility breeds. Apply Dept. of Agriculture, Toronto.

*Bulletins 7, 8, and 9,\** Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa, deal with poultry farming, farmers' poultry houses and diseases and parasites of poultry, respectively.

*Preparing Poultry Produce for Market,* by F. C. Elford. Bulletin No. 88\*, Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa.

*Poultry Houses* by F. C. Elford. Bulletin\* No. 87, Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa.

*Poultrycraft,* by John H. Robinson 260 pp. What to do and how to do it. Fully illustrated. Published by Farm Poultry Publishing Co., Boston, Mass. May be obtained from most dealers in agricultural text books, or poultry supplies.

*Successful Poultry Raising,* by A. W. Foley, Poultry Superintendent, Dept. of Agriculture, Alberta. Apply Dept. of Agriculture, Edmonton, Alberta.

*How to Keep Hens for Profit,* by C. S. Valentine. Illustrated, 290 pp. clo. cover. Published by the Macmillan Co., Toronto. Handled by book stores and by dealers in poultry supplies.

\*May be obtained from Publications Branch, Dept. of Agriculture, Ottawa.

## Preventing Loss of Food by Lightning

In eastern Canada, April and May are the worst months for fires resulting from lightning. In Ontario, lightning fires during April and May, 1917, numbered 172, entailing a loss of \$158,921, little over half of which was covered by insurance.

Many lightning-rod systems have been installed during the past few years, and these are gradually showing results. When properly installed, they give almost absolute protection, so much so that many of the farmers' mutual insurance companies report no losses by lightning on rodded buildings, while others will not insure a risk that is not rodded. Nearly all insurance companies charge a lower premium on insurance on buildings equipped with lightning-rods.

The rapid increase in the use of wire fences constitutes a serious lightning menace to live stock. Many hundreds are killed by getting close to wire fences during a thunder storm. When lightning strikes the wire fences, if there are no ground wires, or if iron fence posts are not used, the animal furnish the path of least resistance between the fence and the ground. Wire fences, should have a ground wire sunk to moist earth, every few rods, to carry off the current.

Lightning-rod installations should be inspected before April, in case any break in the continuity of the cables has been caused by the severe winter weather; the grounding of the cable should also be assured.

With the tremendous world shortage of food, and the great demands being made upon Canada to increase the supply, it is of the utmost importance that the great destruction of foodstuffs caused by lightning striking wire fences and destroying barns and their contents should be overcome.

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