

Springtime Suggestions for Farmers

Seed Preparation.

During the leisure hours of winter a little extra time should be devoted to cleaning the seed grain. Two bushels of thoroughly cleaned seed will give better results than four bushels of uncleaned seed. Seed to be purchased should be ordered early. It may be found necessary to clean it again. Test the germinating power of all kinds of seed to be sown. Failures are often due to poor germination, not to the weather nor soil.

Examine your seed drill. If repairs are required, now is a good time to order and repair. Should a new drill be necessary, try a wide disc-drill.

Harrow

A spike-toothed harrow is one of the best implements for conserving moisture and fining the surface soil. One stroke with sharp teeth is as good, or better, than two strokes with dull teeth.

Ploughs

For spring work, use the short, wide mould-board and plough shallow, except when smothering couch grass. See that the coulter and share are sharp. A two-furrow plough for spring work is better than the single plough.

Roller

Some bolts may require tightening or some woodwork may need replacing. If purchasing a new one, examine the flexible, two-section roller. When using the roller, attach a set of harrows behind. They do good work together.

Machinery

Simply for want of repairing, many good machines are put on the scrap heap long before they should be discarded. A can of oil and a monkey-wrench applied in time will often save the price of a new machine.

Barb Yard

Clean out the manure before the snow is gone. If used for hoed crops, it may be spread direct from the sleigh or put in small piles about eight yards apart and spread early in spring. If there is danger of washing away, put in flat piles of about 20 loads each. If used for the corn crop, spread after ploughing. If used for the newly seeded meadows, spread immediately after harvest. When putting the manure in piles, use land plaster freely. It will absorb moisture and keep the pile from heating, which is very essential for the best results.

Fences

New fences or repairs should be looked after before the animals are turned out. Once the cattle get the habit of visiting fields that they are not intended to, it is very hard to restrain them.



(Cut No. 38)

Falls on Big Slide Creek, a tributary of the Skeena river. The photograph is typical of the water powers of the Skeena river valley.

B. C. WATER-POWER SURVEY

During the season of 1913, a party of engineers of the Conservation Commission examined the water power situation in the district tributary to the watersheds of the following rivers in interior British Columbia: Skeena, Kispicox, Bulkley, Morice, Te'kwa Zymoetz and Kitsungallum

Firewood

Cutting firewood in summer, when it can be done much easier and cheaper in winter, is a waste of valuable time. First clean up old logs, rails, broken boards, etc., around the buildings. Perhaps somewhere on the farm there are two fields that could profitably be made into one, and the old rail fence between them converted into good posts or into fuel. In the wood lot there may be dead or fallen trees that should be removed and made into firewood before the live trees are touched.—J. F.

rivers. The season was an unusually wet one and the country traversed very rough with consequent poor trails, that in many instances required clearing, so that progress was necessarily slow. In spite of this, twenty-six streams in all were examined and twenty-eight power sites reported upon.

TRENT WATERSHED SURVEY

That practically all the pine in the Trent valley has been removed, that the whole area has been burned over at least once, and that as a result of fires, 150,000 acres are practically a desert, are conclusions set forth in a report entitled *Trent Watershed Survey*, recently published by the Commission of Conservation. The Dominion Government has a special interest in this particular region, as the capital invested in

Conservation of Wild Life

Canada's Opportunity

That the U.S. Congress, about a year ago, passed an Act for the protection of migratory birds which is even more beneficial to Canada than to the United States, and that the Dominion Government can assist in making this law permanent and effective by negotiating a treaty on the subject, were important points brought out by Mr. William S. Haskell, Counsel of the American Game Protective Association, at a recent address at the Fifth Annual Meeting of the Commission of Conservation. The defenders of state rights are up in arms against the Act, and there is danger of this far-reaching measure being set aside on the ground of unconstitutionality. Should a treaty be negotiated, however, this would be impossible, as no treaty can be annulled by judicial procedure. Hence, the Dominion Government should use its influence to persuade the British Government to negotiate such a treaty and thus meet American reformers half-way in their endeavours to protect North American wild birds.

Game Sanctuaries

In many parts of the United States, game sanctuaries have now been established, where no shooting is allowed, except of vermin, and where all wild creatures are free to live and propagate unmolested. The American Game Protective Association has established, near Cape Cod, Mass., a six-thousand acre game farm, where quail, grouse, heath hens, pheasants, partridges, wild ducks, turkeys and geese, have been successfully raised. Game birds are sent out to members of the Association who will undertake to rear them in refuges, enable them to increase, and, in due time, release them so that the covers may be restocked.

the Trent canal amounts to upwards of \$10,000,000, and the removal of the forest cover has an important effect on the water supply.

For the most part the land is non-agricultural, and disastrous consequences have followed its settlement by farmers. Enough second-growth timber is present, however, to warrant a policy of conservation, which should be carried out under Dominion, Provincial or Municipal control. A fire-protective organization should be perfected, and the whole area carefully administered with a view to perpetuating the forest resources.

The report, embodying these conclusions, was compiled by Dr. C. D. Howe and Mr. J. H. White, of the Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto, and has an introductory discussion by Dr. H. E. Fernow. It consists of 126 pages, and is illustrated with 22 half-tone engravings, and 3 maps.