THE CANADIAN THRESHERMAN AND FARMER

CLIMATE AND FERTILITY

Canada's Winters Conserve the Fertilizers in the Soil

HE influence of climate on fertility is frequently overlooked, but it has a more or less direct bearing on the fertilizer question in Canada. It is realized by few that climatic conditions - rainfall, temperatures, etc.-exert a profound influence on the nature and composition of soils, both in their origin and in the power to conserve their fertility. These influences may tend to the accumulation or the dissipation of those elements or soil constitutents which make for fertility. In this regard, save our coastal lands with excessive rainfall, which may keep the lighter soils poor in available plant food, our country is singularly blessed. We cannot now elaborate this question, but one instance may be cited that may serve as an illustration-one which undoubtedly influences in a beneficial way the fertility of our soils. The rigorous winter that prevails over the greater part of Canada locks up for several months-practically from harvest to seeding timethe soil's fertility. The plant food that has been converted into available forms during the preceding summer and autumn, and which is left over after the season's growth, is conserved for the crop of the succeeding year. The frost holds tight within its grasp plant food of untold valuesespecially 'the more valuable nitrates, so necessary for stimulating the growth of the young crop. In regions enjoying a more open winter, this soluble plant food would be lost by leaching. With all their drawbacks, our severe winters, with their almost continuous low temperatures, must be regarded, in their role as conservers of fertility, as an agricultural asset of no small value, one which must profoundly affect in a beneficial way our dependence upon purchased fertilizers for satisfaction.-Dr. F. T. Shutt, at Eighth Annual Meeting of Commission of Conservation,



The Hook Provides an Easy Way to Hang a Hop after the Gambrel Is in Place

A Gambrel Hook

Farmers use a pole to hang the hogs on at slaughtering time in winter. On this pole a grambrel stick is placed, the ends being inserted in the hock of the animal's leg. It is always a hard job to do

the hanging and place the gambrel stick at the same time. A better way is to provide a double hook of metal, heavy enough to support the animal, and hang the gambrel stick on this hook, as shown. The metal may be square or round, bent into a U-shape of such dimensions that it will fit over the timber used in hanging the hogs and with a hook formed on each end. It is an easy matter to insert the gambrel while the hog is lying on the work table, then lift it by the gambrel and place the latter on the hooks.



A Trapdoor Handle

Wishing to have a handle for a trapdoor that would not be above the floor level, I made one as shown in the sketch. A 3/4-in. hole was bored, about 1/8 in. deep, in the door where the handle was to be placed. In the centre of this hole another was bored, large enough to permit a chain, 5 in. long, to slip in it. On the upper side a button, such as used on uniforms, was secured to the chain end, and on the under side a weight was hung. The door is easily dragged up by lifting the button and grasping the chain.



Glass of Water as a Holder for a Candle

In the country where neither gas nor electricity is available, it is often necessary to use a candle for illumination. If it is desired to light up a corner or part of some mechanism and both hands are to be used, a simple holder for a candle can be improvised by inserting a nail in the lower end of it and placing it in a glass, threefourths full of water. The candle will rise gradually as it is consumed, and no tallow will be spilled on the lighted object.

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