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fails to have it makes a great mistake. If top dressed with manure, spread by a spreader, a wonderful change will be made, where soils are not ever rich. Black bottom lands do not need it. If some ingenious Hoosier will invent a machine to crush or grind it into a feed, a fortune awaits him; and fortunes can be made in feeding it so.

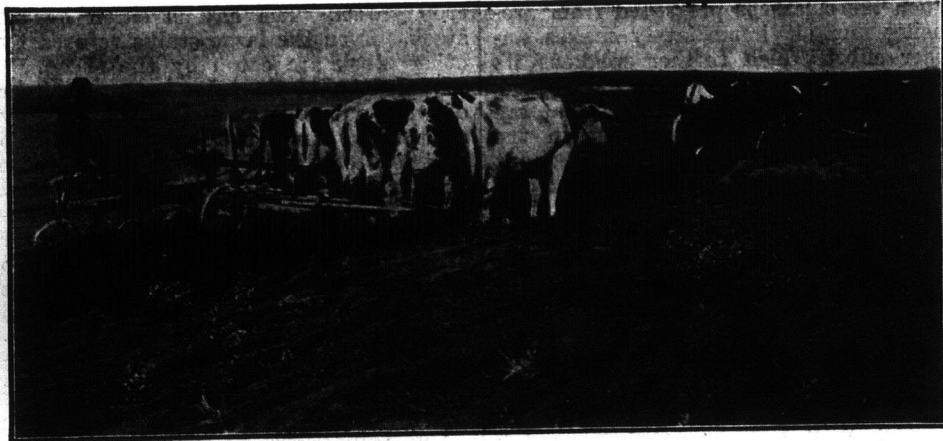
"The Story of the Soil."

The above is the title of a book that ought to be in the hands of every farmer in this country; yes, in the hands of every English-reading farmer in the world. It ought to be translated into all the languages of the earth, so that every farmer in the world might be able to read it. It is based upon truth—facts that cannot be controverted—but there is mixed with it a little story of human interest and of love that adds spice to the whole, making it not only highly profitable, but also intensely interesting reading matter. The author of the book is Prof. Cyril G. Hopkins, of the University of Illinois, and the publisher, R. G. Badger, Boston, Massachusetts.

We wish to congratulate Professor Hopkins in this pioneer work of combining truth and fiction and of teaching fundamental principles of agriculture in so plain and straightforward a manner, devoid of scientific technicalities. Professor Hopkins is an enthusiast, as everyone knows who is familiar with his work at the Illinois Experiment Station as an investigator, writer, and speaker. By some he is said to be a "soil crank," and to an

farming impoverishes the soil, he does not understand how to maintain its fertility unless he adopts a system of farming that includes the feeding of practically everything he raises to live stock, carefully husbanding the manure produced therefrom, and returning it to the land with perhaps some additional manure produced by purchased concentrates in the shape of bran, cottonseed meal, oil meal, or other products of that kind, and such a system it is manifestly impossible for every man to follow. This is evident upon the slightest thought. The two-thirds of our population who are consumers and not producers of farm products must have bread, potatoes, rice, peas, beans, breakfast food, cornmeal mush, pancakes, and a thousand other things—all of which carry with them farm fertility.

Most of our soils are rich in potassium; nitrogen we can get from the atmosphere through the growing of legumes, such as clover, alfalfa, etc.; but phosphorus is present in comparatively small amounts in all our soils, and in very small amounts in our run-down soils, and the phosphate mines are the only outside source of supply. While our Corn Belt soils are may continue to be productive for an still rich in phosphorus, and while they other country or two, under systems of live stock farming, it is an undeniable fact that without the application of phosphorus the great bulk of our soils in the United States will not remain productive for another century to such an extent that they will be able to supply the needs of our population a hundred years from now, when instead



The Ox in action on J. C. Madills Farm, Maymont, Sask.

extent that is, no doubt, true. On the other hand, he deals with facts, not theories. His views on soil fertility are sound. His studies of American soils in general and of Illinois soils in particular have not only convinced him of the fact—which every farmer knows to be true—that our soils are being systematically robbed of their fertility, and that they always have been robbed, but also he sees that if this condition is continued very much longer, American civilization will soon go the way that other civilizations have gone before.

His contention is that the phosphorus content of our soils is very limited, practically exhausted in some of our eastern and southern states, and that unless our natural phosphate rock deposits, which are also limited, are retained in this country and protected by the government, agricultural production per acre will continue to diminish from decade to decade until agriculture will decline to the level of that of China, India and Russia. We are now annually exporting five million dollars' worth of raw phosphate rock, enough phosphorus "for the production of more than a billion dollar's worth of wheat." He adds: "How long can we afford to give away a thousand millions for five millions?"

It has been reported by the United States Geological Survey that if the present rate of increase in phosphate rock export continues, in 50 years our mines will be empty. Whether this will prove to be true may be open to question. Large new beds of this rock have recently been found and inexhaustible supplies may yet be discovered. Be that as it may, however, the fact remains that while the average farmer knows that continuous grain

of 90 million there will be 500 million mouths to feed.

It is this great soil fertility question which is discussed in "The Story of the Soil" in a new, original, instructive, and entertaining manner. The facts in the case are so plainly set forth, yet so strikingly told, that we wish thousands of our readers would send for the book.

Effect of Rust on Straw and Grain.

The effect of rust is to arrest the development of the plant and to prevent the seed from arriving at a proper maturity. It would seem that much of nutriment which with healthy growth would reach the grain, remains in the straw and makes the straw more nourishing than that of rust free wheat. Rusted straw has been found by analysis to contain 7.69 per cent. protein, whereas in rust free straw it is only about 2.44 per cent. There is a marked difference between the appearance of both the grain and the straw of healthy and affected wheat, according to a report of the government chemist.

The rust free wheat had a clear, bright yellow, well ripened straw; a normal ear, both as to size and color, and a plump, well filled grain. On the other hand, the rusted wheat straw presented in general a dirty greenish brown appearance, and on closer inspection showed many spots or patches of infection, while its ears were smaller than normal, and the kernels light and much shrivelled.

The Straw. — The rusted straw is much the richer in crude protein. Under the term crude protein is included all those nitrogenous compounds of a



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36 inches high—	8 cents per running foot
42 " " "	9 " " "
48 " " "	10 " " "

Notice—These prices are for Old Ontario only. For New Ontario, Maritime Provinces and Quebec, add 1 cent per foot. For Manitoba and Saskatchewan, add 3 cents per foot. For Alberta and British Columbia, add 4 cents per foot. This increase over Old Ontario prices is due to the additional freight rates which we pay.

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