

ever, to achieve its best success, must follow methods different from those

mercantile fertilizer will pay for several years.

The Dairy

It costs twice as much to produce milk in winter as in summer, and in instances four times as much, according to Prof. F. A. Pearson, of the University of Illinois. Professor Pearson has just completed a survey of a number of herds supplying milk to Chicago.

"The study confirms the opinion of many dairy farmers of the great importance of pasture in milk production," he says. "The feed expense, according to our records, in the summer months in which pastures are good is occasionally only one-fourth of that in certain winter months, when large amounts of farm-raised and purchased feeds are used.

"The amount of man labor involved is considerably less in the summer months than in the winter period. This is true, we find, whether based upon the amount of labor used on the herd or whether based upon the amount involved in the production of 100 pounds of milk.

"Proper significance of this reduction in labor is appreciated only when it is shown that the savings in labor occur during the pasture season, when most generally maximum labor is needed in the field.

"The cost of producing milk, aside from man labor, feed, and horse labor is more or less even throughout the year. When all expenses are included, the net cost of making milk costs about twice as much in December as in June.

"It would seem that with milk costs so low in summer farmers would concentrate production during these months; but, since the selling price increases with production costs, it is to the best interests of the farmer and consumer to keep production fairly even throughout the year."

The wheat harvest of India, after allowing for exports, is 1,629,000 tons above the normal requirements of that

Hogs

In spite of the best of care many fall pigs will emerge from the winter looking pretty sorry. Often they will be shaggy-haired, skinny, tails minus the artistic curl, dejected-looking, and seemingly fit subjects for the ax. But the warmth of spring, proper care and feeding will do wonders for them. I have had fall pigs that didn't look like five cents in April, yet by June they tipped the scales at 225.

The first thing to do with a backward pig is to free him from worms. When the worms are gone, one of the standard conditioners should be used. Wood ashes, salt, and soft coal should be where the pig can help himself at pleasure. The backward pig must have access to pasture. Green food is one of the best conditioners. In addition, the exercise is good for him.

Ground feed, such as oats or corn, works wonders with runty pigs. I make sure that they have all the tankage they want. Nothing seems to revive a pig's spirits like tankage. The pigs should also have all the corn they want. Unless diseased, the pigs will soon shed their long hair, brighten up, and develop an appetite that is alarming. It is then but a matter of a couple of months till they will be ready for the market at 200 pounds or better.

Renewing the Septic Tank.

Several years ago our septic tank refused to work. The soil had evidently become so saturated that it no longer absorbed the refuse water. To remedy the difficulty I built a chamber some 50 feet away from the seepage part of the tank, connecting the two with four-inch field tile. The tile were placed at a depth lower than the level of the inflow into the receiving apartment of the tank. Since then the tank has worked without a hitch.



The Profitable Skunk.

The advantages of the artificial raising of the fox, beaver, and muskrat, specifically, have been often pointed out, and here it is proposed to devote a few words to that much abused animal, the skunk. The fact that the animal is to be found in practically every part of the American continent, and that the pelt has sold as high as ten dollars, is sufficient to attract the attention of fur farmers and induce a study into the feasibility and advantages of the industry.

Many years ago Ernest Thompson Seton, the well known nature writer and naturalist to the Manitoba Government, advocated a more extensive artificial propagation of the skunk, and himself operated a most successful ranch of this kind. Because, largely of a prejudice against the little animal and its method of defence, skunk farming has never been firmly established in Canada as an industry, although the advantages and possibilities are obviously so great. Success on other parts of the American continent and elsewhere have demonstrated the feasibility of establishing the industry firmly and profitably in the Dominion.

The skunk is widely found over the Canadian Dominion in every corner and nook where it can find food suited to its needs, and notwithstanding the fact that it is persistently hunted, trapped and worried by dogs, it continues to thrive and multiply in close proximity to settlements. The animal is neither timid nor vicious and is

practically omnivorous, devouring large quantities of insects including grasshoppers, crickets, beetles and caterpillars. In captivity, its feeding is very economical, the diet consisting of meat, fish, cooked cereals, vegetables and milk. The food problem is most easily solved where the ranch is established within reach of a hotel. The contents of the daily garbage can will feed a considerable number.

The skunk multiplies rapidly with litters of from six to twelve, the period of gestation being eight weeks. Descending may be performed when the animals are five weeks old and all possibility of future nuisance may be eliminated, but in domestic raising this is not really necessary, contrary to general belief, as the animals become remarkably tame and friendly with those handling them and never bring into play the powerful weapon nature has given them except when badly frightened by some intruder.

Skunk ranching could be successfully carried on in practically every section of Canada, for the animal is indigenous to every part and would find his natural conditions wherever a farm was located. In wire enclosed pens of suitable land the animals will make their own burrows and dens and need little attention beyond feeding. The demand for pelts is steady and general, and the high prices prevailing during the past few years make skunk ranches very profitable concerns and augur a successful future for any development along these lines.

Compare what is said of Prov. 3: 11-17.

45-46. Goody Pearls. In a notebook of his student days, Phillips Brooks wrote of a letter of the famous Hilary of Poitiers, a Christian leader and saint of the fifth century, which he had sent to his little daughter. "He tells her in a simple parable, that a Christian father might write and a Christian daughter read to-day, how he wished to send her a gift, and heard of one who had a pearl and robe of costly beauty; how he was told of their wonderful perfection, that the robe should never fade and never grow old, that the pearl should bless its owner with unfading youth and beauty; how he begged them for her, and was told that she had only to be worthy of them and they were hers." This is a parable of life, true to the very heart of it, and true for every young boy or girl to-day.

47-50. A Net That Was Cast Into the Sea. Here also the figure is appropriate and true. The words and example of Jesus had, and still have, a wonderfully attractive and compelling power. In His time the multitudes came to Him, of every sort and from every part. His drag net was out and it gathered them in. He repelled none and turned away from none. It is true that sometimes men

every great crisis of life, and in every great catastrophe of their time—in the Assyrian invasion, in the coming of the Scythian hordes, in the fall of Nineveh, in the doom of Jerusalem, in the overthrow of Babylon, and in the rise and decline of the Greek kingdoms. The Gospel of John declares judgment to be a present fact, and interprets Christ's coming again as the coming of His Spirit. It may be true, therefore, to say that the end of which Christ speaks is always coming, and that we see its dread portents in every age; that every crisis in individual and national life is a call to judgment and a meeting with God, and that in every such crisis there is a separation, a weeding out, a destruction of the evil and a shining forth and glorifying of the good. Has not this been apparent in a stupendous scale in the great war?

Things New and Old. Those who learned in the school of Jesus learned to appreciate and to value very highly what was old in their religion. They learned also to have open minds and obedient hearts toward new truth. They learned to gather and store the treasures of the past, to be brought forth when needed, and to move on to the acquisition of new treasure. So may we all learn.

A NEW POULTRY BOOK

A NEW BOOK, entitled "Canadian Farm Poultry," has just been published by Macdonald College, Que. The book is well bound, neatly printed, replete with practical information and is well illustrated. It is the first Canadian Poultry Book to be offered to the public, the nominal charge of 50c being made merely to cover cost of printing and mailing.

All phases of chicken-raising are discussed, emphasis being laid upon the development of winter-laying strains of the more popular commercial breeds. The book should be of timely service to all who keep chickens, and should influence the development of the Canadian poultry industry, which has assumed a remarkable growth within the past few years. A copy may be obtained by sending 50c in stamps or postal note to

THE BURSAR, MACDONALD COLLEGE, QUE.