

# Soils and Woods

Address: Communications to Agriculture, 73 Adelaide St. West, Toronto

## Ensilage for Pregnant Ewes.

Pregnant ewes as a rule are on a comparative favor with stock owners. They consider it one of the best and most valuable roughage feeds. Ensilage is found to be especially valuable for ewes, and when it is exercised not to over-feed, but to give them a ration of food, it is a most desirable and sound practice. In years past I have fed ensilage to both nursing lambs and breeding ewes, and the results have been found to be most excellent. The animals soon become extremely fat, and especially during the winter when confined to dry feed. Years ago, before ensilage came into general use, a feed for breeding ewes was always accompanied with much trouble with grade Merino ewes at lambing and in raising the lambs on account of the ewes not having sufficient nourishment for their newly-born young. The first winter we had ensilage to feed, the ewes were given about a half ration twice daily and the former trouble practically ceased. We have been feeding ensilage to sheep both fat and for breeding purposes for the past thirty years and always with splendid results.

Quite frequently objection is advanced by flock owners that ensilage contains so much acid it is harmful to pregnant ewes and should not be fed. I do not believe there is any foundation for this opinion. Of course, ensilage made from too green corn contains a higher percentage of acid than that made from well-matured corn and some harmful effects might result from feeding heavily on ensilage of this quality. However, after thirty years' experience in feeding ensilage to all kinds of live stock I do not think we have ever encountered any harmful results. Some years ago we filled our silo with large western corn that had not matured. We began feeding the ensilage as usual to the pregnant ewes but we soon noticed that some of the ewes were scouring, so we cut down on the silage and began feeding dry corn stover and the trouble soon disappeared. We had similar trouble the winter from feeding the ensilage to dairy cows and I think it was caused from silking the corn before it came to maturity. There is good and poor ensilage, the same as good and poor hay, but the consensus of evidence points to the fact that good silage is very beneficial in promoting digestion, as an appetizer and general tonic. Experiments conclusively establish the fact that ensilage does not affect adversely, milk production nor harmfully interfere with the nourishing of young.

Flock owners and practical students of feeding problems recognize that silage is essential in the ration of pregnant ewes during the winter months while confined to close quarters. When the weather is severe and the flock can not run to a pasture where they may obtain some succulent food, some means must be provided to furnish this necessary succulence in the daily ration or trouble is incurred with the ewes at parturition and during the early period of nursing the lambs. Pregnant ewes naturally require some succulence in their daily diet to assist digestion and reproduction. English flock owners depend very largely upon roots to supply this essential succulence in the ration. In years past the English flock owner could produce roots cheaply and feed them abundantly. This is one of the chief factors that has enabled him to develop live stock of all kinds to such a high plane of perfection and induce American live stock lovers to become heavy importers. However, the average American flock owner does not take favorably to growing roots, as the crop involves a great deal of hard labor which in return makes the source of succulence too expensive and laborious. Ensilage is the cheapest and most valuable succulence for feeding farm animals.

## THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

### FEBRUARY 25

#### The Parable of the Pounds, Luke 19: 11-48. Golden Text—He that is faithful in that which is least, is faithful also in much, Luke 15: 10.

**Lesson Setting.**—Jesus was drawing Jews accompanied them to the temple, and great multitude with him. He had been stirred by his mission to great enthusiasm, Jesus saw that the people seemed to think that the dawn of the Kingdom of heaven was at hand, and that they were ready to hail him as the Messianic King. Jesus felt that he must restrain this blind enthusiasm and dispel their expectation of an immediate kingdom, and speaks to them the parable of the pounds. It shows that the immediate duty of his followers is working and waiting in expectation of the Master's return.

**I. Testing the Servants, 11-15.**

V. 11. **12. Night to Jerusalem.** As Jesus passed on in the city of Jerusalem the multitude would draw the stones, and an enthusiasm would smother any sane thought. He knew that as the multitude would become unmanageable. Now was the time for the steady word and the tempering word.

**A certain nobleman went into a far country.** The setting of the parable is in the country. Archelaus, the son of Herod the Great, went to Rome at his father's death and begged him to succeed to the throne. He was a cruel prince, and the Jews sent representatives to Rome to oppose his claims. After a long delay, Archelaus was granted his request. He went home and watched his interests in his absence, by giving them governorships, and sent call for different contributions against his claims. This historical reference would strike a chord of indignity in his hearers.

V. 13. Called his ten servants: and he said to them, I am going into a far country: and I give you ten pounds, and I request of you, when I come, that you may give me back what is yours.

V. 14. He gave to each of them ten pounds, and he went away.

V. 15. After a long time, two of the servants came back. The first said, My lord, here are ten pounds which I have kept hidden in a napkin; for I was afraid, because I know that thou art a hard man, and I have been afraid to come out to thee.

## Japanese Trade Leaders Visit Canada



JAPANESE TRADE LEADERS VISIT CANADA

The Japanese Mission, which recently arrived at Vancouver on board the Canadian Pacific steamer "Empress of Australia," and crossed Canada via the C.P.R. on their way to New York, where they are to attend an international conference. Reading from left to right they are: S. Hoshino, President of the Japanese Law Silk Company; K. Nishitani, President of the Toronto Associated Law Silk Company; K. Katsuki, Secretary, M. Miyawaki, Japanese secretary and manager, interpreter; Yoshio Sasada, M.P., head of the Tokyo Produce Exchange and of the Silk Mission.

Speaking to a reporter, Mr. Miyawaki said: "Japan is slowly changing, she is assuming new habits and new ways of living as she changes her way of production. Industrialism has taken hold of us. And as a result, you country industrialism is multiplying our population."

He stated that Japan, if the proper steps were taken, would be a good customer for Canadian grain, and financial atmosphere, trade would once more take great strides forward. He added, "We are now buying a lot of iron know, we don't paint our houses in the interior."

**The Early Potato.**  
Soil.—The potato succeeds best in a deep loamy soil, a soil containing sufficient sand to make it open and mellow. The sandy soils usually grow the first specimens of tubers. Sandy soils may be light in color or quite black, but there is always that feeling of lack of density, or "easy to run through your fingers" condition with a good potato soil.

**Sprouting.**—For the real early potato crop, start six weeks before the date when the soil is expected to be in fit condition for outdoor planting, and start the sprouting of the sets. This is done by selecting clean disease-free tubers of desirable size and shape of an early variety, such as Early Ohio, Early Rose or Sharp. Express, in shallow boxes or trays of suitable size (14x30x3 inches) are used in which to sprout the seed, all feet is set eye and up, one layer deep, and the trays are exposed to as much light as possible, preferably placed in a room where the temperature ranges between 50 and 70 degrees. An early sprout, green or purple in color, on each seed tuber. Do not attempt to force the growth of the sprouts by high temperature, a sprout developed in good light and low temperature will give a stronger plant than the spindly



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also to keep the surface fine and in good condition. As soon as the rows are well defined the hoe or cultivator can be used as frequently as necessary to keep the weeds in check, to gradually move the soil up to the plants, and to keep the surface open and mellow.

Watch must be kept for potato beetles, flea beetles and signs of early blight, or other fungus trouble. The potato beetle is best dealt with by the common Paris green application. The Bordeaux mixture and the fungus sprayer are thorough use of Bordeaux mixture or even before trouble appears. If you are in a district where potato diseases are prevalent.

Good crops of very early potatoes may be produced in a scimitar bed or frame, or by planting in large pots or boxes. Nine to ten inches of good sandy soil should be used above the manure layer or leaf and the sprouts sets placed three inches deep and twelve inches apart in the soil, sprouts

end up. Water with a very weak liquid manure as frequently as needed to keep the soil in good condition for growth. Do not over water and do not neglect drainage. Uncover the beds when the weather is fine and warm. Remove any weeds that appear and add more soil to the surface as the plants grow tall. Very early potatoes generally escape both insect and fungus injury.

To render land I use this method. The soil will keep two years and not become barren. One gallon cut land, one quart water, one teaspoonful baking-soda. Do not fill bottle too full as it is likely to boil over. Cook and is clear as water, so you can see the bottom of bottle. Wash very closely. This process is slow, but the land is very good. Mrs. W.

When I sowed with a fertilizer there was two of us.

The way of the backside is full of splinters.

## Acid Phosphate is Best Manure Preservative.

A recent bulletin from the New York Extension Station, Geneva, gives results of various experiments for preserving manure. The results show, to the satisfaction of the station, at least, that the only material to use is acid phosphate. The materials compared were straw, peat, acid phosphate, rice and white and green.

Most manure preservatives are of little value in extending life of nitrogen, the station says. In the tests the amount of nitrogen lost ranged from 15 per cent, for manure treated with acid phosphate, to fifty-one per cent, for untreated manure.

In immediate application of the preservative is advised, even if the manure is to be hauled to the field as soon as voided. It is suggested that two handfuls of acid phosphate be scattered in each horse stall every day, so that the horses will tramp it into the manure.

Wheat straw was found to be detrimental to manure. Where the straw was added to manure applied to growing crops, a detrimental effect was noted, as compared with results from fresh manure alone. The station does not explain why this is true.

So far as the tests have gone, it seems that the best results will be secured where acid phosphate is mixed with the manure as soon as it is voided and the mixture stored in a covered shed or pit until such time as it can be conveniently spread on the field.

## On Naming the Farm.

Farmers who have had occasion to sell goods on a special market, or to do a great deal of publicity, are fully agreed that every farm ought to be named. This name should be something apart from the owner's name. These farm names have real commercial value. This is particularly true where some special crop is sold from the farm. In the event that the farm should change hands, the name becomes an asset, and should increase the intrinsic value of the farm. Such a name makes a farm easier to locate, and has immense value in dollars and cents as a business ad.

# The Leading Life Company of the Dominion

Records in 1922

## THE BEST YEAR IN ITS HISTORY

Results for Year Ended 31st December

Assurances in force	\$631,404,869.49
Increase for year, \$94,686,738.96	
Assets	174,088,858.32
Increase for year \$44,716,730.99	
Cash income	36,251,322.13
Increase for year, \$5,144,172.97	
Payments to policyholders	15,615,505.85
Surplus over all liabilities and capital	14,269,420.95
Increase for year, \$3,885,511.35	
New assurances issued and paid for in cash	90,798,648.79

AVERAGE RATE OF INTEREST EARNED 6.27%

## SUN LIFE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF CANADA

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