

Property Oils and Crops

PROPERTY FOR STOUFFVILLE FROM HOUSES IN MAIL COMMUNICATIONS TO AGRICULTURIST, 72 ADELPHI ST. WEST, TORONTO.

\$2,000 to \$4 Silos With Sunflowers.
FARM PROPERTIES are today one of the best investments in silage crops in West-
ern Canada. One in which Ontario
counted to \$5.22. It is rapidly becoming inter-
ested with 90 cent of this once despised
Britain, according to recognized value
made public as of a nation has been
Commissioner's interesting agricul-
25,916 developments of recent years.

By making silage cheap and abun-
dant, sunflowers have aided the farm-
ers of Western Canada in a very ma-
terial way. Silos practically double
the stock supporting capacity of land,
and sunflower silage enables a farmer
almost to double his dairy or beef
herd without adding to the acreage of
his farm.

Kill Your Quack Grass in the Spring.
Some six year ago I noticed a few
patches of quack grass had worked
their way into one of my fields from
the highway. If I had the same con-
dition to contend with now I would
dig them early in the spring when the
ground is soft, and burn the roots. It
would have taken less than a day, and
I would have saved me considerable
trouble and expense. A person can dig
a lot of quack grass in a day if it is
just in patches. I had had no previous
experience, however, so I tried killing
it with a hoe and then tried pulling it.
Then I seeded the piece to clover and
let it go.

My first success was three years
ago, when I set a somewhat infected
piece to raspberries, and raised a crop
of cucumbers between the rows. The
cultivation was very thorough and
both the berry plants and cucumbers
made a vigorous growth. I do not
remember thinking about the quack
grass at all as we cultivated (my man
did part of the work), but along in the
summer it occurred to me that I had
not seen any in that piece for a long
time, and I began to wonder just what
I had done to destroy it. I do not
know yet, but I had a theory that I
felt sure of, so I plowed up my clover
piece the next spring with a determi-
nation that in the fall there would
not be a spear left.

I planted the field to silage corn,
hilling it so I could cultivate it both
ways and hand-hoe it. Our corn grew
very high with lots of leaves for shade
and we cultivated and hoed continually.
But when the corn was in the silo
I could not see that we had hurt the
quack grass much. I sowed rye immedi-
ately to be plowed under in the
spring for another crop of silage corn.
My enthusiasm about getting rid of
the pest was getting pretty well down,
but I put in half a day digging out-
lying patches, and made up my mind
to do the best I could with the culti-
vator and let the hoeing go.

We cultivated before the corn was
up, and three times more as rapidly
as seemed advisable, and then rose
bugs, leaf hoppers, grape berry moth,
etc., took up our time. But this year
when the corn was in the silo I could
not see very much quack grass in the
field. What there is left I can dig up
in a few hours in the spring with a
potato fork.

I have noticed while digging quack
grass at this time, that many of the
root stalks were dead, leaving only
tender sprouts that seemed easy to
destroy. It has also surprised me that
wherever I dug these patches in the
spring, that they were entirely de-
stroyed, though it did not seem pos-
sible that I had gotten every root. It
seems, therefore, that this must be
the plant's most vulnerable time. The
vitality of the root-stalk is at its low-
est, after going through the winter,
and it then makes a rapid growth,
storing up food and moisture against
the farmer's cultivator and hoe and
the summer drought until it is nearly
invincible; and we must destroy the
plant if at all, before this new growth
takes place.

dryest and warmest but should have
a concrete foundation to keep out rats.
In making a concrete floor it pays to
build it up on coarse field stone or
cinders to prevent dampness. Then
place strips of roofing paper in the
cement and it makes a moisture-proof
floor. On the cement floor it is pos-
sible to do thorough cleaning.
The use of a straw loft in a poultry
house helps to prevent damp condi-
tions. Such houses are cooler in the
summer and warmer in winter. Hol-
low tile is considered a better mat-
erial for poultry house walls than ce-
ment, but not as dry as lumber.

A Dangerous Practice.
Please permit me to call the at-
tention of your readers to the dan-
gerous practice of throwing boards
down with nails sticking from them,
and leaving them lying around, a con-
stant danger to anyone with worn,
thin shoes, or barefoot children in
summer. This is a very common habit
and causes many deaths from tetanus
or lockjaw unless attended to prompt-
ly and skillfully.—A. L. P.

To know how much ice to put up,
the following is a safe rule to follow:
If engaged in the city milk trade the
farmer should put up two tons of ice
per cow; if supplying cream, one ton
per cow is sufficient, and four tons
for household use.

A Garden for Every Home.

There are two ways in which the
residents of cities, towns, and villages
can make the surroundings of their
dwelling attractive and thus benefit
not only themselves but also the en-
tire community. The first is by clean-
liness and tidiness in their surround-
ings, including the back yards, and
the second is by paying some atten-
tion to the planting of shrubs and
flowers. At the recent convention of
the Experimental Union held at the
Ontario Agricultural College, the
president of the Union, Mr. J. B.
Spencer, laid particular stress upon
the part that horticulture could be
made to play in the improvement of
the farm and urban dwellings, and
indeed in the beautification of the
whole countryside. He said that not
only were the Horticultural divisions
of the Ontario Agricultural College,
Guelph, and of the Macdonald College,
Quebec, ready to render every assis-
tance in pursuance of this object, but
that the Department of Agriculture
at Ottawa through the Dominion Hor-
ticulturist, Mr. W. T. Macoun, was
prepared to give instruction and ad-
vice. The lessons acquired at the Ex-
perimental Farms during the past
forty years were at the disposal of all
enquirers by means of reports, circu-
lars and bulletins, which could be had
by application to the Publications
Branch of the Department of Agricul-
ture at Ottawa. In these were given
much information as to the charac-
teristics, planting and cultiva-
tion of both ornamental and useful
plants. There was also a lantern slide
lending service, with accompanying
information for lectures, on the
planting and care of farm home
grounds, available to responsible per-
sons for use in addressing meetings.

The speaker urged that no opportu-
nity should be lost by horticultural
societies in helping, aiding, and assist-
ing the beautification of urban and
rural points in this way. Communities
in Ontario were advised to take ad-
vantage of the new Community Hall
Act, an Ontario Act which made pro-
vision for encouragement to horticul-
ture. Ottawa, St. Thomas and St.
Catharines were typified as cities that
had given special attention to beauti-
fication through the laying out of land
with plants, shrubs and flowers.

Better overhaul the incubator.

"I know a place up country,
In God's great out-of-doors,
A quiet sheltered corner
On which the springtime pours
The wine of warmth and magic,
And well I know the sun
Has kissed the grove of maples,
And the sap begins to run."

Seed is too frequently shipped by
farmers and country shippers in dam-
aged bags, the larger hoes being stop-
ped up by corn cobs, sticks, wads of
paper, etc., or the cloth around the
hole gathered up and tied.

When you see a fine poultry plant
do not judge at once that it is paying
a large profit. When you see rather
poor looking buildings do not consider
the owner a failure with hens. Some-
times the owner of the big plant clips
coupons to help pay his manager,
while the owner of the small plant is
saving some hen money each year to
help pay off the mortgage on the
farm.

When the Son Marries

BY HILDA RICHMOND.

Every real mother likes to send her
daughter forth on her wedding day
with as nice an outfit as the family
purse will afford, but many good
mothers are really ignorant of the fact
that their sons should have certain
articles, as well as should the prospec-
tive bride. Many families innocently
suppose that if they give the young
man a sum of money to help buy his
farming equipment and furniture, no-
thing else is necessary. Indeed many
of them, and well-to-do people at that,
provide nothing for their sons to take
to their new homes. This comes about
through lack of knowledge rather than
stinginess many times.

One bride was amazed when she
looked over her young husband's
clothes to find that he owned nothing
but garments thriftily patched and
repatched by his frugal mother. Of
course, he had a few suit to be mar-
ried in, with new overcoat and new
things from the skin out, but his en-
tire wardrobe, which was small, was
in poor condition. Now that mother
would have given up her life for that
boy if it had been necessary, but she
did not hesitate to humiliate him by
sending him forth with such an outfit,
when she could well afford to make or
buy new for the young man who had
faithfully worked on his father's farm
since returning from high school.

The mother of the young man about
to be married should see that he has
enough undergarments, night shirts,
socks, shirts and personal articles,
such as handkerchiefs, ties and little
things, to last several years. Young
men starting in life find many places
for their hard-earned dollars, and the
boy who does not have to pay out
money immediately for working
clothes and underwear is very grate-
ful to the mother who foresaw the
difficulties and tight places of the
first years of married life.

Every young man should have his
own bedroom suite to take from his
old home with him. Perhaps the bride

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THE SUNDAY SCHOOL

MARCH 19

The Downfall of Israel, 2 Kings 17: 9-18. Golden Text— Prov. 14: 34.

Time—B.C. 721.
Lesson Foreword—Amos and the
other prophets had predicted the
downfall of Israel as a punishment for
its sins. Events moved swiftly on,
Hoshea the last king of Israel, per-
sisted in the evil course of his pre-
decessors. Shalmaneser, the king of
Assyria, which was the great world
power at the time, made an expedition
against Israel, reduced it to vassalage
and exacted an annual tribute. One
year Hoshea refused to pay tribute
and the Assyrians discovered that he
had entered into treasonable negotia-
tions with Egypt, the great rival of
Assyria. Thereupon Shalmaneser in-
vaded the kingdom and laid siege to Sa-
maria and after three years captured
it. The king and a great number of
the people were deported to Assyria
and forced to live in exile.

I. Disobedience, 9-12.
V. 9. The children of Israel did se-
cretly. Publicly their religion was sup-
posed to be the worship of Jehovah,
their national God, and no doubt they
observed the religion of Jehovah. But
they tried to combine with it heathen
elements which they practiced in se-
cret rites God should see them. For se-
cret rites see Ezek. 8: 7-12. Built in
high places. The Canaanites, their
predecessors in the land, worshipped
their gods, the Baals, at what were
known as high places. These were
altars built on elevated places or hills
of which Palestine, as a mountainous
country, is full. Tower . . . city. Towers
were used for the protection of
flocks and vineyards. "These protect-
ing towers were probably adjoined by
the rude houses of peasants, and out-
side of these groups of dwellings larger
places would arise." What is meant
here is that high places were built
everywhere, from the smallest human
habitation to the largest.

V. 10. Images. As the Hebrew word
indicates these images were stone pil-
lars in which a god, particularly the
Canaanite Baal, was supposed to have
taken up its residence. Sometimes they
were carved. Groves. These were
trees sometimes stripped of their

foliage, and sometimes left as they
were. Like the stone pillars they
were supposed to be inhabited by a
god. Sacred stones and pillars were
worshipped extensively by the Canaan-
ites. Every high . . . tree. The favor-
ite place for setting up a sacred stone
or pole was on a high hill tops or in a
grove of trees. (See Jer. 2: 20; 3: 6,
13.)

V. 11. Burnt incense. Incense was
made of gums and resins and the per-
fumes for which Arabia was famous.
It was used in the worship of the
Jerusalem temple but here it was
burnt to heathen-gods, probably the
Canaanite Baals. (See Hos. 2: 13.)
As did the heathen. This was their
"peculiar people" instead of becoming as-
similated to their heathen neighbors.
Wrought wicked things. This undoubt-
edly included their social wrongs, such
as the oppression of the poor by the
rich, and the miscarriage of justice
which the prophets had denounced.

V. 12. Served idols. These were prob-
ably images of men, women, beasts,
reptiles and birds. They were set up
both in public places and in their
homes. Ye shall not do this thing. Ac-
cording to the law of Israel no repre-
sentation or image of Jehovah was
ever allowed and Israel had no right
to worship any other god.

II. Ingratitude, 13-17.
V. 13. Israel had no excuse for its
sins. God had not left them in any
doubt as to his will. He had sent
plenty of prophets and seers to de-
clare His will and to warn them
against disobedience (see Jer. 7: 25;
1: 7). All the law which I command-
ed. Not only had the prophets de-
clared God's will but it was embodied
in the law which Israel had solemnly
accepted of God in the wilderness.
This was Israel's distinct possession,
marking it off from its heathen neigh-
bors, and if it had followed this law
it would not have become assimilated
by its neighbors.

**V. 14. Would not hear; refused to
listen to the prophets who spoke for
God.** Hardened their necks. They
were stubborn, like an intractable ani-
mal which refuses to be driven. Like
their fathers. Theirs was an
ancient and inherited disposition.

V. 15. Followed vanity. In the Old
Testament an idol was frequently
called "a vanity." That is, it was a
mere nothingness, being lifeless and
unable to give any help. Became vain.
They became as empty and unreal as
the idols they worshipped. Went after
the heathen. Again and again Israel
had been told that they were to be a
peculiar people, unlike any of the na-
tions around them. But they were
small and weak in comparison with
some of the heathen nations and they
supposed that by worshipping the
gods of these nations they might be-
come powerful as they were.

**V. 16. The writer seems to be so
passionately indignant with the sins
of Israel, that he begins to rehearse
them.** (See Zeph. 1: 5; Jer. 7: 18;
19: 13.) Molten images, even two
calves. Some of the images were
carved wood but others were made of
metal as these. It was Jeroboam who
introduced the golden calves. (See 1
Kings 12: 28.) These were images
of bulls which because of their mini-
ature size were called "calves." All
the host of heaven. The worship of
the stars was introduced from Baby-
lonia, the land of their conquerors.

The stars were supposed to be in-
habited by gods; their movements
were carefully watched by the astrolog-
ers, because of these movements
the gods made their will known. Star
worship became very popular in Israel.
(See Zeph. 1: 5; Jer. 7: 18; 19: 13.)
Baal; was the name of the Canaan-
ite god. There were not one, but
many Baals. They were supposed to
give fertility to the soil and to pre-
side over the arts and crafts.

V. 17. Caused their sons, etc. This
refers to child sacrifice. The children
were not made to walk through the
fire but were bound to an altar and
by means of fire were dedicated to the
god. Usually the child sacrifices were
made to the god Molech and were re-
garded as particularly effective in se-
curing the help or favor of the god.
Divination and enchantments. These
were magical means used for discov-
ering the will of God. But God ex-
pressed himself through His prophets
and priests without the use of magic.

III. Punishment, 18.
Vs. 3-6 and the Lesson Foreword
should be read carefully in connection
with this verse. Removed them. The
Assyrians who conquered the kingdom
of Israel held their empire together
by a policy of frightfulness. When
they conquered a people they deported
them to another land and filled their
places with another conquered people.
In this way they managed to break the
spirit of their victims. There were
none left but the tribe of Judah only.
The tribe of Judah formed a separate
kingdom and were not conquered until
considerably later. The kingdom of
Israel as the northern kingdom was
called, was much richer than the king-
dom of Judah, and since it attracted
the attention of the Assyrians, it met
an earlier doom.

Application.
1. The cause of Israel's downfall.
Doubtless there were various con-
verging causes, but the main one was
the elimination of the truly religious ex-
perience from leaders and people. We
know from the prophet Hosea, and
also from the narrative of the lesson
passage, that there was a long ap-
pearance of religion (vs. 8-12), but
the reality was missing. The ritual
was a mixture of foreign customs, and
the conduct of the people was frivol-
ous and irresponsible. No man spared
his brother. No nation can endure
with such a sandy foundation.

2. The great responsibility of the
leaders. Hoshea had some redeeming
features of character (v. 2), but he
did not keep the treaty with the king
of Assyria. He thought that he could
break the covenant with impunity—
and he paid the consequences of his
breach of faith.
It is said that the German Chancel-
lor sneered at the idea of Britain ad-
hering to her treaty with Belgium. It
was only a "scrap of paper" and the
consequences of loyalty to it would be
dreadful. The British ambassador re-
plied that where honor was concerned,
Britain did not count the cost. It
was a noble reply, and one would like
to feel that the nation's rulers al-
ways lived up to it as courageously
as they did in 1914.

3. The strange ways in which God
attains His goal.
The divine method to-day may re-
quire us to leave behind some old
forms of thought and organization
and enter the new and untried coun-
try before us, with new methods in
our hands. A generation ago we used
the cradle to cut our wheat; then fol-
lowed the reaper, then the self-binder.
So one instrument in the divine hand
gives way to another and better one
for the fulfilment of His purpose.

Says Sam: Tell me what your fam-
ily does after supper and I'll tell you
where your boys and girls are.

TRY THEM IN YOUR GARDEN

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