

## Farm Work for March

By B. L. Moss

**M**ARCH days are busy days—days when a dozen jobs are calling all at once. What is done or left undone this month will have a large bearing on the success or failure of our efforts during all the remainder of the year.

**Making the seed bed**—plowing and harrowing—is, on most Southern farms pre-eminently a March job. Whether the seed bed shall be a real one, a fit place for the seed and a fit home for the little plants, is dependent on the care and judgment with which the work is done. We may have our choice between a field full of brickbat-like clods and a fine, mellow soil that is a joy to work and that provides almost ideal conditions for plant growth.

**Unlike plowing during the fall and winter**, spring plowing should be followed immediately—certainly not later than a very few hours—by a thorough harrowing. This is because spring drouths frequently occur and because also of the rapid drying action of the wind and sun, causing hard clods to form. If there is much of a tendency toward clod formation, the disk harrow should go immediately behind the breaking, this to be followed with the drag or smoothing harrow. Keep the clods from forming, rather than trying to pulverize them once they get hard, is the only safe rule to follow.

**More and more we are coming to appreciate the value of the disk harrow run ahead of the breaking plow.** So used, it greatly lightens the work of the turn plow by breaking the top crust, prevents the soil breaking up in large clods, and in addition cuts to pieces any stalks or trash, so that they are more easily plowed under. If you have never used the disk harrow in this way, we suggest that you try it.

**Still another and important use for the disk harrow is in cutting to pieces the cover crops of clover, vetch, rye and oats preparatory to plowing them under.** Cutting up these cover crops is almost an absolute necessity, since if it is not done decay may be very slow, the moisture supply for the growing crop may be cut off, and "firing" result. The disk is pre-eminently the tool for doing this job.

**In buying fertilizers**, material savings may often be effected by carefully studying the plant food needs of the soil and the crops to be grown and then mixing at home the fertilizers needed. In fact, the best farmers are coming to see that buying "just fertilizers", without any regard to analysis or crop and soil requirements, is a pretty sure way to throw away money. Study your soils and crops and then give them what they want.

**How and when to apply commercial fertilizers is always something of a problem at this season of the year.** On all soils we believe the best authorities agree that the best time to apply phosphoric acid and potash is early in the season, preferably about planting time, as there is little or no danger of loss of these plant foods from leaching. With nitrogen it is different, since it is readily leached out and carried away. Side applications of nitrogen, and particularly so in sandy soils, will, we believe, generally give best results.

**In distributing commercial fertilizers care should be taken to see that they are mixed with the soil, rather than allowing them to remain in a solid, narrow stream in the bottom of the furrow.** They should be put where the plant roots will most likely

feed, and this means they should be put neither extremely deep nor left on the surface of the ground. A moderate depth and well mixed with the soil will give best results.

**If the oats have a yellow, unthrifty look**, an application of from 75 to 100 pounds per acre of nitrate of soda will likely pay. From the 10th to the 20th of March will usually be the best time to do this, making the application broadcast when the dew is off the plants and harrowing in with a drag harrow.

**It's none too early to arrange for an abundance of summer legume seed to sow in the corn and after the oats.** In this connection, farmers nearly everywhere in the Cotton Belt should try at least a few Early Speckled velvet beans. This is a short season bean, maturing seed as far north as Arkansas, Tennessee and North Carolina, is a prolific seed producer, and a very excellent forage and soil-improving crop to plant with corn. Seed are now quoted as low as \$1.50 and \$2 a bushel and, inasmuch as a bushel will plant from four to six acres, the cost of seeding is lower than for any legume we know of.

**If you haven't one already it will pay you to make a crimson clover seed stripper for harvesting the crop of clover seed.** This stripper should be made now, so that it will be ready next month when the seed get ripe. A free bulletin and plans for making this stripper may be had by writing the United States Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C.

**Don't forget the garden**, because a good garden is a pretty large part of a good living. The hardier garden crops should already be well under way, while the end of the month, particularly in the lower half of the South, should see such crops as corn, snap beans, kale, parsnips, etc., started.

### A Quick and Easy Way to Dehorn Cattle

**I SAW** in a recent issue of The Progressive Farmer an article on how to dehorn cattle, by Prof. Templeton. I am just a common farmer, but I will dehorn a cow before the Professor gets his ropes fixed.

I have two posts, about 15 feet apart. I use two five-eighths inch grass ropes. With one I make a halter, and with three good Negro boys I go to work, slip the halter on, letting it come behind the ears. I then loop the other rope around both hind legs, throw ropes around the posts and pull, when the cow comes down. She can't get up, and I am ready for work.

I take off one horn, catch her fore feet, turn her over, and take off the other, and let her get up. I generally use a little disinfectant of some kind, but I don't know that it is really necessary. I have never had any bad results.

If you dehorn after February 15th, there is some danger of flies. I do not like the chute; I have never seen one in which the cow would not hurt herself worse struggling, than does the cutting off of the horns.

J. C. ESHMAN.

Abbott, Miss.

### THE MAN WHO QUILTS

**THE** man who quits has a brain and hand as good as the next; but he lacks the <sup>stout</sup> ~~stout~~ That would make him stick with a courage To whatever he tackles and fight it out.

"For the man who quits lets his chances slip. Just because he's too lazy to keep his grip. The man who sticks goes ahead with a shout. While the man who quits joins the 'down and out'."

—Exchange.

## Let the Mulford Experts "Fatten" Your Crops

**F**EEED your crops nitrogen, according to the method recommended by Federal and State authorities. The least expensive way is to plant clovers, alfalfa, cow peas or other legumes, inoculated with a pure, active culture.

Not only will these legume crops be "fatter" but your land will be greatly enriched by nitrates and humus for the cotton or other crops to follow.

## Mulford Cultures

FOR LEGUMES

A legume, inoculated with **Mulford Cultures**, draws valuable nitrogen from the air and enriches the soil with it. **Mulford Cultures** contain fully twice the usual number of nitrogen-collecting bacteria. They are as carefully prepared and tested as Mulford Antitoxins, Serums, etc., for medical and veterinary use. You can prove to yourself the value of **Mulford Cultures** at a cost of

**"A Dollar per Acre"** (Five-Acre Bottle, \$5.00) (One-Acre Bottle, 1.50)

How does that compare with the price of a nitrate fertilizer? No skill or special implements required.

Your Seed Dealer sells **MULFORD CULTURES**. If not, order direct. Send for fully descriptive booklet No. A

**H. K. MULFORD CO.** Manufacturing and Biological Chemists Philadelphia, U.S.A.

## HOOSIER COMBINED COTTON AND CORN DRILL



The **HOOSIER** cotton drill you buy this spring will do work that is most satisfactory not only this year but years from now.

The **HOOSIER** combined cotton and corn drill is a compact wide-rim, two-wheel machine with a low center of gravity, very popular because it does good work in every kind of soil.

A picker feed wheel gives any desired quantity of cotton to the acre and an agitator bail insures all seed passing to the feed in a steady stream. Three plates for proper corn plantings are also regularly furnished. A drag coverer presses the earth firmly over the seed, or a press wheel can be substituted. Fertilizer attachment furnished when specially ordered.

See the dealer who sells the **HOOSIER**, or write to the address below for details.

## INTERNATIONAL HARVESTER COMPANY OF AMERICA

BIRMINGHAM

(INCORPORATED)

ALABAMA