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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS. Miscellaneous.

COST OF BUILDING CONCRETE WALL.

Allowing wages at \$1.25 a day, at what price can a man build a cubic foot of cement wall for a barn, everything being furnished him? S. T. K.

Ans.—It is customary to figure 50 feet of wall for each man, which is a fair estimate, considering farm convenience for doing work of this kind. This figures 2½ cents per foot. The regular contract price is 4 cents per foot, contractor furnishing all tools. H. P.

YOUNG PIGS DYING.

Have had trouble and loss with sows farrowing. Pigs came strong and smart; milk plentiful at first, but for some reason sows went almost dry, and for want of nourishment the young pigs die off. What would be the cause of the trouble, and what the remedy? Sows were fed pulped turnips, with a little chop. We gave a drink about 15 hours after farrowing. J. P.

Ans.—Unfortunately, however, your inquirer gives practically no information upon which to form any judgment. He does not say at what age the pigs die off, what condition the sows were in at the time the pigs were born, how they were treated before that time, or the exact ration that he was feeding when the trouble occurred. The term "a little chop" is so indefinite that he might mean that the sows were under-fed, or it might mean (in the vocabulary of some farmers) that they were over-fed. His chop may have been too strong, and caused some digestive troubles. Possibly the sows had become constipated, and in that case the milk would be poisonous to the pigs. There are almost endless possibilities and speculation which might be indulged in regarding this matter, but it is impossible to form any intelligent idea from the information submitted. G. E. DAY.

SOWING ALFALFA—MANURING AND PLOWING FOR CORN.

1. When are the best results attained in sowing lucerne seed? With a light crop of oats or barley, or sowing the lucerne seed alone?

2. Have a clover-sod field which I intend plowing for corn this spring. Which is the best, to top-dress the field before plowing, or manure it after plowing?

3. Is spring plowing as good for corn as ground plowed in the fall? Land is clay loam. H. W. B.

Wentworth Co., Ont.

Ans.—1. The surest way to obtain a catch is to sow the alfalfa (lucerne) seed alone, but the chances are almost as good with three or four pecks of barley per acre. As a nurse crop, oats are decidedly inferior to barley.

2. In the case of spring plowing, apply the manure before, more especially if you intend to cultivate the corn well, for in this case, not only is the manure a nuisance to the cultivator if at all coarse, but the repeated cultivation tends to dissipate over rapidly the humus furnished by the manure, and as the roots of the corn plant are largely precluded from feeding in the disturbed or cultivated surface stratum, the full value of the manure is not obtained; on the other hand, where buried under the furrow, the manure, together with the sward, sets up a fermentation which helps to set free inert plant food in the soil, and the roots of the corn, soon getting down into this, mass of decaying vegetable matter, draw on it heavily and make for rapid growth of the plant. When plowing, roll and harrow each day's turnover immediately.

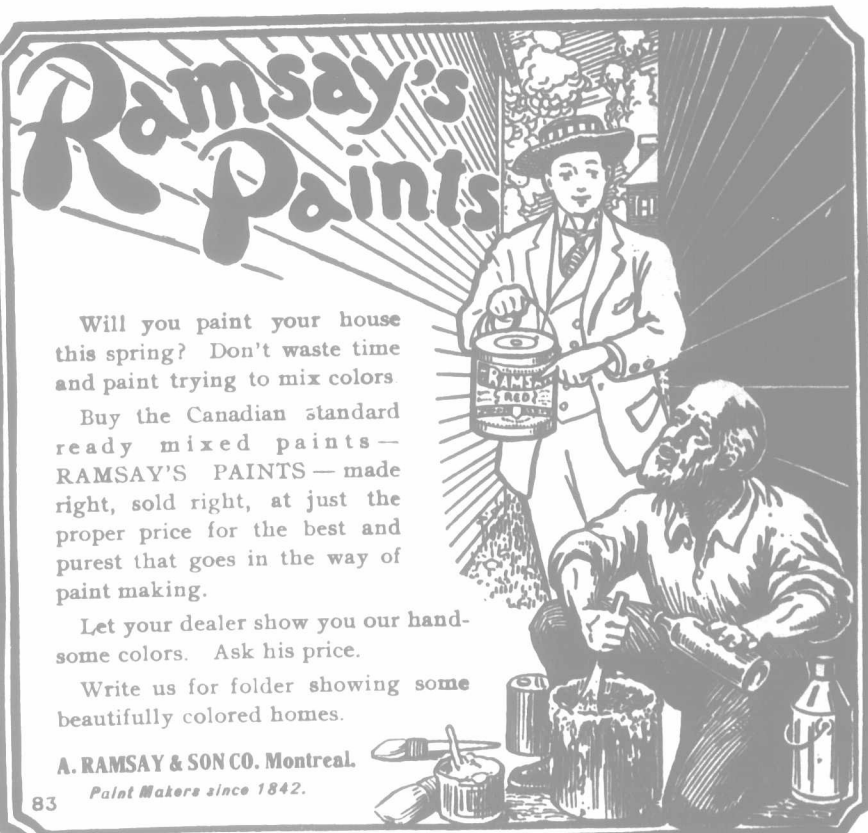
3. It is debatable. Fall plowing conduces to earlier maturity, and in a dry season, on heavy clay loam, will probably produce the greater yield. It has the further advantage of reducing the pressure of spring work. On the other hand, spring plowing of winter-manured sod prevents a considerable measure of loss by leaching, for the early growth of grass takes up the dissolved nitrates of early spring. On light soils, where work permits, spring plowing of sod for corn is to be generally recommended.

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