

Soils and Crops

By Agronomist.

This Department is for the use of our farm readers who want the advice of an expert on any question regarding soil, seed, crops, etc. If your question is of sufficient general interest, it will be answered through this column. If stamped and addressed envelope is enclosed with your letter, a complete answer will be mailed to you. Address Agronomist, care of Wilson Publishing Co., Ltd., 73 Adelaide St. W., Toronto.

PEAS—THE STOCKMAN'S CROP.

The high price at which peas have sold on the market for the last two years has given a decided impetus to their production. Canadian production in 1917 exceeded the previous year by nearly a million bushels. This is as it should be. The production of peas is lower than that of any of the cereals. Insect pests, diseases and the low price decreased the production of this important legume previous to the war, but since then, due to the rapidly rising price of the last three years, the acreage has been greatly increased, especially in the provinces of Quebec, Saskatchewan and Alberta. When we consider the numerous ways in which one can utilize this crop either in the seed or on the vine it is surprising that pea growing has not received an even greater impetus than it did last season.

Split peas and whole peas especially in Canada occupy a prominent place in human diet in that delectable food, pea soup. Pea meal is a very proteaceous food excellent for use in a balanced ration for stock-feeding purposes, furnishing as it does a low priced concentrate. Considering the high price of concentrates, the farmer who has a crop of peas, that he can convert into pea meal, is doing much to free himself from danger of exploitation at the hands of feed dealers. Unthreshed peas are of great value for sheep feeding purposes, being an ideal winter roughage for breeding ewes while they are likewise an excellent feed for young cattle. They can also be successfully grown with oats and ensiled, furnishing where corn cannot be grown one of the most valuable silage foods, or again the same mixture can be cured as hay and fed with profit throughout the winter. As a summer pasture for hogs, they return profitable gains, an acre of peas forming a most valuable adjunct to the summer ration coming in at a time when young shoots are able to make the best use of this kind of feed.

The successful culture of peas is largely a matter of climate. Being a legume instead of a cereal, they are classed among those crops known

Hogs

Ten days previous to farrowing, the sow should be removed from other hogs and placed in her farrowing quarters. This familiarizes the sow with her new home, and prevents the danger of injury which might result in the loss of her litter. The quarters should not be too large, especially in cold weather. A pen nine by six feet is amply large for farrowing. A guard rail around the edge of the pen is a necessary precaution. The guard rail is nothing more than a shelf extending around the sides and ends of the pen. This shelf should be about six inches from the floor and should be from six to eight inches in width. Such an arrangement prevents heavy sows from crushing their litters.

The bedding in the farrowing pen should not be too abundant. With too much bedding the sow makes a pit to farrow in, which brings about the crushing of the pigs.

For three or four days previous to farrowing the rations of the sow should be reduced in quantity and of a laxative nature. A ration too heavy or rich may stimulate an abnormal milk flow, and result in sours and death among pigs.

CARE OF HATCHING EGGS

By James B. Watson.

To insure eggs being produced next winter the pullets must be hatched early this spring. One difficulty often times experienced in hatching early chicks is to get eggs that are fertile. However, if vigorous males fed with healthy females and not too many females with one male, little trouble from this source may be encountered.

The eggs to be placed in incubation must have careful handling. The eggs ought to be gathered daily and then not subjected to extreme or sudden changes of temperature. After the eggs are gathered they should be placed in a location not subject to variations of temperature and for this reason a dry cellar is possibly the best place to store the eggs until they are ready to be placed in incubation. It is important to hunt the eggs several times per day if they are to be placed in incubation because if they are not the different hens using the same nest will sit on these eggs and in the course of a day the eggs are brought up to incubating heat several times a day and this is detrimental to the germ of the egg.

Use Care in Handling Eggs
This year while we are trying to conserve on every hand and trying to produce the largest amount of foods ever produced it is important that we use every means possible to gain this end and consequently we can not exercise too much care in handling the eggs.

The hands should be clean in handling the hatching eggs. It is well to wash the hands before gathering the eggs. Any oily substances on the hands may be rubbed on the egg and thus close up the minute pores in the shell through which the unborn chick breathes. Some also assert that diseases of various kinds may be transmitted to the egg through dirty hands.

There has also been more or less trouble encountered with deformed and crippled incubator chicks. In fact, we don't believe we have ever taken out a hatch from the incubator but what there were several deformed chicks, while on the other hand, we don't think we ever removed a clutch of chicks from a hen and found a single deformed chick among the lot and this is the case after thirty years' experience with chickens.

Much experimenting has been carried on with the hope of finding the cause of this trouble, but nothing has been found that will absolutely overcome the difficulty.

The subject of white diarrhoea of young chicks has been given scientific

Uses of Salt.

A smoky or dull fire can be made clear by throwing a handful of salt over it.

Lemon juice and salt will clean copper and brass.

To brighten carpets, wring a cloth out of salt water and rub the carpets well.

Ink stains that are freshly made can be removed from carpets by successive applications of dry salt.

Handfuls of salt will clean saucepans and take away the unpleasant smell of onions if they have been cooked in them.

Nearly every kind of basket work, matting or china can be cleaned by washing with salt and water.

Salt in water will take insects from vegetables.

Before adding vinegar to mint for sauce always add a pinch of salt. This prevents the mint from going brown and greatly improves the flavor.

Tiles will look bright and clean if scrubbed with salt.

Tea Economy.

A great secret of tea economy is to add only a small quantity of boiling water at first and allow it to "draw" before adding the rest. Tea so made is much better and stronger than when all the water is added at once.

GOOD HEALTH QUESTION BOX

By Andrew F. Currier, M.D.

Dr. Currier will answer all signed letters pertaining to Health. If your question is of general interest it will be answered through these columns; if not, it will be answered personally if stamped, addressed envelope is enclosed. Dr. Currier will not prescribe for individual cases or make diagnosis. Address Dr. Andrew F. Currier, care of Wilson Publishing Co., 73 Adelaide St. West, Toronto.

What May Be Done for a Crying Baby?

S. R.—My little girl, two and a half years old, refuses to sleep during the day and at night cries and screams terribly unless I remain in the room with her. Do you think it is proper to let her scream until she falls asleep, or should she be punished, and if so what sort of punishment? Do you think I ought to give in to her?

The subject is a large and important one and appeals to almost every mother who looks after her children herself, as every mother ought to do, if she can. Upon the way this subject is treated, much depends as to the future welfare of each individual baby.

There are many things which must first be excluded before one decides how a crying baby is to be treated, in any given case, and in all cases patience and love and avoidance of anger must be practised to the very limit of your endurance, and then some more.

Exclude, first of all, as a cause for crying, pain—for babies have feelings and are subject to painful impressions, just like other folks, whether from safety pins, tight clothing, or stomachache.

Of course you must find out whether the crying is due to these, or to any other removable cause.

Then there is the matter of disposition; a baby whose mother was fretful and hysterical during her pregnancy, or suffered with grief or worry or great disappointment or a brutal husband, will almost certainly be a crying baby.

It is born so, it can't help it, and the only thing a mother can do is to be patient and pitiful.

But a child may also inherit a bad temper from one or both parents, and cry and cry from sheer ugliness. With a little study and discrimination it becomes very easy to differentiate a willful, angry cry from a cry of pain.

Even then, don't get angry if you can help it, neither allow your sym-

pathy and love to overcome your judgment.

Sometimes a judicious, remember judicious, use of the hand, or slipper, will be a real benefit and kindness; and it may be surprising how quickly, under such treatment, the baby will learn and appreciate who is master or mistress of the household.

Babies often have more intelligence than they are given credit for, and quickly learn to put two and two together.

If you can stand the annoyance, and it is not too much of an imposition on your neighbors, it would be better for the baby to keep on crying until she is tired out and then goes to sleep, than to give in to her.

You won't have to go through the experience many times, and if you give up to her you may have to do it for an indefinite period.

Now don't say I am cruel and don't know what I am talking about, for I have seen and handled many babies during many years of professional life, and more than that, I am very fond of them.

But it often happens that you can best show your love for a baby, not by yielding to his will, but by endeavoring to have him submit to yours.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

W. K. H.—Have been called, examined and passed for the draft, but am troubled with constipation, achiness at the end of the spine and dryness of the face and ears. I would like to get in good condition before being called.

Answer—I entirely sympathize with you in your desire to get yourself into good condition so that you may serve the country. I would suggest that you drink at least two quarts of milk a day and that you take a dose of castor oil each night before going to bed. It would also be desirable for you to get eight or nine hours sleep, if possible, every night and take as much exercise out of doors as you can. I hope this will put you in first class condition for service.

It should be our first ambition to win the war, but while our burning desires are leading us to make a supreme effort just now, let us remember that there may be just as lead and earnest calls for grains and meats for a few years to come; and while we work hard to do our best let us consider it our duty to so manage that the possibilities of the production of grains and meats will be as great at the end of the period of the war, be it long or short, as they are to-day.

Those who are soil robbers and follow the plan of special crop farming for their own selfish gains alone, have a narrow vision of life and its meaning and live in a narrow sphere. But the man who lives and strives for the best interests of humanity, whether in high life or among the teeming masses has a large and noble soul; and is capable of enjoying many benefits which flow from the fountains of love and true happiness, while he leaves influences behind which will lighten the burdens of life which would otherwise bear heavily on the deserving and innocent members of future generations.

Sewing on Buttons.
To make buttons stay in place on the boy's garments, cut the leather tabs from old shoes and from these cut circular pieces about the size of a ten-cent piece. When a button is required on any garment subject to great strain, place one of the pads on the inner side of the garment where the button is to be sewed on. Tack it securely around. Sew on the button in the usual way, always remembering to put a knot on your thread between the button and the thread around the neck of the button. This is a source of strength. Buttons sewn on in this manner will never drag a hole in the material.

To Escape Moths.
An old English method of keeping moths from blankets during the summer is to wash them; thoroughly and pack them away with slices of yellow soap and folded newspaper between. Moths dislike the smell of soap or printers' ink.



INTERNATIONAL LESSON

APRIL 21.

Lesson III. Jesus Transfigured—Mark 9. 2-10. Golden Text, Mark 9. 7.

Verse 2. After six days—Luke says "about eight days after." Peter, James, and John—The same inner circle of friends who accompanied him into the death chamber in the house of Caiaphas, and who at the last went with him into Gethsemane. The deepest secrets of his person and his work he will share with them. A high mountain—Some have said the Mount of Olives, others have concluded that Mount Tabor in Galilee is the place. The best scholars now conclude in favor of Mount Hermon, which rises nine thousand feet, a few hours from Caesarea Philippi. Transfigured—Luke tells us that the change came over him when he was praying. It is described in Matthew and Mark as a transformation. Luke says the fashion of his countenance was altered. All of which tells that upon his face was an unusual "glory," an indication of supreme exaltation of spirit.

3. His garments became glistening white as "As snow" says the King James Version. Nothing can exceed the dazzling brilliancy of the snow on Hermon in the sunlight.

4. There appeared unto them Elijah with Moses—Representing the prophets and the law. The two earlier dispensations bearing witness to the Messiah. Talking with Jesus—Luke states that they talked with him "of his decease which he was about to accomplish at Jerusalem." Jesus had only recently begun to speak about his sufferings and death.

5. Peter answereth—Always the first to speak, Peter proposes that they remain, just when Moses and Elijah are withdrawing. Rabbi, it is good for us to be here—Peter uses the Aramaic word for teacher. He is filled with a sense of the exaltation of the moment and is willing to abide there. Three tabernacles—Booths made by the intertwining of branches, such as the natives of Caesarea or Philippi or Banias construct to-day on the tops of their flat-roofed houses, in the warmest weather.

6. He knew not what to answer—Here was something entirely outside of his experience. He was dazed with the unusual glory and mystery.

7. There came a cloud—Even while he was speaking (Matthew) the cloud overshadowed them all. "They feared as they entered the cloud" (Luke). We recall that the cloud in the Old Testament appears in connection with special manifestations of God, as in the Wilderness (Exod. 16. 10; 19. 9, 16; 24. 16) and at the dedication of the temple (1 Kings 8. 10). A voice out of the cloud—At the baptism of Jesus there was heard also a voice. All three of the synoptists report a much as to say, "hear ye him." As the prophets, their dispensations have passed, now has come the new dispensation, that of the Christ, who

Poultry

The first sign of a hen being broody (wanting to set) is that she stays longer on the nest when laying, and on being approached will quite likely remain and make a clucking noise, ruffle her feathers and peck at the intruder. When it is noted that a hen sets on a nest from two to three nights in succession and that the feathers are disappearing from her breast, which should feel hot to the hand, she is ready to be transferred for setting to a nest which has previously been prepared. The normal temperature of a hen is from 106 to 107 degrees F., which varies slightly during incubation.

The nest should be in some quiet, out of the way place, where the setting hen will not be disturbed. Move her from the regular laying nest at

night and handle her carefully in doing so. Put a china egg or two in the nest where she is to set and place a board over the opening so that she cannot get off.

Toward the evening of the second day quietly go in where she is setting, leave some feed and water, remove the board from the front or top of the nest and let the hen come off when she is ready. Should she return to the nest after feeding remove the china egg or eggs and put under those that are to be incubated. If the nests are slightly darkened the hens are less likely to become restless.

At hatching time they should be confined and not be disturbed until the hatch is completed, unless they become restless, when it may be best to remove the chicks that are hatched first. In cool weather it is best not to put more than ten eggs under a hen, while later in the spring one can put twelve to fifteen, according to the size of the hen.

Dust the hen thoroughly with insect powder, and in applying the powder hold the hen by the feet, head down, working the powder well into the feathers, giving special attention to regions around the vent and under the wings. The powder should also be sprinkled in the nest.

The Strawberry Bed.

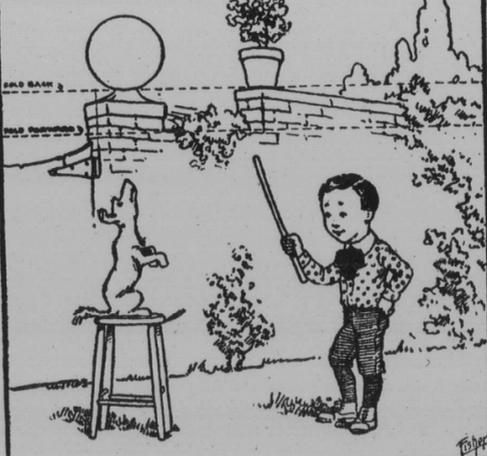
A poor stand of strawberry plants is often the result of late planting. Order the plants and have them on hand early in the spring so that they may be set out at the earliest opportunity. Have the bed well prepared as for a garden crop. Mark the rows off three and one-half or four feet apart and set the plants every one and one-half or two feet in the row. Place the plants so that the crowns are just above the ground, and firm the earth well about the roots.

Before planting, if the roots are too long, they should be shortened in as it is no advantage to have them longer than four or five inches. It is a well-known fact that plants absorb water by means of their roots and give water up to the air through their leaves. In a newly set plant, which has not yet become established in the soil, the absorption of water is very slow, but the loss of water through the leaves continues. In a dry season, therefore, we should reduce this loss to a minimum, by removing all leaves which have opened when we transplant; ordinarily two leaves are left. Do not expose the plants unnecessarily to the drying effects of the wind and sun, but keep them shaded and moist while planting.

Uncover asparagus beds and rhubarb plants. Fork over the beds lightly. Set out asparagus and rhubarb as soon as the ground can be made ready.

FUNNY FOLD-UPS.

CUT OUT AND FOLD ON DOTTED LINES

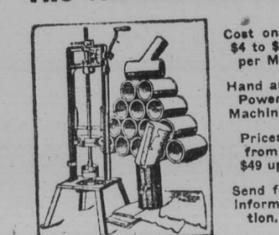


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