

Farm Crop Queries

Conducted by Professor Henry G. Bell.

The object of this department is to place at the service of our farm readers the advice of an acknowledged authority on all subjects pertaining to soils and crops.

Address all questions to Professor Henry G. Bell, in care of The Wilson Publishing Company, Limited, Toronto, and answers will appear in this column in the order in which they are received. As space is limited it is advisable where immediate reply is necessary that a stamped and addressed envelope be enclosed with the question, when the answer will be mailed direct.



Henry G. Bell.

Summer Pasture

F. J. R.—My pastures played out just when milk was selling best last summer. Can you suggest any way of keeping up summer pasture?

Answer:—I would advise your trying the O.A.C. temporary pasture mixture. It is:—

- Oats 51 lbs.
- Early Amber Sugar Cane 30 lbs.
- Common Red Clover 7 lbs.

88 lbs. per Acre.

Prof. Zavitz says to sow this early in May. The oats and Early Amber Sugar Cane seed can be drilled in through the regular grain drill and the clover seed through the grass and clover seed division of the drill. At Guelph they found this pasture ready for cattle pasturing late in June. This pasture carried more than one steer to acre, and in 1911 was successfully used for milk cows.

Potato Yields Low on Account of Blight

G. B.—My potatoes were a failure last year. So were those of my neighbors, to a large extent. They were planted about the middle of May and seemed to come along well till early July when they seemed to die down. Some sent up single stalks which were short and weak. I scarcely got back seed. What was the matter, and how can I get better crops next year?

Answer:—With seeing the field or sample of the crop, it is impossible to say with exactness what the trouble was. From description I am assuming that as the deadly Late Blight disease of potatoes. This disease sometimes sweeps down upon what looks to be a healthy field and

destroys great areas in a short time. Moist weather is best for the spread of Late Blight. It is usually indicated by the development of indistinct, dark, watery spots on the leaves. As the disease develops the leaves turn a sickly brown color and the disease may extend to the branches of the plant. The rotting potato tops give off a characteristic disagreeable odor.

Late Blight is a fungous disease which winters in the stored potatoes. It sends its threads up through the inside of the potato plant and blossoms on the surface of the potato leaves, giving off millions of spores or seeds. These are easily blown about by the wind and in damp weather they stick to moist potato vines and leaves and attack new plants.

The cure or preventive is to spray the potato crop with Bordeaux mixture or some commercial fungicide just as soon as the first leaves are well spread out and continue spraying till the crop begins to ripen, giving in all 5 to 7 sprayings. Bordeaux mixture is made of 5 lbs. of copper sulphate, 5 lbs. of quick-lime and 50 gallons of water. The 5 lbs. of copper sulphate should be dissolved in 7 gallons of water and the 5 lbs. of lime should be dissolved in another 5 gallons of water, then the two should be jumped into a clean water-tight barrel and 40 gallons of water should be added.

The solution of sulphate of copper and lime is deadly to the spores or seeds of the Late Blight disease.

If there is a small infection anywhere near your farm, it will spread very quickly during damp, warm weather. Late Blight stops growth and causes dry rot in the stock that is dug. The biggest and best potato growers on this continent always spray their potatoes to control this disease.

Horse Sense

If a horse takes a chill, followed by colicky pains, shows stiffness and soreness, stands all the time, groans if made to move, is sore if pressed between the ribs which are fixed, and has a short, dry, painful cough, he probably has pleurisy.

If much pain at first, give colic drench, apply mustard to sides, give nitrate of potassium in 2-dram doses in water 3 times daily. If pulse becomes weak, give 2 or 3 oz. doses of sweet spirits of nitre in a pint of water every 3 or 4 hours as indicated.

Horses that have been fed highly on grain for a long time, and begin to run down, can and have been toned up by the molasses and hay treatment.

The horses should be shod regularly or not at all. Shoes may stay on longer in Winter than in Summer, provided the shoes keep in condition.

Many a man has become bankrupt by thinking he could make his fortune in horses, when as a matter of fact there was no horse in him. To succeed with horses a man must love horses, he must have a lot of horse sense and he must be willing to study and learn.

Something wrong when a horse eats his own bedding. Leave out the straw and use sawdust or some such thing; then correct the ration. Give a better, all-round line of feed.

A quiet voice of approval and a gentle pat occasionally make the horse more tractable and serviceable.

One great reason for boys leaving the farm is that Willie's colt grows up to be papa's horse.

Never strike an animal when you are angry, nor when he is. If you do not, you will never strike him. This advice is as good when applied to striking a man in anger.

Hogs

Cold floors can not be covered deep enough with straw to make the hog comfortable. He is a great rooter and will get clear down to the bottom of his straw bed. So cement or stone floors are not so good as plank.

Old-fashioned hog-pens had altogether too much light on one side, being all open to the weather. Then they went to the other extreme and were shut up, close and dark. Windows are just as good for the hog's health and comfort as they are for yours and mine. Money spent for window-glass for hog houses is money well invested. Just watch the porkers as they lie where the sunshine comes in good and warm. Then is when they are putting on fat.

Salt and sulphur and charcoal should be kept in every pig-pen and pig yard so the pigs can help themselves.

This is a corrective and a preventive of worms. Do not confine the brood sows in a

THE SUNDAY LESSON

INTERNATIONAL LESSON
FEBRUARY 18.

Lesson VII. Jesus Heals A Nobleman's Son—John 4. 43-54.
Golden Text—Matt. 8. 13.

Verse 44. He said this about Nazareth (Matt. 13. 57; Mark 6. 4; Luke 4. 24), but this Evangelist is applying it to Judea, the Messiah's true "country."

45. There is a sharp contrast between the Galileans who welcomed the Lord even because of his drastic treatment of the traffickers in the temple, and the Judeans whom that action had moved to impatient wrath.

46. King's officer (margin)—The word thus rendered is common in vernacular documents, especially official, where it denotes the "royal secretary"; in Roman Egypt he was deputy for the district commissioner.

47. Was come out of Judea, repeated in verse 54, takes us back to verse 43—it is not the mere chronicle of a journey. Jesus had done a Messianic act in his royal capital; it had been only resented. As a prophet, he was winning more disciples, then even John; in his "own country," this had brought him no recognition. So he solemnly changes the scene of his ministry, and Galileans joyfully claim him as their own. Jerusalem would yet be his capital; there he would be "crowned with glory and honor" and "reign from the tree."

48. Signs—A technical word—deeds which are credentials. The temper of the people, agape for wonders, is suggested by the next word.

49. The intense earnestness of the father ignores the Lord's sad generalization, which he really uttered to draw out the man's faith; only a very powerful faith could achieve such a cure.

50. There is a resemblance to the story of the centurion, which has even been regarded as an independent version of this—a most improbable view.

51. The man seems to have started at once—like the lepers in Luke 17. 14—without another word. He had got on to the hill road that led down from the highlands to the town on the lake shore, when his hurrying slaves met him.

52. Began to amend is inadequate; the phrase answers exactly to our "got better." Seventh hour—This is the only New Testament book in which these precise time notices are given; see note on John 1. 39 (January 21). The watchers observed then—as we should put it—a sudden drop of the temperature to normal, the patient falling (we may suppose) into a quiet, natural sleep.

53. Believed—He "believed" before, so strongly that he went off to realize the promise. But faith always lives on new impulses, and the instantaneous result of his first venture lifted faith on to a yet higher level. Whole house, as in Acts 16. 15, 31. This gathering by families is very suggestive and characteristic. (It makes one think further of the gathering by villages we are seeing in India today.) A very attractive guess would recognize the mother of this grateful family in Johanna the wife of Chuza, Herod's steward.

54. The Evangelist closely connects the two Cana "signs," which may be combined under the great word, "I came that they might have life, and might have abundance."

Lessen the Burden of Mother.

Many of us men in the country harvested a good crop last year or had a good year with the dairy, but how about our wives? Did they have a good year? Was it better than last, or any lighter in labor? Any new improvements to help? Or have we gone along, making our own labor easier and forgetting our wives and mothers? That isn't right, if it is true. Don't you know that the women folks need as many up-to-date improvements as we do? Of course you do, but you may not think to get them. How about the well, many feet from the house? Couldn't you improve that with some form of pumping apparatus that would lessen the labors of mother? Just think of the many steps that would be saved her if there were running water in the house! That one thing would help a millionfold. Why not put it in?

The Interlocking Forces.

The writer says: "In all the fields of action there is to be seen the interdependence of the naval and military forces. The fleets of nearly all the Allies supply ships to operate with and protect the flanks of their armies."

NAVAL LESSONS LEARNED IN WAR

THE BATTLESHIP MAINTAINS PRE-EMINENT POSITION.

Controlling Factor in Struggle Lies Ready at Hand in Grand Fleet.

An interesting review of the part that sea-power has played in the war and references to the lessons that naval men have learned is given by the naval correspondent of the New York Herald writing from London. He says that, while the principles of naval strategy have been the same for a century, their application has been so altered as to amount almost to a revolution. The first and most obvious teaching is that sea-power has completely justified the confidence placed in it. The lesson here is an old one emphasized afresh. Sea-power has saved the Allied cause. It permits of the time and the creation of the means by which victory will be secured. The use of sea-power is demonstrated not only by the way in which the German merchant ships were swept from the oceans, but also by the manner in which the land and sea forces of the Allies are co-operating in three continents.

The Grand Fleet. No one before the war would have thought that, merely by the threat or influence of the Grand Fleet away in the northern mists, great armies and all that was necessary to maintain and supply them could be moved in security all over the world. That lesson was enforced at the very beginning of the war. It has been maintained, even though an important battle has been fought without that completely decisive result in regard to the smashing of the enemy's fleet which was hoped for. The controlling factor in the whole of the war is the latent power which lies ready at hand in the armored squadrons now commanded by Admiral Beatty. That is the "sure shield" which the Central Powers must break down if they would alter the outcome of the war. Hitherto both by the campaign of attrition and also by the "enterprise" which was frustrated off the Jutland coast, they have failed to do it, and their more subtle and insidious methods of attacking commerce by submarines, which are having the temporary success of most novel expedients, must also be suppressed in time.

Torpedoes a Disappointment. Lessons that were supposed to have been learned in the Russo-Japanese War have been found to be useless or even misleading so far as the present struggle is concerned. For instance, after the Japanese attacks upon the Russians at Port Arthur it was said that torpedo craft would be the real factors in future wars, and it was expected by some that these vessels might be able to break up the Grand Fleet. They have failed not only to live up to the predictions made by their admirers, but to cut any figure at all. Shortly before the war began it is said that the naval world was much disturbed by the large increase of range made by the torpedo and its destructive power. The "deadly accuracy" spoken of three years ago is a myth. In the Battle of Jutland there was no real torpedo success, and Sir John Jellicoe says that a great number of them were apparently fired. Now has the mine been much of a factor in the struggle, and it would have achieved much less than has been accomplished had it been employed by a nation adhering to civilized means of warfare. German unscrupulousness, however, has scored some successes with the mine. Neither the mine nor the submarine nor the torpedo can decide this struggle. At best they are mere aids to the battleship.

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Your Problems

Conducted by Mrs. Helen Law.

Mothers and daughters of all ages are cordially invited to write to this department. Initials only will be published with each question and its answer as a means of identification but full name and address must be given in each letter. Write on one side of paper only. Answers will be mailed direct if stamped and addressed envelope is enclosed. Address all correspondence for this department to Mrs. Helen Law, 25 Castle Frank Road, Toronto.

Mrs. G. H.—May I ask three questions? 1. How can I open a fruit sealer that refuses to unscrew? 2. What will prevent mustard from drying up? 3. Is it possible to make a fireless cooker at home?

1. Set the jar upside down in sufficient hot water to cover the metal rim and in a minute or two it will unscrew with ease. 2. Mix with vinegar, add a little salt, and it will keep fresh for several days. 3. Take a packing-box with well-fitted cover on hinges. Fill box with hay well packed down, leaving hole in the centre for saucepan, fill a sack with hay and place on top of saucepan, and close lid. A granite pail with a close-fitting lid and a handle is the best cooking utensil for use in a fireless cooker.

Miss Polly.—1. When a girl introduces a man to a married couple whose name should be mentioned first? 2. Should a letter of introduction be sealed and how should it be delivered?

1. You should introduce a man to your married friends in this wise: "Mrs. Blank, may I present Mr. Brown," and "Mr. Blank, this is Mr. Brown." 2. It should be unsealed. If a letter of introduction is written for a woman who is moving to another city she, on her arrival, mails it, together with her card containing her new address, to the person to whom it is addressed, who thereupon calls on the new comer. If a man has a letter of introduction to a woman he may call and deliver it in person.

Mrs. W. J. M.—1. What is the best way to treat a kitchen floor? 2. What color scheme would you advise for a girl's bedroom with a large south window?

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It was the turning of their flank by the Russian fleet which materially helped to force the Turks out of Trebizond and other places in the Caucasus, while it was the failure of the German fleet in the Baltic to accomplish a similar purpose that enabled the Russians to maintain their hold on Riga. There is also indicated by the events of the war the limitations of sea power. It is the mainstay of the Allies, enabling them to do many things, but in itself it cannot end the war as they desire it should be ended. The comfortable reflection that "time and the navy will do the job for us," which had many sympathizers in the late Government, is fatal in its tendency toward inertia and procrastination.

Battleship and Cruiser. "Turning to the material, the battleship maintains its pre-eminent position in spite of every attempt to threaten its supremacy by mine and torpedo. Care has been taken to protect it from these devices, whose power has thus been nullified. The submarine has not shown itself in any way to be more than a weapon of attrition and not an entirely effective weapon even in that direction. If merchant ships were adequately armed its success as a commerce destroyer would be considerably curbed. Entirely new light has been thrown upon the battle-cruiser, which novel type has justified the hopes entertained in regard to it. Connected with this success the war value of speed has been demonstrated. This was shown quite early in the war by the achievements of the German raiders in the outer seas and again when Sturdee's battle-cruisers made their swift and silent journey to destroy von Spee's squadrons off the Falklands. It has also been exhibited many times in the North Sea, where an excess of speed on the part of one class of vessel over another has enabled superior armaments to be brought to bear. In the Jutland fight the fast battleships of the Queen Elizabeth type gave splendid results.

Things that are better left unsaid are often overheard.

THE PARADOX OF FAITH

Faith is Both an Avowal of Weakness and an Assertion of Strength.

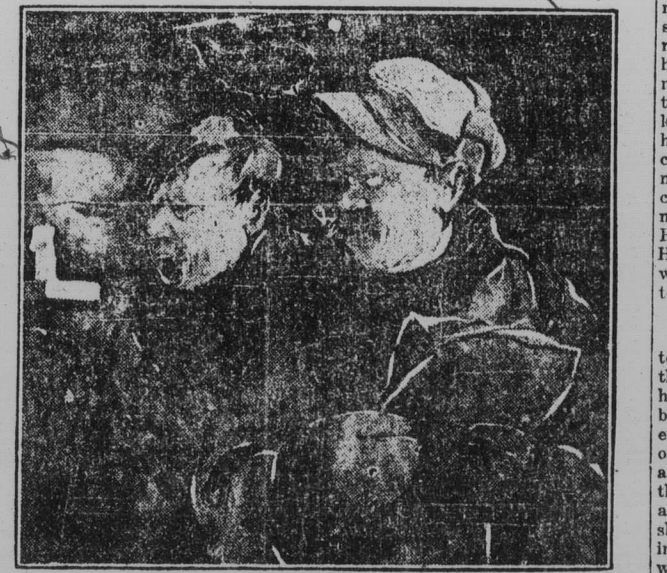
"Have mercy upon me, O Lord; for I am weak. For in death there is no remembrance of Thee; in the grave who shall give Thee thanks?"—Psalm, vi., 2, 5.

The Paradox of Faith! It is this:—Faith is both an avowal of weakness and an assertion of strength. As an avowal of weakness, Faith throws itself upon God. As an assertion of strength, Faith—reverently be it said—throws a challenge at God. As an avowal of weakness, Faith confesses man's need of God; as an assertion of strength, it professes God's need of man. In one breath it voices the helplessness and the indispensability of man. Underlying all invocations of God's help is not merely the knowledge that feeble humans must have divine assistance, but also the consciousness that Almighty God must have us and our work for the accomplishment of His purposes. We matter to God—or else why pray to Him? Why should He stand by us if He does not require our presence in the world, if our work is of no consequence to His creative plan?

The Indifference of Nature. The stars move on, though we grow too weak to stir; the flowers bloom on, though our frame withers. The heavens are never stained by the blackness of our despair. No bird has ever ceased to sing when the lullaby of the bereaved mother was silenced at the tiny grave. We live in a world that appears indifferent to our aspirations and longings. And if God shares this cosmic indifference, why invoke Him in times of distress? But when Faith invokes God it is convinced that He cannot be indifferent to us, since He needs us. He needs the work our hands find to do, the feelings that pulse in our heart, the thoughts that flash up in our mind. He needs, our love and our goodness; He needs the poet's song and the prophet's vision; He needs the painter's color heroism; and the martyr's matchless heroism; He needs the smile that beams in baby's face and the hope that blooms in the maiden's bosom. He needs our tears and our laughter; He needs all the unspeakable misery, the incomparable richness, the thrilling exaltations of human souls. Be we weak or strong—He needs us as we are.

A Responsibility and a Privilege. Faiths, therefore, reverently challenges God, saying:—This indifferent universe is so much vaster and mightier than man and it is against the forces of this incomprehensible universe that man's puny strength is constantly pitted; but if the cosmic forces crush man who will do his work and what will take his place? Will the silent stars? Will the rushing breakers? Weak and frail he is—yet powerful to do his appointed work! Thus with the Psalmist we rightfully express the Paradox of Faith when we petition our Maker in the words, "Have mercy upon me; for I am weak," founding at the same time our petition upon the daring claim:—"For in death there is no remembrance of Thee; in the grave who shall give Thee thanks?" That is to say, if the Song of Man be silenced, feeble though his voice, yet will it be missed from the harmony of the whole.

The great wonder of life consists in the fact that alongside of the cosmic forces there is room for the human soul. The still greater wonder is that alongside of God there is room for man. If this spells a responsibility, it also spells a privilege. Hence—the Paradox of Faith.—Rabbi Joel Blau.



Real Sympathy. I wish you'd get something for that cough o' yours. That's the second time you've blown the blinkin' candle out!—Capt. Bruce Bairnsfather in London Bystander.