

# 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.

## Freshening the Cows.

A short while ago I went into the stable of a farmer friend who lived about a mile or so from me. He was just feeding his cows. I noticed that he measured out the grain ration for the different ones and also each one the hay that was needed. There was one cow that only received hay for her feed. I asked him why he did not give her any grain.

"Oh! That one, why she is dry. I expect that she'll 'come in' in about a month or so. After one of my cows stop giving any milk, I do not give them any more grain," he told me.

"But, in her case," I asked him, "don't you think that she is so near freshening time that it might pay?" "I do not see where there'd be any profit," he answered. "How can any cow that is dry be worth giving anything but hay?" And he laughed as he thought that it was quite a joke to feed anything but hay to his cows that were dry.

As I looked at the cow that was getting only hay, the one that he had told me he expected would have a calf in a few weeks, I was surprised. She was very thin. To look at her I would not have known that she was to freshen soon. I felt that there are quite a few farmers that feel as he does. They do not think that a cow that is not giving any milk needs much to eat.

But a cow that is to have her calf ought to be fed quite liberal. While she is not giving milk perhaps, she is using feed to grow the new calf to be born soon. She needs food to bring her into moderately high condition, without too much fatness. Excessive fat is apt to make difficulty at time of calving. But if the cow has a liberal quantity of it with good flesh she is ready to start immediately to make a large quantity of milk. Fat that has been stored up, is ready as a reserve to be drawn upon to help at the time that she is to make the largest quantity of milk.

While there are farmers that do not dry off their cows for any length of time before they freshen, most farmers agree that cows should have from six weeks to two months rest from milking, before they have their calf.

Cows should have exercise in moderation during pregnancy, as with these that are kept in too close confinement, there is sometimes difficulty during calving time. Of course, too much and violent exercise or conditions which might lead to slipping or jumping is bad, as such may cause abortion. Cow yards where they get their exercise should be free from ice and be even and smooth. Cows that are kept in the stable a large part of the time should have the platform or floor under them level; floors that slope towards the rear cause an unnatural pressure to be brought to bear

on the generative organs which makes a tendency to lose the calf, develop. When the time draws near for the cow to have the calf, she should be placed in a separate pen or box stall, large enough so that she can move around easily. The bowels should be kept free by the use of laxative feeds. Roots are valuable. A good feed for a cow some time before and after she has her calf, is whole oats that have been swelled by having boiling water poured over them. Three pounds of these, three pounds of bran, and one-half pound of linseed oil meal mixed with warm water and a little salt, makes a good feed and has the tendency to prevent the retaining of the afterbirth. Of course, hay is to be given. After calving give this feed for a week or so, increasing one-half a pound a day as the cow increases in her milk flow, and gradually change to the regular ration. For at least ten days before the cow calves she should have water with the chill taken off; also for two weeks after.

While, as a rule, cows have their calves born without much trouble, they should be watched carefully as the time draws near, and if there are any signs of difficulty, help should be gotten quickly, if it is to be of use. After the calf is born the danger from milk-fever should be guarded. While perhaps it may not be necessary for every farm to have a milk-fever outfit, there ought to be one at least in every neighborhood and every farmer that has many cows should understand how to use it. It is very simple; in fact, many times a common bicycle-pump with a small tube attached to it that is small enough to be inserted into a cow's teat, has been successfully used. After filling with air, the teat is tied with strips of cloth to hold it in for an hour or so, and the process repeated, until recovery takes place. Particular directions come with every outfit.

The capacity to give milk is developed in cows by breeding early. While a heifer is not fully grown at two years of age, it seems to be the rule among most breeders that that is about the right age for a heifer to have her first calf, providing she is in no way stunted in her growth. To fix the habit of persistent milking, a cow is not bred so that her second calf comes within a year and a half. Of course, the best of care at this time is requisite so that the future cow may have a chance to develop as much as possible.

While cows are bred until they are twenty years old sometimes, the best period is from four to five or six, up to twelve years old. To get the best from any cow, good care is important at all times, and even though she is not giving milk, she should have a properly balanced ration to prepare her for the work that is to come to her as soon as she freshens.

## Realizing the War.

Margaret Deland, the noted American author, writes from Paris: "Over in America we thought we knew something about the war and the conditions in France, but when you get here the difference is as the difference between studying the laws of electricity and being struck by lightning. The only way in which I can keep sane and steady is to look very, very closely at my own immediate little trivial, foolish job—writing or working in the canteen—for if I dare to lift my eyes to the black horizons I lose my balance."

You may not be the best farmer in your neighborhood, but you can at least strive not to be the worst.

## Facts About Fall Wheat

ONTARIO Fall wheat growers from many localities claim that fertilizers saved their 1917-18 wheat crop. How did they do it?

Fertilizers are carriers of available plant food. This soluble food is to the young wheat crop what new milk is to the calf.

Last fall the fertilized wheat made stronger top growth and wider, deeper root growth than the unfertilized wheat.

Last winter the fertilized crop stood the severe weather while much unfertilized wheat was killed.

Last spring the fertilized wheat started growing earlier and stronger than the unfertilized wheat.

That is why fertilized wheat will yield much heavier this summer than unfertilized wheat. It pays to fertilize Fall wheat.

New Free Bulletin on Fall Wheat Production now ready. Write

The Soil and Crop Improvement Bureau of the Canadian Fertilizer Association 1111 Temple Bldg., Toronto

# The Dairy

In the stable, the best way to break a self-sucking cow is to tie her both ways in the stall so that she cannot get her head back to her udder. If you are persistent in this, after a while she forgets the habit.

But in the pasture lot a different plan must be used. The cow can be tied then by having a surcingle around her body and a rope extending from the surcingle to either side of the head so that she cannot get her head to her udder. This, however, prevents her from fighting flies and is really quite a punishment.

I think the best way probably is to get at almost any hardware store what is known as a calf-weaner. This is an arrangement that is fastened in the nose like a bull ring and extending all around on this ring are long, sharp spikes so that when she goes to suck herself these spikes are prodded into the udder and flank and she soon gives it up. Cows can eat fairly well out of a manger with an arrangement of this kind in the nose. They seem to get along on pasture all right. After a reasonable length of time if this don't break the cow of the habit, I would dispose of her for beef because it is a nuisance to have to keep this thing up every year.

## Topics in Season

Feeding high-priced fertilizer to weeds indicates the slacker at his worst.

Why spoil a fifty-dollar mower for the sake of two cents' worth of machine-oil?

The bug that takes the biggest toll is the bug of carelessness.

A good way to get rid of poison-ivy is to spray it with kerosene and set fire to it.

Burying the water jug in the furrow will keep the water cooler. But have a big jug.

Beware of so-called headache pills, tablets or powders. Practically all of them contain a coal-tar, heart-depressant drug which is often dangerous.

One of the most popular utensils on the farm is the dinner-bell.

The greatest achievement in harvesting is beating bad weather to it.

Many folks have forgotten how to stack hay. This rule is a good one: Keep the middle full and drive around on every side to unload.

Women ought to be good farmers, seeing that they are deeply interested in husbandry.

Now that so many farmers are hauling produce on auto trucks, the necessity of having better roads is being realized as never before. We must have them.

There is only one right way to sharpen a hoe and that is by filing or grinding the blade on the under side of the edge as you hold it ready to use. A sharp hoe is a fine cure for the backache.

## A Lettuce Tip.

Lettuce should be sown three times during July, and the young seedlings must be kept well watered. In fact, all lettuce should be kept very moist to prevent it from running to seed too quickly.

Good, crisp lettuce is something that all war gardeners are keen to have, and frequently it is a disappointment to them to find it going to seed and coarsening in the process.

If you have not planted your lettuce in a shaded place, you might build a cheesecloth frame over the plants that are beginning to head up, and spray them night and morning during the warm weather. This is the real secret of good, crisp lettuce.

## Substitution in Flour.

In England and France from 15 to 20 per cent of wheat substitution, chiefly corn, barley and rice, are required by the food scarcity in the milling of flour. The people of Great Britain are not now making or consuming white bread.

There will be little time on the farms this year to listen to agents.

# The Sunday School

INTERNATIONAL LESSON  
JULY 21.

Lesson III. Praying To God—Luke 11. 1-13; Psa. 145. 18, 19. Golden Text, Heb. 4. 16.

Luke 11. 1-13. Verse 1. As he was praying in a certain place—His disciples knew him as a man of prayer, calling upon the Father in daily personal communion. They were thus conscious that he had through prayer an unseen source of strength and an evident power they did not possess. This led to their request: Lord, teach us to pray. As John also taught his disciples—it was common for the Jewish rabbis to give their disciples forms of prayer.

2. When ye pray, say—There now follows what we know as the Lord's Prayer, of which two versions are given in the Gospels, the longer one, to which we are accustomed, in Matthew, chapter 6, and the shorter one in Luke 11. The two versions are mutually explanatory. The additional clauses in Matthew are not so much new petitions as expansions and explanations of the petitions found both in Luke and Matthew; thus, "Thy kingdom come" involves "Thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth." Father (Matthew, "who art in heaven"), Hallowed be thy name—That God is our "heavenly Father" had already been taught in the Sermon on the Mount and elsewhere, but now it is more formally given in the model prayer. Thy kingdom come—This was the central teaching of Jesus. It involves the dominance of the will of God over all the earth; for the will of God means justice, mercy, love, as the commanding ideal for the individual and for the race.

3. Give us day by day our daily bread (Matthew, "Give us this day")—Luke asks for continuous supply, Matthew for immediate need. The petition is a prayer for needful earthly sustenance.

4. Forgive us our sins (Matthew, "Purge us our debts")—"Trespasses," which occurs in the church form, comes to us from the Tyndale version. For we ourselves also forgive every one that is indebted to us—Matthew emphasizes the fact that an unforgiving spirit may not ask for forgiveness. Bring us not into temptation—"Temptation" may mean a testing or a trial, or it may mean a solicitation to evil. The petition here is difficult to explain and can best be understood as a prayer that we may not come into circumstances too severe for our endurance.

The wonderful beauty and importance of the Lord's Prayer arises from (1) the tone of holy confidence in which it teaches us to approach God as our Father, in love as well as in holy fear; (2) its absolute unselfishness—it is offered in the plural, not for ourselves only but for all the brotherhood of man; (3) its entire spirituality—of its seven petitions one only is for any earthly boon, and that only for the simplest; (4) its brevity and absence of all vain repetitions; (5) its simplicity, which requires only holiness and sincerity for its comprehension.

5. Which of you—This parable, found only in Luke, is an argument from analogy. "It is reasonable to suppose that God will not do less than the kind deeds that any of us would not fail to perform." Shall you un-derstand to him at midnight—Travel in the Orient is common at midnight, in order to avoid the heat. Friend, lend me three loaves—it is not unusual for the modern traveller in the Orient, if he stops at a private house, to hear some one banging at the gate, shouting, "Ya Khalil!" (O friend, open the gate).

6. I have nothing to set before him—An emergency appeal. Even poverty would not violate the law of hospitality, even though there were nothing to set before the guest.

7. Trouble me not—A rough answer implying irritation on being disturbed. The door is now shut—Literally, has been shut, closed up for the night, implying "I do not mean to open it." I cannot rise and give thee—Only a modified form for "I will not rise."

8. Because of his impurity he will arise—Literally, because of his "shamelessness," unblushing persis-

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# Poultry

This year it would seem patriotic to grow the broilers to a large size before marketing them, but reach a weight of about two pounds. The small broilers should bring a fair price and when turned into cash they will furnish available funds for properly feeding the pullets.

At the present price of grain it does not seem that capons and roasting chickens can be very profitable this year. The present indications seem to predict that it will be safer to market young broilers and raise high-class and well-fed pullets to produce eggs next fall and winter.

When there is time for marketing small orders to private customers it pays better than selling to the local dealers or the commission men. However, every farmer has to figure out most of his own marketing problems for himself. Some find it takes too much time to dress and market poultry to private consumers and they make more money by giving their time to production problems. This practically means that the farmer hires the local dealer to be his agent or poultry salesman. There is a lot to learn about poultry marketing problems. Most farmers know that they have not yet found out the best method. A little more instruction along that line from the experimental farms will be appreciated.

Farmers are buying and using more two-row cultivators this year.

In the olden days of the horse and buggy the former was the spark-plug that made the courting outfit go.

Wall-board, used in attic or shed, will help you to solve the problem of extra rooms for temporary hired help.

## 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.

### HEADACHE REMEDIES.

The frequency and variety of headaches has stimulated the medicine manufacturers to devise means for their relief, and the market has been flooded with their products.

Headache is a very comprehensive term. It may be a simple neuralgia due to disturbance of the nerves on one side of the head, the forehead, or the top or back of the head.

The blood current of the head may be unaffected in such cases, or there may be less blood than usual with resulting pallor of the face.

Or the face may be red, the head hot and throbbing, with a painful sense of fullness and congestion.

Again, there may be dizziness in addition to the head pain, and perhaps nausea and vomiting, these symptoms being due to some trouble in the digestive apparatus.

Yet other headaches are due to some trouble in the eyes, the ears, the kidneys, to growths within the skull, or a thousand other causes.

It is reasonable to imagine that all these different kinds of headaches can be cured by the same medicine, and is it not expecting too much of any powder or tablet that it will be equally useful for all of them?

It is safe to say, therefore, that any medicine which promises to cure all kinds of headache, is a fraud.

Furthermore, headache may be merely one of the noteworthy symptoms in a more or less important disease, and a headache powder, no matter how good it may be, may only mask and obscure other symptoms, unless it goes to the cause of the disease, which so far as I know no headache powder can do.

What, for instance, could such a medicine do in headache proceeding from tumor of the brain?

It would be unlikely to produce any impression upon the tumor; it might not even relieve the pain, and if a considerable quantity were taken, it might cause weakness and faintness from its depressing action on the heart and make the patient worse instead of better.

If any of the headache powders

does not have such a depressing action, I do not know which it is; and if all of them have this quality, none should be given unless we know at the time what the condition of the patient's heart really is.

Even with people whose hearts are apparently sound, some are extremely sensitive to the action of such drugs as headache powders are composed of, even in small doses.

This is especially true with children, hence we cannot be too particular in recommending them to others or in taking them of possible danger in them, which must not be overlooked, and when such a combination is used, the possibility of harm will be diminished.

A popular combination is a coal-tar product of some kind, in connection with a stimulant like camphor or caffeine; and when such a combination is used, the possibility of harm will be diminished.

One of the worst features of headache powders, is the danger of forming the drug habit, of using them when there is no real excuse for taking medicine.

We must also remember that the quantity of medicine which will relieve a headache to-day, may make little impression on to-morrow, and by increasing the quantity we may have crossed the border line of safety.

I do not imagine that these words of caution will have much effect in preventing the use of headache powders; but it is proper to present the facts and suggest that the physician is the one to decide whether such a medicine ought to be used.

Moreover, physicians also should realize their responsibility in prescribing them, and give them with the same precautions which they are supposed to use in giving other drugs which are commonly admitted to be dangerous.

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ASK ANY FARMER! who has sold his wool both ways, and note what he says—or, better still, write us for our prices; they will show you how much you lose by selling to the General Store.

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## THE NINTH ANNUAL TORONTO FAT STOCK SHOW

Union Stock Yards, Toronto

December 5 & 6, 1918

The management of the Show wish to announce the following changes over previous shows:

There will be no classes for female cattle.

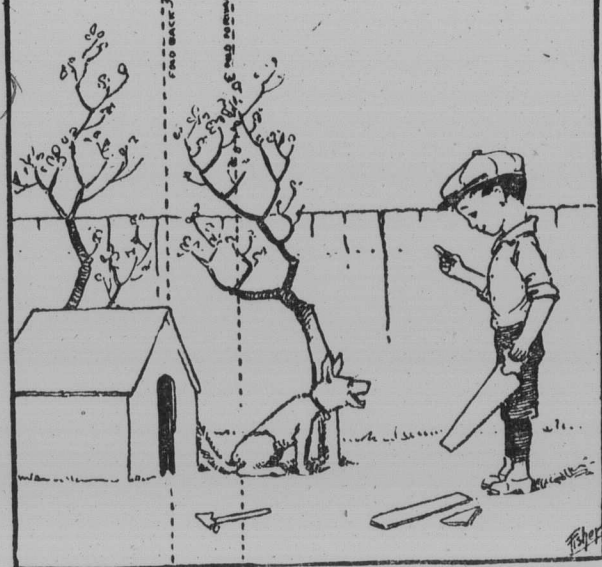
All stock entered must be owned by exhibitor at least ninety days before opening date of show.

In addition to single cattle classes there will be classes for three animals.

Premium list will be ready for distribution August 1st.

## FUNNY FOLD-UPS

CUT OUT AND FOLD ON DOTTED LINES



Willie built his dog a house, I think it's fine, don't you? And from the smile on puppy's face I judge he likes it too.