

Questions and Answers

MISCELLANEOUS.

ESTIMATING COST OF CONCRETE.

Could you tell me about how many barrels best Portland cement and how many yards sand and gravel would be required to build a wall 32x32 feet, 22 feet high, with hollow concrete building blocks, allowing for sixteen windows and six doors of ordinary size? Also what would be the probable cost of laying the blocks.

Man.

P. C.

Ans.—A good rule to approximate the amount of material to use in building a wall is one barrel of Portland cement and one yard of gravel to thirty-six cubic feet of wall including doors and windows. This would be in the proportion of about one to eight. With pure sand the concrete would have to be stronger. Using hollow blocks about one tenth of the amount would be saved. In making hollow blocks it is estimated that one barrel of cement and one yard of gravel will make forty-eight blocks, two feet long, one foot wide and six inches deep, or one square foot of wall space. At this rate a wall 32x32x22 would require 2,816 blocks or fifty-nine barrels of cement and fifty-nine yards of gravel. To estimate the cost of laying one would need to base his calculations upon the amount a man would do in a day. Generally a contractor figures on a mason laying seventy-five blocks in the wall in an eight hour day with a man to wait upon him. Therefore to lay 2,816 blocks would take two men 37 days which might probably be reduced to four weeks if there was not too much delicate work about the doors and windows. A mason might be hired for four dollars per day and a laborer for \$1.50.

GROWING FLAX.

We purpose breaking next spring fifty acres or so and thought of sowing some flax. This would be all right I presume as they say the sod would be well rotted in time for getting the flax in sufficiently early for maturing. Is there a free market for flax seed? What yield might be expected on fairly light land? Is it difficult to rid the land of it afterwards? Is it a heavy or light crop on the land? Is it a good rotation crop?

2. Is it satisfactory to sow oats or barley on breaking?

3. Have you heard of macaroni wheat being tried in this country and with what results?

Sask.

J. E. H.

Ans.—A few years ago the practise of sowing flax on breaking became quite common along the Arcola and Soo lines but of late the areas sown have much decreased, several reasons have been given for the fall of the popularity of flax. Some found it did not ripen before frost, that the sod did not rot well so that the land was in shape for the following spring, that there was no time to plow after the flax was off, that the yield of grain following was always smaller than on backsetting, etc., The objections were all what might be called natural, the market was fairly good. Taking it all around it is a little too much to expect any kind of a crop to grow on breaking especially if the season should happen to be dry. The yield runs from ten to twenty bushels. On light land the breaking could be done deeper thus giving the crop more feeding ground than on clay so that there would not be much difference in the yield on the two classes of soil. It cannot be said to be difficult to get rid of although it holds to the soil. It can be sown from the twentieth of May to the tenth of June although many sow as late as July first. It could be grown in a rotation on land that would otherwise be summer-fallowed. After a shallow plowing and cultivating in the spring the flax could be sown and the land used for wheat the following year but it is not likely the wheat would be as good.

2. No, not generally, but if the land is loamy it might be broken deep and a crop taken off.

3. They grow alright, but there is not much market demand for them.

ACCIDENT; POTATOES; CLIPPLING.

Pullet laying in good condition but not very fat, partially lost use of legs, could scarcely move, about three hours later seemed alright. Keep wheat, oats,

lime, water and broken glass before them all the time and feed mashed potatoes and shorts three times weekly. Have plenty of room. The male is quite heavy and have removed him. Is he the cause?

Are potatoes of any value as feed for horses?

Is it advisable to clip long hair from horses legs in winter?

Sask.

T. H. B.

Ans.—Probably some slight accident.

2. Yes, they are particularly useful if bots are suspected and a few are good at any time as an appetizer.

3. If the winter is soft and there is much slush which freezes it might be well to clip otherwise, there is no advantage in it.

PLANTING A CORRAL.

I have a small corral that I intend to break in the spring. I would like to know what crop would suit it best. The land is loamy having been bush some time ago, is land deposited by the Boyne River. Would it make a good garden or would it be too rich? What kind of garden stuff would be likely to do the best on it?

What is the best time of year to plant out Manitoba maples, apple trees, etc.?

Man.

T. L. B.

Ans.—If there is any manure in the corral clean it out and use the land after being well prepared for potatoes, carrots and other roots, radish, cucumbers, etc., and any vegetable that produces most of its growth from the roots. If you have any wood ashes spread them on the soil before planting as they would tend to balance the plant food. Tomatoes could be grown also on this soil if the vines were well pruned. It should produce good cabbage, squash, pumpkins, etc.

2. In the latter part of May or beginning of June is about the best season to set trees.

AGRICULTURAL CHEMISTRY.

Kindly give me a synopsis of "Chemistry of the farm." Does it contain analysis of soils?

J. W. B.

Ans.—"Chemistry of the Farm" contains a description of the different components of the soil and of plants, the relation of soil and atmosphere, manures, their adaptation to different crops, animal nutrition components of foods, feeding for growth, fat or milk, etc. etc. It is one of the most simple and concise books of the kind published.

VELOCITY OF WIND; TOMATOES NOT FRUITING.

1. How does the weather Bureau estimate the speed of the wind?

2. Why do tomatoes blossom all summer without bearing any fruit. What must I do to get them to bear?

Alta.

L. P.

Ans.—1. The instrument used for measuring the velocity of the wind, and also its direction, is called an anemometer, literally a wind-measurer. The Dominion Government Observatory at St. John's College Winnipeg is furnished with one of these, and its records form part of the meteorological reports given weekly to the press.

The apparatus in use consists of parts (1) for measuring the force or rather velocity of air currents, (2) the direction of the wind, (3) the automatic recorder driven by clock-work.

(1) Consists of four light hemispherical cups attached to the ends of light strong metal rods each about eighteen inches long, attached at right angles to a brass tube. This turns with the action of the wind upon the cups, which move at very nearly one third the rate of the wind; and the tube thus turning, and carried to a room below, sets in motion a cylinder to which is attached a pencil marking the record sheet. The latter is attached to a cylinder made to move at a uniform rate by the clock-work,—making one revolution each 24 hours.

(2) The direction of the wind is recorded by the same arrangement as to the clock-work, the vane or fan consisting of a pointer and double fans, connected with a tube moving the cylinder below, and thus making an automatic record.

2. The soil is probably very rich and the plants grow rank. If you haven't a soil of medium fertility keep the vines pruned so that most of the energy of the plants will be devoted to fruit making.

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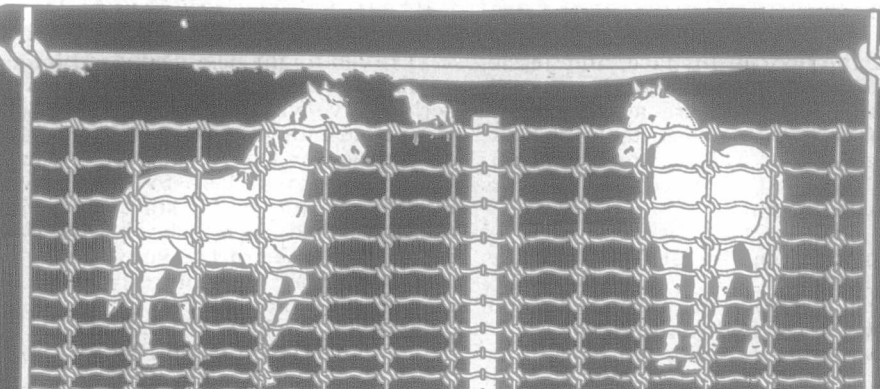
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