

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, 235 Woodbine Ave., Toronto.

"Reader":—1. Eggs should be preserved in water glass during March, April, May and June, when they are cheapest. 2. Protect the young cucumber plants from the striped beetle by covering them with wire netting. Spray with Bordeaux-arsenate of lead as soon as the plants appear; again at the appearance of the third leaf and a third time before the plants begin to form runners. See that the spray strikes under the leaves as well as on top. For the cabbage worm, dust with tobacco dust, pyrethrum, hellebore or spray with arsenate of lead or powder with dry arsenate.

"Enquirer":—Balfour is pronounced Bal—as in balance—four. It is very hard to convey the exact pronunciation of Joffre by phonetics, but the J is soft and the re is hardly sounded at all; it is almost as though it was written Joff, with the fs a mere breath. Viviani is pronounced Viv-e-an-e.

J. D. V.:—The following are the dates at which the several nations entered the European War:

1914, July 28, Austria and Serbia; August 1, Germany and Russia; August 3, France; August 4, Belgium and Great Britain; August 8, Montenegro; August 23, Japan; November 5, Turkey.

1915, May 23, Italy; June 3, San Marino; October 14, Bulgaria.

1916, March 8, Portugal; August 28, Rumania.

1917, April 6, United States of America; April 7, Cuba.

A. J. L.:—1. In the partly shaded location you describe, you should be able to grow lettuce, early or late cabbage, cauliflower, or spinach. Do not try beans, eggplants, corn, tomatoes. 2. Dahlia roots need warm soil and warm weather, so it is not safe to plant them at this time.

"School Girl":—The cause of the so-called "blackheads" is the clogging of the pores with dust and grease, which hardens and puts the face with tiny black specks. The first step is to thoroughly cleanse the skin. Every night wash thoroughly with warm

water and a good soap. Dry skin carefully, apply to the spots an ointment made of 1 ounce soap liniment and 1 ounce ether well mixed, and allow it to remain on during the night. Wash off in the morning with warm water and rinse with cold. Continue this treatment until the blackheads have disappeared. To contract the pores wipe the face with a little alcohol or eau de cologne. Frequently pimples appear with the blackheads, and when this is the case make an ointment of the following ingredients, 2 grams beta naphthol, 20 grams sulphur precipitate, 20 grams potash soap. Mix thoroughly and apply to the pimples at night. This preparation may be used at the same time as the blackhead ointment. Do not be discouraged if you see no improvement in your complexion as the weeks slip by. It sometimes requires months to get rid of pimples and blackheads.

"Perplexed":—1. A felon is an infection of the tissue around the finger nail. The constant application of a wet dressing, equal parts of alcohol and water, may check it. If it progresses a surgeon should be consulted, as the infection may cause great trouble. 2. Worry can check the secretion of gastric juices and also impair the normal motion of the stomach. 3. Greens and green vegetables are the best source of iron for blood-building. 4. The eyes should have a rest from reading and from all kinds of fine work. Out-of-door recreation, such as gardening and almost any form of outdoor employment will be found beneficial.

"Housewife":—Onions and water will remove the smell of paint from a room. Slice several onions, put them in a pail of water and stand the pail in the closed room over night.

W. A.:—Probably the reason baby cries when you lift him is that you hurt him by not lifting him properly. In lifting a baby, grasp the clothing just below the feet with your right hand, slip the left hand under the baby from below upward until the head is reached, supporting with the hand and lifting the child on the left arm.

Poultry

Market in June.

All roosters, old hens, early broilers, green ducks.

During the first week in June, kill off, dispose of or remove from the flock, the male birds after the breeding season. Their presence in a flock after this date causes a loss of a million dollars a year to Canadian farmers through the sale of partially incubated and bad eggs in the produce which is marketed. All old hens should also be marketed at this date.

The proper way to carry a fowl is to place it under the arm, the head pointing to the rear, and the feet held firmly by the hand. In this way the bird can be carried for miles without the least discomfort to it or the person carrying it.

In former years, the common practice was to carry poultry by the legs, hanging downward. This was a bad mode and one that never was used by regular poultrymen. When the head is hanging downward there is nothing to prevent a rush of blood to it, and it is the belief that many cases of vertigo can be traced to such acts of carelessness.

But still more cruel is lifting the body by their wings. Should the fowl struggle when thus handled, it is a very easy matter to snap the cords of the wings and thus permanently injure the bird.

Poultry roughly handled lose confidence in their attendant, and loss of confidence in the henry often has a

bad effect upon the egg crop. Besides, any method that points the least bit toward cruelty should not be permitted. Gentleness is a virtue that even hens appreciate.

The mash for the chicks may consist of equal parts of bran, middlings and cornmeal, and half part of beef scrap, but the composition is more or less dependent on the feeds that are most available.

Pullets that are stunted by poor feeding during the first few weeks of their lives will prove a decided disappointment from the standpoint of their egg production.

The most effective method for body lice on hens is the application of a dilution of either mercurial ointment or blue ointment. Mercurial ointment contains fifty per cent. of metallic mercury. Blue ointment is a mixture consisting of sixty-seven per cent. of mercurial ointment and of thirty-three per cent. of vaseline and, therefore, contains thirty-three and one-third per cent. of mercury.

Fish Pond For The Farm.

Why shouldn't a farmer raise fish as well as chickens? Given proper fresh water supply and reasonable space for a pond, an astonishing quantity may be had in two or three years.

"John, did you take the note to Mr. Jones?" "Yes, but I don't think he can read it." "Why so, John?" "Because he is blind, sir. While I was in the room he asked me twice where my hat was, and it was on my head all the time."

selves hoarse without coming to any agreement.

"Surely I know, for she picked me out herself from brown and black-eyed dolls," Araminta sobbed. "Surely she must know that blue eyes are the best!"

Back scampered the little squirrel. "He says it's a question of 'I's,'" he announced breathlessly.

"Silly, isn't that what we all know. We mean the proper color for eyes."

Just then back from the garden danced Dorothy Anne and Elizabeth and Ruthie, her little friends. "Oh, look at Dottie's new doll. Aren't her eyes the most beautiful blue!" exclaimed Ruth, picking up Araminta and dancing up and down with her.

"But look at the cutie rabbit with its cunning pink eyes," Elizabeth said. "Dorothy, what color do you think eyes ought to be?"

Dorothy looked carefully at the big brown eyes of both her little friends. "I—!" she started to say.

The little squirrel, who had been waiting to hear the answer, suddenly chuckled to himself. "Now I know what the Owl meant," he whispered to the rabbit as he scampered past him.

Do you?

Bedtime Stories

A Question of "I's"

"Pink is the proper color," the little rabbit politely informed Araminta Jane. They were having a most delightful afternoon tea. Dorothy Anne, who had been feeding them dainties—bits of cake, goose-toss and crackers—had quite suddenly decided to see whether any of her flowers were up and had left the white rabbit and the china doll together under a large tree in the orchard.

"I am sure blue is the proper color," Araminta contradicted, still very politely.

That was how it started! Both were sure they were right and soon they made such a noise that a little squirrel came to see what the trouble was. "I maintained stoutly when him of the argument. A moment after a fat worm, stopping enough to caw, "Black." And held by the raven, who happened to be on a branch, offered the owl and ask the owl," offered the owl after they had argued them-

FOOD SHORTAGE SUGGESTIONS

The Food Value of Buckwheat is High, As It Is Both a Flesh Producer and a Heat and Energy Producer.

By Henry G. Bell, Agronomist.

Buckwheat pancakes may form a welcome substitute for breakfast wheat cereal and bread toast, while wheat ranges around the \$2.50 a bushel mark.

Buckwheat characteristics strongly recommend this crop for cereal production.

Buckwheat is a dry grain which can be stored. After wheat, corn and rye, buckwheat contains a maximum of food in a minimum of volume.

Buckwheat is strong in both flesh producer and in energy and heat producer. It compares with wheat as follows:

Crop	Percent Water	Percent Protein (Flesh Producer)	Percent Carbohydrates (Heat and Energy Producer)	Fats	Fibres	Ash
Buckwheat	14	9.0	58.7	1.5	45.0	1.8
Wheat	14.4	13.0	66.4	1.5	3.0	1.7

Buckwheat yields from 10 to 40 bushels per acre.

Buckwheat requires from 3 to 5 bushels of seed to the acre.

Buckwheat suits poor, light, dry land. It produces larger yields where additional fertility is supplied, 200 pounds per acre of fertilizer supplying one per cent. ammonia, 8 to 10 per cent. phosphoric acid, gives good results. This should be drilled in when the buckwheat is sown, or broadcast and worked into the seedbed by disking and harrowing. You can increase the effectiveness of high-priced farm labor by fertilizing the buckwheat. A yield of 20 to 30 bushels per acre uses the labor much more profitably than a yield of 10 bushels per acre.

Finally, buckwheat should be sown later than corn and the small grains. It is therefore an excellent crop for "filling in" where other crops fail.

Buckwheat is quoted in Chicago at \$3.20 per bushel.

Buckwheat Strong Points.

Strong food is compact volume. Food suited to storage, therefore, valuable for export.

Thrives on comparatively poor soil. Makes quick and reasonably large returns. May be planted later than other crops; hence can be used to fill in "where other crops fail." Buckwheat matures in less than 100 days.

Tomato Culture.

Tomato seed sown in boxes in the house in March will produce plants that will fruit the same season. Plants ready to be set out can be purchased from seedsmen. In buying plants select strong, sturdy plants, avoiding the tall drawn specimens that are frequently offered. Where tall, spindly plants of tomatoes must be used pinch off the top. This will check the up-

ing the plants when they are laden with fruit.

Another method is to make a trellis the shape of a funnel, setting this over each plant. A barrel hoop on supports is another form of the same plan.

When grown on a large scale field culture is the system practised. The plants are set out in long, straight rows, cultivated by horse, and the vines are given no support. This system may be used also in small gardens.

Beans a Valuable Crop. Beans have a two-fold value. They rank among the valuable foods, containing a higher percentage of protein than wheat or oats, and even meat. Beans are also of value from a soil cultural aspect, as they belong to a most important class of agricultural plants termed legumes, which are capable of taking up indirectly the free nitrogen of the air and storing it in tubercles on the root system of the plants in an available form of plant food for future crops.

The last week of May or the first week in June is usually the most suitable time for planting, although the time of planting may vary slightly according to district and season, but should not be delayed after the soil has become warm and dry.

Some of the best yielding varieties of field beans are Pearce's Improved Tree, Schofield Pea, Medium or Navy, Common White Pea and White Wonder. These varieties require from 112 to 115 days in which to reach the proper stage of maturity for harvesting.

After planting, but before the plants appear, which will usually be from three to six days, depending largely upon the weather, it is advisable to harrow the soil lightly with a slant-

record that they all forsook him and fled, which Mark places after his words, "But let the scriptures be fulfilled."

9. The Evangelist sees the Master purposed to keep his disciples out of temptation, that he might deliver them from evil and keep them for his work. We must assume that he made them understand it was his will that they should hide from a very real danger: nothing less, surely, will explain their absence from Calvary.

10. Having a sword—See Luke 22:38. The earlier Gospels do not name the aggressor, nor the officious slave who thought to please his master by a special showing of zeal. Peter fortunately escaped doing more damage. As Jesus was to be slain, he was to be slain by the Jews, and suffering for it, the Jewish leaders were contemptuously indifferent to the disciples: they could smite the shepherd, but the flock would be finally scattered! Danger to them came rather from the mob that followed.

11. Only Luke knows that Jesus healed Malchus. He got the detail—the present writer believes—from Paul, who was there and in the thick of it. He heard and quoted those last terrible words about "the authority of darkness" (Luke 22:53; Col. 1:13). The cup—John has not reported the Master's earlier use of this phrase (Mark 14:36).

12. The other disciple was the author (John 21:24). He was known to the high priest: the word is that of Luke 23:49, and implies more than mere casual acquaintance. That he was an eye-witness is much more important than that he should be an apostle. Court—The quadrangle round which the house was built.

13. The maid—Compare Rhoda in Acts 12:13. Thou also—She therefore knew that John was one. "In the original the question is put in a form that suggests a negative answer, 'Surely thou art not?' (The New Century Bible). I am not—Peter probably thought he would not be allowed to stay to "see the god" (Matt. 26:58); it was a typical example of doing evil that good might come.

14. This gives us the other side of the

tooth harrow or even a light smoothing harrow. This operation will break the crust, destroy weeds, help warm the soil and stimulate rapid germination of the seed and growth of the plants. As soon as possible after the beans are up, and can be seen in the row, the single and two-row cultivators should be used. It should be the aim of every grower to keep the soil stirred on the surface. Thus as promptly as practicable after each rain and in time to prevent the forming of a crust the soil should be stirred by means of the cultivator. The work of cultivation also should be kept well in hand early in the season so that little cultivation need be given after the blossoming stage of growth has been reached.

Little Things. The song of a bird is a little thing, yet it brings us a wealth of joy. A ray of light is a little thing; yet it lightens the dreariest spot. The laugh of a babe is a little thing, yet it touches the warmest heart. And in this big world of little things each human life has its share to provide.

So each human soul in his tiny sphere must be the most of the life he holds.

Unpremeditated for peace will be nothing but a criminal madness.

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.

Question—M. A. C.:—My seeding with grain last year was a failure. It did not catch. Would you recommend manuring and plowing the stubble for potatoes this year? Would it do for beans where potatoes grew last year? It was a big growth of clover, also manured, plowed under and potatoes planted. I want to reserve an old meadow to plow under for corn this year and will also have to plow last year's potato and corn ground for oats this year?

Answer:—The land where your seeding failed, if plowed up and then carefully manured, should make good potato ground this year. I would advise in addition to the manure about 400 pounds of fertilizer carrying 2 to 3% ammonia, 8 to 12% available phosphoric acid and 1 to 2% potash. Scatter this down the drill rows when you are planting the potatoes. A good method of application is to drop the seed pieces of potatoes and cover them lightly with soil, and then dust the fertilizer along over the hill and drills and finish the covering. This addition of available plantfood will give the crop a strong, vigorous start. This land would do well for beans, also.

Question—R. L.:—I have a piece of land that has been run for years without clover or manure. This land is quite sandy and contains practically no humus. Now, if I apply 12 good loads of manure to the acre, which would be the most profitable crop for me to raise, corn or potatoes? I raised corn on similar land last year with 60 crates to the acre; with manure. Would this ground hold moisture sufficient to grow a good crop of potatoes?

Answer:—If you have potato seed, by all means potatoes would be the most profitable crop for you to grow on the land in question. I would recommend adding fertilizer to the manure, as per answer to M. A. C. Under normal conditions you should not have any trouble from lack of moisture. If you have to buy potato seed, at present prices it may be more profitable to grow corn, but this you will have to decide from your own local conditions. If you seed it to corn, I would advise adding about 200 pounds of fertilizer to the acre, spreading it broadcast and working it into the ground before you plant the corn. It should carry from 2 to 3% ammonia and 8 to 10% phosphoric acid.

Question—W. A. C.:—I would like to get your opinion in regards to planting beans in hills, planted 28 inches each way. Do you think the yield would be as good as if they were drilled and kept much cleaner and less seed would do. The seed is so high in price this year it would be quite a saving in the cost of the crop.

Answer:—I am very much in favor of planting beans in the hill, especially on land that is likely to be weedy or where disease has been prevalent. As a rule, the yield will be almost as high as if they were drilled and frequently better as disease is not so likely to spread from one plant to another. I would suggest the seed be tested to learn what percentage will germinate, and since seed is so high-priced, that the drill be also tested to see if it plants the quantity of seed desired. I would also put on about 200 to 300 pounds of fertilizer to the acre. The fertilizer may be put on broadcast and worked into the ground before the beans are planted, or it may be put on as the beans are planted if care is

taken to see that the fertilizer does not come in close contact with the beans in the soil.

Question—R. M.:—I have about sixteen acres of wheat that is badly killed in the low places, and I don't wish to plow the wheat up on account of expectations of a high price next year. Do you think it would be advisable to drag up these low places and sow to Spring wheat? Could it all be harvested together? If so please tell me where seed could be procured and how and when it should be sown. If spring wheat is not advisable how would either buckwheat or beans be?

Answer:—If it is not already too late when you read this answer and you can secure the seed, I would advise the sowing of spring wheat where the winter wheat has killed out. It is almost impossible to tell whether the spring wheat and winter wheat could be harvested together or not. This would depend entirely on the weather and whether the two wheats ripen at the same time. In fact, I should expect them not to ripen together. You should sow the wheat at once. All that is necessary to go would be to harrow or disk up the ground and drill in the wheat. Perhaps you will be able to secure spring wheat seed in your community or from some of the elevator men. Unless you are able to get it close at hand it will be too late to sow it. In such case, either buckwheat or beans will make a splendid crop. In fact, I would prefer the planting of beans as they can be put in any time up to the late of June, just so they have time enough to ripen off before frost. In this case the ground should be thoroughly disked or harrowed up and worked down, after which the beans may be planted in rows 21 or 28 inches apart. A grain drill, with part of the grain tubes stopped up offers the best means of planting the beans. When planted this way some fertilizer can be applied. The best way probably is to stop up the fertilizer tube directly over the row containing the beans but allowing the fertilizer to run down the tubes on each side of the one dropping the beans.

Question—J. B. H.:—Isn't it considered poor policy to plant corn in ground that grew sugar beets last year, if only a light crop? There are two fields which are desired for corn and beans. One is sod and the other grew beets last year, soil about the same. Both corn and beans require rich ground, which one will be best to follow beets?

Answer:—Regarding beans and corn following sugar beets, the U. S. Department of Agriculture studied 115 farms and found that, following sugar beets, the yield of corn was increased by 12 bushels to the acre and beans 5 bushels. This would indicate that either corn or beans could be planted in the ground that was in sugar beets. From these figures we ought not to judge that sugar beets make the soil rich in fertility but rather because they are cultivated during the summer the soil is put in better till for the growing of the following crops. I would recommend that the sod ground be put to corn and that beans be put in the sugar beet land as beans do not do well on freshly turned sod or organic too much fresh manure or where matter is added to the soil. If about 300 pounds of fertilizer analyzing 200 in phosphoric acid are used on the corn land and probably 200 to 250 on the bean field, good crops should be secured this year.

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The Dairy

What the cream separator has done for farmers in the way of improved and labor-saving methods of creaming milk, the milk machine will do in milking cows, which is one of the most troublesome jobs on a dairy farm.

W. H. Johnstone of Moose Jaw, Sask., who uses a three-unit milking machine, says that two men can run machine, weigh milk and strip twenty cows per hour. He used the machine on thirty cows the first morning.

A test of the whole herd does not give the needed information; this matter of cow-testing is a strict question of individual capacity.

Sixty pairs of two creameries in Prince Edward Island averaged 884 pounds of fat per herd, after two years of cow-testing these sixty herds averaged 955 pounds of fat; this is a gain of seventy-one pounds of fat per herd, or eight per cent.

When we consider that a five-dollar calf may grow into a hundred-dollar cow, it seems preposterous to send it to the butcher.

Too many farmers do not realize the feeding value of skim milk. They think that because the fat has been removed a much larger quantity of milk should be fed. As a result, the calves are often overfed.