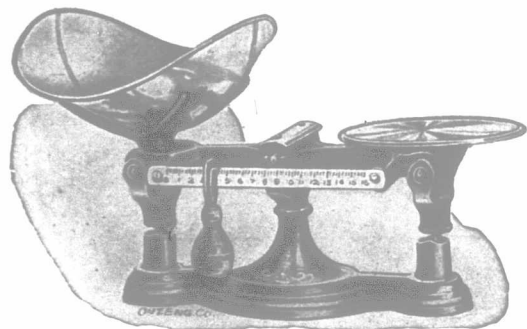


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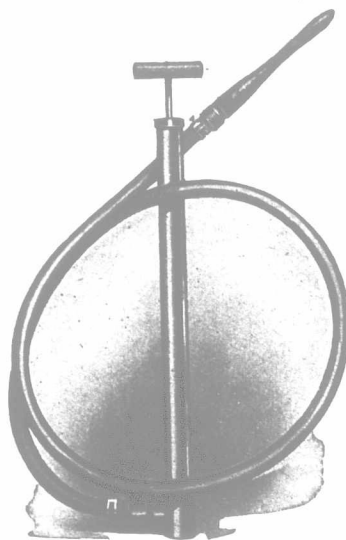
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Questions and Answers, Miscellaneous.

A Groundhog Mite.

Nearly a week ago I killed a groundhog. On it I found two bugs. They had their heads in its flesh, and I could hardly get them out. I kept one in a bottle with the cork in and it did not die, so I am sending it to you to find out what it is. R. V.

Ans.—The insect belongs to the order Acarina, or Mites. There are many species of these parasites on animals and plants, and we are not absolutely sure to which this particular specimen belongs. It is sufficient, however, to know that it is a mite, a family which may be recognized by their unsegmented, sac-like bodies, on four pairs of legs.

Alfalfa Cutting—Growing Rape.

1. Do you advocate cutting alfalfa twice the first year? The first cut will average about one and a half tons per acre. It looks to be a good stand. In our neighborhood we have difficulty getting good catches, although the land seems suitable. It seems to kill out considerably the second winter.

2. Have made it a practice last few years of sowing rape about last of June for fall feed. Am thinking of sowing rye this fall to plow down next June. (a) What is the value of rye as a green manure? (b) Would the rye plowed down and rape pastured, make a good combination, land being a clay loam in fairly good state of cultivation? (c) Would it be satisfactory after rye being plowed down to go over it with light coat of manure with a spreader, that is, disking it in before sowing rape? F. R. M.

Ans.—1. We take it that "first year" means the year following the sowing of the seed. Many cut the alfalfa three or four times during this season, and none less than twice unless it be that they pasture it. If you have a good stand, and you cut it at the proper time, you should get at least two cuttings, and, better, three.

2. A good crop of rye plowed down aids greatly in adding humus to the soil, and thus loosens up a heavy soil or helps hold a very light soil. The rye and manure should fit the land well for rape. Try the rape in drills, 1½ lbs. of seed per acre, and cultivate until it gets too large for further working.

Silo Filler.

I am a constant reader of "The Farmer's Advocate," and would not like to be without it. In regard to filling silos with a sheet-iron pipe on the inside, from top to bottom, I would like if you would tell me, through your paper, how it is made, by a cut, or explain as well as possible, as we want to make one, but do not know exactly how it is made. It is a little early for filling silos yet, but we do not want to wait till we need it. Full instructions about this would be thankfully received. J. R.

Ans.—Get a hood and pipe made of galvanized iron. The hood fits over the mouth of the blower, has an opening 12 inches square, and is reinforced with two bands of iron, each having two ears near the upper corners. Through these pass the ropes by which the pipe is suspended. The second length of pipe tapers from square to round in shape, eight inches in diameter, and five feet long. Each length below is five feet long. These lengths are about nine inches in diameter at the upper end and eight inches at the lower end to give free play. They are coupled by rings fastened in the pipes and the pipes are held together by short chains and snaps. Most of the iron used is heavy. The hood is No. 24, with No. 22 on the back. The round sections of the pipe are No. 26. To raise the pipe, attach the ropes to the hood and draw it up, hooking on length after length of the pipe as it is pulled up. Hang the bottom about ten feet clear of the floor. It may be pulled around with a rope for a time, after which it is best to key it about shoulder high for the man tramping, and he can push it around as desired.