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## 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—H. K.—I have some thin land which is not producing profitable crops. Can I build it up by growing Soy Beans which I can cut for hay next summer? What variety of beans is best to use?

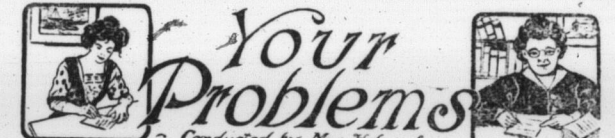
Answer—Soy beans belong to the legume family. All legumes under normal conditions have little knots growing on their roots. In these knots there live a very low form of plant life known as bacteria, which draw their food from the growing plant and in return take some of the nitrogen out of the air. The bacteria in the soil, so that the growing legume benefits materially by their presence, and the ground is richer in nitrogen after the legume has been grown than before, provided that not all of the legume crop has been cut off and removed. Soy beans have frequently been profitably grown where clovers and other legumes killed out. The beans are seeded as soon as the ground is warm in spring. The amount of growth which you will get per acre varies of course with the fertility of the soil and the length of the season, as well as with the vigor of the variety of bean used. If you turn the beans under in the fall, you will add not only nitrogen to the soil, but a considerable amount of valuable organic matter and thereby

greatly assist in building up your soil. Speaking generally, if clovers can be grown in the place of soy beans, I believe you would get a larger quantity of organic matter as well as approximately the same amount of nitrogen.

The Purdue Agricultural Experiment Station, in Bulletin 172, reports an average growth of green tops and roots to a depth of 18 inches, determined at the time of the first frost, to have been 3.6 tons per acre, and an average of 89 pounds of nitrogen was contained in the tops and 13.8 pounds of nitrogen in the roots of the soy beans. As to varieties of soy beans, experimental tests have shown that as O.A.C. No. 81, is the heaviest yielding. Early Yellow and Ho San are also good varieties.

Question—S. P.—How much buckwheat should be sown to the acre? What time should it be sown? Does it do well on clay loam soil?

Answer—The usual amount of buckwheat to sow to the acre is a bushel to a bushel-and-a-half. The buckwheat crop is not as particular about its time of seeding as some others. Satisfactory stands can be obtained by sowing any time in May or June. This crop should do well on clay loam soil.



**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, 75 Castle Frank Road, Toronto.

D. S.—1. The best novel on the war is said to be "Mr. Britling Sees It Through," by the noted English writer, G. H. Wells. A new book, just issued, by the same author, is also highly recommended. It is entitled "France, Italy and Britain at War." A splendid work, "The Children's History of the War," by Sir Edward Parrott, M.A., LL.D., is being issued from time to time. Three volumes have already appeared (price, \$1.00 each) and they cover the progress of the war to the end of 1914. They are profusely illustrated with maps and pictures, and more interesting reading it would be hard to find. When finished it will form a complete history of the war, and one which every household should possess. 2. It is said that Tennyson's greatest message and the one he wished most to be remembered is contained in these two lines from "Locksley Hall": "Love took up the harp of life and smote on all the chords with might; Smote the chord of Self, that trembling passed in music out of sight."

This seems to have been Tennyson's prophetic answer to the German "Hymn of Hate."

M. W.—1. On the inside of your pantry or kitchen door fasten a strip of molding, about six or eight inches long. In this molding fasten five screws from which to hang these labor and time-saving devices: A skewer set, a pair of scissors, a writing tablet with pencil attached ready to jot down articles needed, a small round pin cushion with a washable cover of cretonne, and a string holder, made of an ordinary tin funnel, painted in white enamel, holding the ball of cord inside, the loose end pulled through ready for use. 2. Keep hanging beside the stove a long loose linen mitten to slip over the hand and arm when turning or basting anything in the oven. 3. It will save burns, and the scattering of hot fat on the sleeve.

B. B.—1. It is said that old potatoes if boiled in part water and part milk will not discolor. 2. To clean cane furniture first brush the dust out of the crevices. Made a suds by dissolving white soap in water and add-

ing salt. This will prevent the cane from turning yellow. Apply with a scrubbing brush, first one side, then the other, thoroughly soaking the cane. Place in a shady spot to dry and the cane will be firm and tight. 3. Salt should not be added to a milk dish when it is boiling. If so it will be likely to curdle the milk. 4. When children's stockings wear thin at the knee, clip off the leg just above the heel, turn the back to the front and sew together. 5. In preparing a boiled icing, the sugar and water, while boiling on the stove, should not be stirred. If this is done the mixture will be sugary. 6. Crackers should never be broken into soup. 7. A teaspoonful of alum dissolved in water and snuffed up the nose will stop nose-bleed. 8. Silk waists should be pressed, while still damp, with a cool iron. 9. Table napkins will wear much longer if folded in thirds one week and in fourths the next.

F. D.—A gift may be sent to a bride at any time after the wedding invitations are issued. 2. Your embroidered centrepiece will make an ideal gift. When finished, lay it face downward on a Turkish towel and over it place a cloth which has been wrung out of hot starch, and press dry with a hot iron.

## Drink Hot Water With Meals To Stop Stomach Disorders

**A Physician's Advice**  
Thousands of unfortunate people suffer almost daily from dyspepsia, indigestion, flatulence, gas, or distress after eating. If they would only form the agreeable habit of slowly drinking with each meal a glassful of hot water containing a half teaspoonful of pure bicarbonate of soda, they would soon find their stomachs so strengthened and improved that they could eat the richest and most satisfying meals without the least symptom of indigestion.

Nearly all so-called digestive troubles are caused by an excess of acid and an insufficient blood supply in the stomach causing the food to ferment and sour before digestion can take place. A glass of hot water will draw the blood to the stomach and the bicarbonate of soda will neutralize the stomach acids and make the food contents bland and sweet. Easy, natural digestion without distress of any kind is the result. Bismarck Magnesia is not a laxative, is harmless, pleasant and easy to take, and can be obtained from any local druggist. Do not confuse Bismarck Magnesia with other forms of magnesia—milk, citrate, etc., but get it in the pure bicarbonate form (powder or tablets) especially prepared for this purpose.

## Hogs

Where suitable building exists for the proper protection of the sow and her young she should be expected to raise two litters a year.

Do not allow the food to sour in the hog feed trough.

When the little pigs are weaned, put the sow out of their hearing for a while.

Almost any kind of milk is all right so long as it is good, clean milk. The hogs will make good use of it. When you once get your hogs on sweet milk or on sour, keep them there. The changing from one to the other is the way to trouble.

Skim-milk is the hog's natural food. Save it all.

Lack of exercise is one cause of soft pork.

A long pig has the frame-up for a big hog. It is our work to put on the right kind of siding.

## Sheep Notes

At lambing time the ewes require the constant attention of the shepherd, especially if the weather is cold.

The young lamb must have nourishment from the ewe as soon as it is born; the sooner the better.

If a lamb is chilled take it at once to a warm place and plunge it in water as warm as the hand will stand, then rub dry and wrap in warm flannel.

As soon as revived, take it to the mother and see that it gets nourishment.

If lambs are due to arrive the caretaker should visit the flock once or twice during the night. A little assistance at the right time may save a lamb, and oftentimes the ewe.

The ewes welcome the presence of the regular attendant and are grateful for his help.

When you order spring seeds think of the flower beds.



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## THE CASH VALUE OF A FARMER

If a number of farmers were asked to name the most valuable asset of the farm, it is probable that each would have a different answer, and equally probable that each would be wrong. For it is not likely that one of them would think of himself in this connection. It is a fact nevertheless that the farmer himself represents the greatest value on the farm even on a purely cash basis.

Actuaries have calculated the present value of annuities of one dollar at all ages and have arrived at the conclusion that an annuity of a dollar at age 40, is worth, on the average, \$16.51.

Now, supposing a farmer, age 40, is able to produce by his thought and labor \$1,000 per annum out of his property in addition to his own maintenance, he would be worth to his family one thousand times the annuity of one dollar or \$16,510. The same values can be ascertained for all other ages.

Now it is strange, in view of the high money value of the farmer, that he frequently neglects to insure his life. The house must be insured, the barn must be insured, and the stock, but the farmer himself is unprotected.

This is not fair to him nor to his family. If the head of the house were taken away the farm and stock would be left, it is true, but someone must be found to take charge of the business and work the farm, and adequate insurance would provide the money necessary to engage such a manager. It often happens that, depending on continued health and strength, and good crops, that the farm has been taken with an encumbrance on it, in the shape of a mortgage. Although farmers live a healthful life, yet they are not immortal and death is always a possibility. In the event of death, who will pay the mortgage? The widow with the added burden of providing help to work the farm? It would be impossible and foreclosure would be inevitable. Now let us suppose that this farmer had been wise, and had taken life insurance for the amount of the mortgage. At his death the liability would be discharged with the insurance money. It is evident then that every farmer should have his life insured.

Probably the most desirable is the Endowment Policy. Under endowment policies the amount is payable to the insured himself if he be living at the end of a certain term of years, say 15, 20, 25 or 30. Should he die during that time the policy is payable to his family. The endowment policy, therefore, is a savings bank account, and an insurance at the same time. It may be that the farmer may wish to accumulate a certain amount of money in order to enlarge his property or to make some notable improvement, perhaps to build a house. The endowment policy provides a means whereby a fund can be accumulated for any such purpose, and it will be available in any case in the event of the death of the policyholder.

Of the endowment policies those of the participating plan are perhaps preferable. There are a number of ways in which an insurance company can "make money". For instance the number of deaths occurring may turn out to be less than the number used in calculating the premiums. Again the rate of interest earned may be higher than the rate used in calculating the premiums, or a sale of securities might be made to the advantage of the company. Participating policies by their terms share in the profits earned by the company. These profits are determined at regular intervals, and are allotted to the different policies.

## Health

### The Care of Infants' Eyes.

The most impressive lesson of ignorance, or neglect of the infant, is learned when visiting one of the several schools or asylums for blind children, who have never seen the light of day, nor the very things about them or those who are nearest and dearest to them.

When one recalls the fact that twenty-five per cent. of these children have lost their sight from "babies' sore eyes," better known in medical terms as ophthalmia neonatorum, an entirely preventable disease, we may rightfully reproach ourselves for not having made some attempt to avoid such disastrous injuries, more especially since they occurred among infants who are themselves the innocent victims of this serious affection.

The solution of the problem lies solely in the prevention of the disease largely responsible for blindness among infants. Ophthalmia neonatorum can be prevented and the blindness which may result avoided by treating the eyes of the infant immediately after birth with a suitable antiseptic medicine applied by your family physician.

### Feeding Convalescent Child.

Every one who has had the care of a convalescent child knows how hard it is to make him eat the things that the doctor has prescribed. Ingenious mothers and nurses have invented all sorts of schemes and devices to make the simple diet of the sick child acceptable and interesting.

The little invalid who refuses to take his milk and eggs will often drink an egg-nog from a tall glass through a straw. A little girl admires parties, and will eat almost anything if it is served from a doll's tea set, especially if some of her dolls are invited to share the feast.

The desert may be covered with a little tent, house, or wigwam, with a tiny doll standing guard at the door, and no pecking is allowed until everything else on the tray is eaten.

Faces may be sketched on the eggs and hats or caps tied on them. Toast cut in fancy shapes is most exciting. It can be trimmed with a knife and made into little houses with doors and windows, or it may be cut with cookie cutters. A doll's chaffing dish is a lot of fun. If the invalid is strong enough to sit up a small table may be set and he will never know what is being served if father is the waiter with a napkin over his arm.

With a little thought and care the child may be made to eat almost anything.

### BATTLE OF THE SOMME.

Battleground the Most Terrible in Europe's Armageddon.

The arrival of the big guns on the British front has done much to lift the enemy, says an American writer. For years Germany has relied on big guns. And now the British and the French have bigger ones! Something has dawned on the horizon quite outside the German calculation.

The one district which all Germans fear and detest is "the terrible Somme." It bears various names, and none of them complimentary. A German prisoner whom I met not very long ago referred to it with many shudders as "The Bath of Blood," while a wounded Bavarian in a hospital spoke of it as "War's Inferno." Our regiment was suddenly taken from Flanders and flung into the Somme district, said he. "Twelve days we stayed there and were completely smashed up. Ten days I endured that hell, and came to the end of my strength."

I have received a mud-spattered letter from a British artilleryman who has fought with the big guns on the Somme for many months. "Just now I am, in bivouac," he writes, "with the battery in a wilderness of mud and debris of battle, and with little opportunity for writing. It takes us all day getting about in the mess, and all night scraping boots and drying socks at improvised fires! While I write, the guns are thumping and banging at old Fritz, and I can see the flashes of the 'heavies' outside the tent door."

"There is a hum of aeroplanes in the air. One of the first things that struck me on getting into the actual battlefield was the way our aeroplanes lord it in the air. It was just clearing up to a fine evening after an awful day of rain. 'Where,' I asked, 'are the aeroplanes?' I had hardly spoken when I heard them coming up from behind in flocks, and soon they were circling over the battle like birds, while salvos of shrapnel mottled the blue around them, like dust on the background of a picture. I haven't seen a German machine for a long, long time."

"Mud isn't so very romantic when you've got to eat it, and sleep on it, and when you must bear it on your face for a few days until you get a proper chance for a wash. There's nothing so sticky, so dreary and so exhausting as the dragging mud of the Somme. It grips your knees at every step and sometimes we're up to the waist in it."

Women cabdrivers are stated to be successful in Glasgow, Scotland. One has about 40 women driving cabs.

## The Doings of the Duffs.

