

Soils and Crops

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 to?" 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 the joke was really on him. I know 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 those 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 of 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 time 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

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.

That which we acquire with most difficulty we retain the longest.

GOOD HEALTH QUESTION BOX

By Andrew F. Currier, M.D.

Dr. Currier will answer all signed questions of general interest. 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 have 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.

Is it 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.

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 be learned about poultry marketing problems. Most farmers know that they have not yet found out the best method. A little more instructing along that line from the experimental farms will be appreciated.

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

A corn crop kept thoroughly cultivated is, as a cleaning crop, almost equal to a summer-fallow.

Over 45 Municipalities

In the Eastern Townships and vicinity are now being served with light and power by the Southern Canada Power Company, Limited.

This territory is a good industrial district, and is growing rapidly, thus insuring increased demand for power and light.

We recommend the 6% Bonds of this Company, which we are offering with a bonus of common stock, thus giving investors an opportunity to participate in the future success of the Company.

Send for circular, and map showing territory served.

BONDS MAY BE PURCHASED FROM US ON MONTHLY PAYMENT PLAN

NESBITT, THOMSON & COMPANY
Investment Bankers Limited
Mercantile Trust Bldg. Hamilton
222 St. James Street Montreal

HOW IS YOUR BERRY PATCH?

I was surprised to find how few berries are grown by farmers for their own use. I had always imagined every farm would have the fruit garden as certainly as they had the vegetable garden, as I had grown blackberries, strawberries, and grapes and found them so little expense or trouble, and the fresh fruit so much superior to the crushed, half mouldy, and otherwise undesirable fruits purchased at the grocery. Of course, nice home-grown fruit from the store is all right, but that is what you can hardly find unless there is a regular fruit farm in the vicinity, for farmers that do not grow for their own use will not grow for others. Considering the value of these fruits and the pleasure we get from their use I can see no possible reason why they should not be more generally planted. Let's see what the farmers say.

A Patch that Didn't Bear

One farmer told me he had a patch of strawberries that never bore and he just plowed them up. He told of several patches in his neighborhood that had run out in a few years and, while they bloomed every year bore no fruit. Now I had had some experience with just such a patch years ago. There was a big patch of berries on the place when we moved there, but we were told it bore none at all. We plowed two furrows together, then left a strip six inches wide, plowed two more furrows together, and continued this until the patch was made into these six-inch rows. We pulverized the middles and set out rows of new plants, setting alternate rows of staminate plants and young plants from the old patch, buying the staminate.

We figured that the old patch had been allowed to go and the stronger growing infertile flowered variety had killed out the weaker growing staminate variety, if there had been such planted in the first place. Our supposition was seemingly correct, for we got a fair crop that year and a good crop the next, after which we removed all the traces of the old rows and kept the new rows from crossing the middles, thus preventing the staminate from crowding out the staminate.

If you have a patch that is not bearing, nine chances out of ten this is the trouble. If you do not want to clear up the whole patch and renew, just clear room for a row through the middle and plant it thickly with a fertile variety, setting the plants so early in the spring that they will bloom in season and fairly freely, and you will get berries the first year, for a few staminate plants will fertilize quite a patch of berries, especially if you have plenty of bees around.

A farmer complained that taking care of blackberries was too much trouble. He had planted a patch but the sod and weeds had taken it and he wouldn't keep it clean for the fruit. Now I saw that patch, and it was a case of planting and letting it go. Of course, nothing could be expected, and nothing was received. It does take some attention to keep a blackberry patch in condition, but it is worth it, and few fruits will give a better account of themselves. If the farmer is too busy or not interested enough to give good culture let them haul out a load of manure and mulch the patch fairly deep and this will keep down the weeds and give the fruit a chance; for blackberries are very hardy in plant, and not easily discouraged. If the mulching is done at once after planting there is less likelihood of the vines sprouting so much, for the roots will not be disturbed.

Grapes are easy to grow. Grapes can be grown anywhere, over arbors, along fences, over windows, or in vineyards on hillsides that are fit for nothing else, and these can be mulched to advantage, also. Have grapes anyway, for this is one of the finest fruits grown and the very easiest to have, and sure to produce almost every season. Care is necessary for best results but fruit will be borne without much attention. Pruning will give finer fruit, but I have seen large quantities of very good fruit grown on vines running along a fence without having been touched in any way for several years. If you want to have something for nothing, just stick a grape vine in an odd corner and eat the fruit thereof.

This is not advocating planting and then leaving to grow without care, but it is saying that if care cannot be given plant anyway and do the best you fruit anyway. Care for your fruit in can, for them and you will have some of the most approved style if you will, but if you won't plant it and care for it the best you feel you can, and then take what you get, and you will get more than you have earned, you may be sure of that.

Growing is Cheaper than Buying

I have seen farmers buying and carrying home crates of these fruits to put up for winter use and pay out more for a very limited supply than it would have taken to plant and care for a patch of their own. A friend of mine picked as much as three dollars worth of strawberries from five rows sixty feet long, and did this at every picking during the height of the season. That patch cost about a dollar and a half for plants, took about fifteen minutes after every rain the first season to run through it with the wheel hoe, and probably an hour or two during the summer to cut runners and pull weeds that escaped the hoe. After the first year it was mulched in the fall, the mulch stirred in in the spring after the fruiting season, when a good hoeing was given all the space between the rows. After the first heavy rain another mulch was given, manure from the barn being used for this mulch. Not much work, but a fine lot of fruit you must concede.—J. A. Kent.

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 there 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,

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I would dispose of her for beef because it is a nuisance to have to keep this thing up every year.

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.

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

SMOKE TACKETT'S ORINOCO
CUT FINE FOR CIGARETTES

The End Of The Job

"Miss Jameson wants to know how the cost of provisions in the past month compares with the cost in July, and what recommendations you would make for the fall," said Christine Garvine as she came into the office.

Helena Erskine looked gayly up from her neatly kept desk.

"My compliments to Miss Jameson, and I am leaving Saturday. I'll make out the comparative costs, if I have time; but as for recommendations, they fall to the lot of my unfortunate successor! All of which you will report to Miss Jameson in one of your own tactful translations!"

Christine laughed; no one could resist Helena when she was in one of her gay moods. Then her face grew wistful.

"Of course I'm glad for you, for the work is heavy here. But we're going to miss you so!"

"Heavy! It weighs a ton a day! I've felt like a new creature since I decided to leave. No one ought to drudge the way I did. I leave that piece of advice to my successor. It's been so blessed to let go! But you just 'better had' miss me!"

"You'll be missed, all right. I've stayed through three changes. I know what it means—the breaking in of new secretaries."

"That's not missing me," Helena protested laughingly.

"I refuse to flatter you; you're spoiled enough already," Christine retorted. She turned away slowly, and then came back.

"Don't you suppose you could leave a few suggestions? It would help the new secretary so much."

But Helena only laughed. "I haven't any. I'm emancipated, I tell you."

After Christine left, Helena sat for a few moments with her hands behind her head. It was so glorious to be free! A dozen persons had come to her that morning for various directions; she had refused them all. They were questions that dealt with the future, and she had no future to deal with there. Presently she ran over to Edith Seabury's office; Miss Seabury, too, was leaving for another field. She looked up and nodded.

"You may enjoy a silent season with me if you want to, but don't you dare speak! I'm up to my eyes in work."

"But why?" Helena asked, too amazed to obey the injunction.

It was Miss Seabury's turn to look amazed. "Why? You know as well as I do, Helena Erskine. As if you weren't doing the same thing! Because I'd be ashamed not to leave my work here in the best possible shape, and because I want to make things as easy as possible for the new secretary. It's always hard enough at first, in a new place. I can't work as fast as you can; that's why I'm still at it when you are all through."

A swift color flushed Helena's face. She started to speak—then, without a word, she turned back to her own office.

A Plea To The Housewife.

Take the keenest interest in the voluntary rationing scheme. The provincial committees of the Canada Food Board are busy drawing up rules and regulations for the different provinces. You are going to be their chief helpers in carrying out those regulations.

Make it a matter of provincial pride and competition. Aim to make your province outdo the other eight, and see which of you can do the most in this way for the cause of the Allies and our own Canadian men.

Refuse to deal with any grocers, fish-mongers, butchers, bakers or other tradesmen who have not yet secured a license from the Canada Food Board.

"How am I to know?" you ask. The easiest thing in the world.

Every dealer has to display his license number on all stationery, invoices, etc., so that you can readily ascertain whether he is licensed or not.

It is now against the law for the various trades to operate without a license from the Canada Food Board. The same applies to public eating houses, and women can help by refusing to patronize them unless they are duly licensed.

Encourage the fish business for all you are worth. You are doing pretty well about it but not well enough.

Fish is Canada's own food and it is the most satisfying of substitutes for those things which we must send overseas. It is cheap and plentiful, thanks to the efforts of the Canada Food Board.

Make it the "piece de resistance" at most of your summer meals. It is better for people than meat in hot weather. It is easier to cook. Encourage your dealer to handle plenty of fish by asking for it every day yourself.

Give halibut a rest and buy plenty of cod, haddock, flat fish and the other varieties which are every bit as good and cost half as much.

Of the ten open-air pulpits in England, the most famous is that at Magdalen College, Oxford. It was built in 1480.

The average age of bachelors who marry spinsters is twenty-six; of widowers who marry widows just under fifty.

If the birds are not too many, cut them off even with the ground, and pour a little kerosene on the stumps.

Cabbage Plants

Of all leading early and late varieties, the "Muller's Gem" is the best. It is a small plant, but it produces a large head. It is a very early variety, and it is very hardy. It is a very good variety, and it is very easy to grow. It is a very good variety, and it is very easy to grow. It is a very good variety, and it is very easy to grow.

Also Cauliflower, Brussels Sprouts and Onion Plants. All shipped successfully to all parts of Canada. Ask for price list.

Kerol's Farms, Fruitland, Ontario Dept. "X" Niagara District

WOOL

Farmers who ship their wool direct to us get better prices than farmers who sell to the general store. 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.

We pay the highest prices of any firm in the country and are the largest wool dealers in Canada. Payment is remitted the same day wool is received. Ship us your wool today—you will be more than pleased if you do, and are assured of a square deal from us.

H. V. ANDREWS
13 CHURCH ST., TORONTO

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:

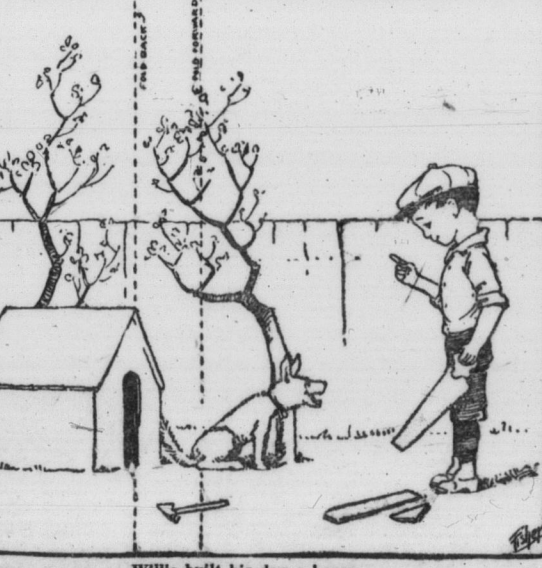
There will be no classes for female cattle.

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.