

CHOP STUFF

Thomas Minshall, son of Mr. Josh Minshall of Howard, met with a painful injury on Monday. He was assisting in decorating the school for the Christmas concert when the ladder upon which he was standing, fell, throwing him to the floor. He sustained a fracture of the left arm and minor injuries to his back.

The barns of George Wilson, a farmer living in the first range north of the Longwood road, about two miles from Newbury, were burned to the ground, with their contents, early Thursday. Mr. Wilson, for some time an invalid, was away with Mrs. Wilson at the time of the fire, for treatment in a London hospital.

Mr. Robert Kelly, an aged resident of Wabash, is at present an inmate of the Brantford hospital. He left a few days ago to visit his son, Fred Kelly, in Brantford, and is thought to have either fallen or jumped off the train before it stopped. His injuries are not very serious, being cut in a few places about the face.

The death took place on Christmas Day of one of the old residents of Bosanquet and Forest, in the person of Rebecca Macken, beloved wife of John Macken, in her 77th year. Death was resultant from injuries received from a fall the week previous. The funeral was held Thursday afternoon, interment in Beechwood cemetery.

Strathroy lost one of its best known citizens in the death of Alexander McKellar, Sr. He was in his 80th year, and is survived by his widow, Mrs. Isabelle Taylor McKellar, who was a daughter of the late Rev. Jas. Taylor, for many years Presbyterian minister at Lucknow, and two sisters, Mrs. Donald Callum of Sarnia and Mrs. McAlpin of Nassagaweya, Ont.

A sentence of not less than one year and not more than eighteen months in the Ontario reformatory was imposed on Maurice D. Pendergast, president of the former Pendergast Fence Co., by Judge Taylor in the county court, Sarnia. Before locating in Sarnia the Pendergast Fence Co., seriously considered locating in Petrolia.

Allen Maidens, 1st concession, Mersea, purchased last week a 22-acre farm from Fraser & Ross, including large greenhouses on the 1st concession. The price it is understood, was around \$40,000. Eljah Maidens has purchased A. E. Eastman's 15 acre and green house on the Fraser Side-road, Mersea, for \$15,000. Geo. Ross, 1st con., has purchased 16 acres adjoining Allen Maidens on the 1st con. from H. Wigle.

A sudden death occurred on Saturday morning, when William Minielly was found in his bed unconscious. His wife went to call him and hearing him breathing heavily hastened into his room, but it was too late for medical assistance. Mr. Minielly had gone to London the day previous to have his eyes treated. He had been suffering with an eye disease since an attack of flu some years ago. As the eye was discharging, it is thought the brain became infected. He lived on lot 20, concession 4, Plympton, from where the funeral was held.

A fire in the meat market of William Lee, at Essex, Saturday, which caused damage of about \$1,500, is suspected to be of an incendiary nature. The fire was discovered by Truman Dalton, who saw the smoke pouring out of a transom. The fire was located in the ice chest of the refrigerator, where firemen discovered a basket of waste paper, partially burned, and on top of this a packing box. According to Mr. Lee the basket of waste paper had been thrown out the previous day and the packing box was used as a step to the icebox from the rear of the building.

His many friends will regret to learn of the death at his home in Santa Maria, California, on Thursday Dec. 6th, of Arch. McNeil. Mr. McNeil had been a sufferer for some time with heart trouble. He was born in the township of Moss and was at one time in the milling business at Napier, removing to California a number of years ago, where he was engaged in the same business. He held many prominent positions in Santa Maria, and was president of the National Bank at the time of his death. He leaves besides his wife a family of three daughters and one son, all of Santa Maria, also two sisters, Mrs. Janet McIntyre of Alvington and Mrs. Mary Munroe of Kilmartin.

- NEW BOOKS AT THE PUBLIC LIBRARY**
- NON-FICTION**
- Ambling Through Acadia... Towne
 - Boswell's Johnson, Ed. by A. Marshall
 - Best British Short Stories 1922... O'Brien
 - Pens and Pirates... Deacon
 - Spinning Wheels and Homespun... Williams
 - Builders of the Canadian Commonwealth... Locke
 - Adventures in Journalism... Gibbs
 - Servants of the People... Wilson
 - Poetical Works of Wilfred Campbell
 - Selections from Sam Slick, Wallace
 - Appeal of Poetry... French
 - Outline of Literature (Vol. I)... Drinkwater
 - Collected Poems of Henry Newbolt
 - Story of the Bible (Juv.)... Van Loon
 - Book of the Grenvilles... Newbolt

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"I suffered with all the symptoms of female trouble, pains low down in the back and sides, constipation and constant headache. A doctor advised an operation. I started taking "Fruit-a-tives" and this fruit medicine completely relieved me of all my misery".

Mrs. M. J. GORSE,
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50c. a box, 6 for \$2.50, trial size 25c.
At dealers or from Fruit-a-tives Limited, Ottawa, Ont.

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New Lamp Burns 94 Percent. Air

BEATS ELECTRIC OR GAS

A new oil lamp that gives an amazing brilliant, soft, white light, even better than gas or electricity, has been tested by the U. S. Government and 35 leading universities and found to be superior to 10 ordinary oil lamps. It burns without order, smoke or noise—no pumping up, is simple, clean, safe. Burns 94% air and 6% common kerosene (coal oil).

The inventor, F. N. Johnson, 246 Craig St. W., Montreal, is offering to send a lamp on 10 days' FREE trial, or even to give one FREE to the first user in each locality who will help him introduce it. Write him to-day for full particulars. Also ask him to explain how you can get the agency, and without experience or money make \$250 to \$500 per month.

d-m1

Read the Want Ads on Page Four.

TREAT ALFALFA SEED

Nitro Culture Inoculation Will Give Good Results.

When to Apply the Culture—What It Means to a Crop—Sowing Alfalfa Alone in July—How to Kill Field Bindweed.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

To get the best returns from the alfalfa crop the alfalfa seed should be inoculated a few hours before sowing with the alfalfa nitro culture.

When inoculated seed is sown the bacteria which constitute the culture are in position to enter the young roots of the alfalfa as they develop. On entering the roots the bacteria multiply and produce the characteristic nodules (little swellings) on the roots. The action of the bacteria when growing in the roots is to enable the plant to utilize the atmospheric nitrogen as a source of food supply. No plants other than the legumes, (i.e., alfalfa, clovers, peas and beans) can do this, and those plants cannot do it without the light bacteria being present in the roots. Different species of bacteria are necessary for the different species of legumes.

What the Culture Means to a Crop.

Inoculation of alfalfa seed often means the difference between a good, vigorous, growthy crop and a poor, spindly light crop. Alfalfa nitro culture (price 50c.) may be obtained on application to the Bacteriological Department of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph.

Extract from a letter received from C. R. Worthington, Comox, British Columbia:

"The inoculated portion of my alfalfa crop has flourished exceedingly and is making most luxuriant growth, entirely crowding out the weeds, and showing a splendid color. The uninoculated portion has almost entirely died out, and the few plants left were small and very pale. In fact, I have now ploughed them up. I may say that about the time I sowed mine a good many neighbors did the same, but they did not inoculate. Their plots this spring, without exception, are a pitiful spectacle—weeds with a few sickly alfalfa plants left."

Sowing Alfalfa Alone on Summer Fallow in July.

In experiments conducted at the Agricultural College at Guelph, it has been found that excellent results have been obtained from sowing alfalfa alone on a summer fallow in the month of July. When sown at that time on a moist soil, germination is rapid, and the plants are enabled to make a good growth before winter. There is not apt to be a prolonged drought after July. By this method, weeds are unable to produce seed in the autumn and the alfalfa has an excellent opportunity to get well established.—D. H. Jones, O. A. College, Guelph.

How to Kill Bindweed.

Get on the field just as soon as the land is dry enough to permit of cultivation. Do not give the bindweed a chance to make any early spring growth. If the field is in sod, plow shallow. If the land was plowed last fall it will not be necessary to plow again this spring. Cultivate every week or ten days with a cultivator with broad points, that will cut all the plants off an inch or two below the ground without bringing the creeping root-stalks to the surface. Continue cultivation until the 24th of May or 1st of June. Then plant corn in hills 42 inches apart each way so that it can be cultivated both ways. As soon as the corn is up, cultivate it with a corn cultivator at least every two weeks, oftener if possible. Just as soon as the corn is cut plow out the stalks and cultivate every ten days or two weeks with the broad-shared cultivator. It is very important to cultivate again as soon after the corn is cut as possible, so that the bindweed will not have a chance to get started into growth.

The last thing in the fall rip up the land into drills, and allow to stand over winter. The frost will probably will render material assistance in the eradication. The following spring start cultivation with the broad-shared cultivator as soon as you can get on the land. Repeat frequently enough to prevent the bindweed making any growth above the ground, until the first or middle of June. Then sow pasture rape (Dwarf Essex variety) or turnips, in drills 26 to 30 inches apart, at the rate of about 1 1/2 pounds per acre. As soon as the crop is up, cultivate every week or ten days until it occupies all the ground and makes further cultivation impossible. If the bindweed should get started in the rows, hoe it out as completely as possible. This, however, should not be necessary if the previous cultivation has been frequent and thorough. This plan requires two years to complete, but it is worth doing.—J. E. Howitt, O. A. College, Guelph.

THINNING ORCHARD FRUITS.

Specific Advice As to How This Work May Be Best Done.

Apples, pears, plums and peaches can all be thinned to advantage when the crop is heavy. Some growers might question the advisability of thinning plums, and there are seasons, of course, when the price of this fruit is so low that obviously thinning would not pay. Such seasons, however, cannot be forecasted, and it would seem wise, therefore, to take the chance and thin the fruit if the set is very heavy.

In thinning apples, do the work when the young fruits are about the size of walnuts. Generally leave only one fruit to a spur and spaced about 4 to 6 inches apart. All fruits will be removed from some spurs. All of the fruits on the underside of the branch can usually be removed to advantage. Remove all injured fruits, leaving only perfect specimens. Pears should be thinned about the same as apples. The inclination of the average worker will be to leave twice as much fruit as is advisable. See that sufficient is removed.

Line-Breeding.

Line-breeding consists in following a single line down, breeding a sire or dam to the progeny and such closely related individuals as brother and sister and cousins. It is in-breeding along a certain line. The objections to it are that it intensifies any defects in the blood of the family

that is inbred. The value of it is that it intensifies any good traits also. If, by selection, the bad traits can be minimized, while the good are perpetuated and made more prominent, line, or inbreeding, is a valuable means of improvement. If proper selections are not made, however, the bad that always wants to crop out in breeding will get the upper hand and spoil the progeny of line-bred animals. Line-breeding is practised by skillful breeders, and is one of the chief means of securing improvement in a flock or herd.

GROWING ASPARAGUS

A Vegetable That Grows More In Favor Every Year.

The Best Varieties—Make Careful Selection—Sow Generously—Soil and Manuring—Thinning Orchard Fruits is Worth While.

(Contributed by Ontario Department of Agriculture, Toronto.)

More farm machinery is put on the junk pile by neglect than by use.

Many inquiries have been received with reference to the culture of asparagus. The following paragraphs answer briefly the questions usually asked. Further information will gladly be given on request.

Varieties.

—Reading Giant, Palmetto, Giant Argenteuil are commonly grown good varieties. Washington and Mary Washington have recently come into prominence, partly on account of vigor but more for their comparative resistance to rust. Comparing the two, Washington is the more rust resistant and Mary Washington the more vigorous. The percentage of both is very similar, and the varieties themselves represent many years of careful breeding and selection not only for vigor and rust resistance but also for other qualities necessary in a commercial asparagus.

Careful selection of plants is probably of greater importance even than variety. There is considerable variation in plants within any one variety as to vigor, productiveness, etc. An asparagus bed should last fifteen years at least so that even a small percentage of inferior plants would mean a considerable loss in returns. Fifty per cent. of the plants is not too many to discard at planting time. Use only the crowns or plants which have thick, vigorous roots and show a few large buds in a single cluster. Discard all that have thin, weak roots and many small buds. Such crowns are apt to make a large number of small shoots.

Be Generous in Seeding.

If possible grow your own plants from seed and grow plenty of plants so that you can discard freely as noted. One year old plants are preferable to two year old. 7,250 plants are required to set an acre planted 4 feet x 18 inches. Many growers prefer a wider distance of planting. Allowing for fair germination of seed and rigid selection of roots, from 1 to 1 1/2 pounds of seed should give the above number of plants. Sow thinly, in rows 30 inches to 36 inches apart, in rich well-prepared soil as early in the spring as the soil can be easily worked.

Soil and Manuring.

A rich well-drained deep sandy loam is best suited to asparagus. Heavy applications of manure supplemented with commercial fertilizers are required to secure maximum yields. In planting, the young plants are set in deep furrows so that the crowns are 8 inches below the surface. A little soil is covered over the plants at first. Subsequent cultivations will level the surface. No shoots should be taken off a young patch until the third season and care should be observed every season that plants are not exhausted by too late cutting.—O. J. Robb, Hort. Ex. Station, Vineland Station.

Specific Advice As to How This Work May Be Best Done.

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