

USE OF FERTILIZERS

I have received very interesting pamphlets from a fertilizer firm in Canada, dealing with the use of fertilizers in the prairie provinces. Old country farmers will appreciate something of what artificial fertilizers can do for soil that is anyway worn out or depleted. The great difficulty in the way of making greater use of artificial fertilizers in parts of Alberta where they would undoubtedly do a great deal of good, is, so far as my observation goes, on account of the heavy cost and difficulty of securing the fertilizer, and the fact that the individual farmer as a general rule has little idea of the effect the fertilizer will have, and does not care to invest so much money in what is to him an experiment pure and simple. The literature of this fertility company has suggested to me that possibly some of our unions might be willing to do a little experimenting with artificial fertilizers this coming spring. With the splendid crops just harvested in most parts of the province, farmers should be better able to afford to undertake a practical demonstration in their own interests than they have been hitherto and if a union will undertake this work as a unit and divide a carload of fertilizer up between its members, the individual cost is not great, and if from any chance the experiment fails, no great harm has been done. Those of us, however, who have used artificial fertilizers to any extent know that with a reasonable application of common sense and obedience to instructions the result can be nothing but success, and that the only real chance of suffering loss is from weather conditions which we cannot control in any case.

If any of our unions feel inclined to experiment they could get in touch with this fertilizer firm at once. The C.P.R. have granted a special tariff, carload rates, to Calgary of \$8.40 per ton, the minimum carload being fifteen tons. Superphosphate of lime, which is a standard all round fertilizer and probably calculated to do as much good as any, particularly in our light soils in the south eastern part of the province, is quoted at \$22.75 per ton. Applying this at the rate of about 250 pounds to the acre, each member of a union containing sixty members could have an experimental plot of two acres on which to try the value of this fertilizer out next year at a total cost of about \$7.50. If, as has been proved from experiments in the Dakotas and elsewhere, the yield of wheat or oats could be doubled and the date of maturity set forward by a week or ten days, you will probably agree with me that the experiment has been well worth while. From my practical experience with artificial fertilizers in England I am quite convinced that the sooner certain of our districts in S.E. Alberta particularly, commence to experiment with and ascertain the effect of such fertilizers as are available on their land, the better it will be for the individual farmer in that district. It seems to me that now is as good a time as any and personally I would like to see one or two of our unions take this matter up and give it a fair trial in this coming season.

RE LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES

A short time ago I circularized our local unions and warned them against investing money in companies with which they were not fully acquainted, and in regard to which they had not secured an independent opinion. This applies to any company, but I had in mind at the time of writing more particularly life insurance companies. One company that had been reported to me as doing considerable business in certain localities was the Alberta Life and Accident Insurance Company. I am informed by the Board of Public Utility Commissioners that if the company files certain other information with them they may be permitted to readjust certain shares amongst the present subscribers, also to issue a certain amount of new stock to shareholders who have been with the company since the end of 1914, but that this permission would be strictly limited to those who were already shareholders in the company and does not give the company any right to sell shares to any parties outside the company. On October 11 I am informed that this information had not been filed with the board and that as a consequence even that limited permission had not been granted. Pending further information it looks as if it would

be well to keep away from this company as an investment.

The other company which I had in mind was the Western Life Assurance, with headquarters at Winnipeg, and I was informed recently that they had not been authorized by the Board of Public Utility Commissioners to sell stock in this province. Until that permission has been granted it would be wise also to make some inquiries in regard to this company before investing your spare cash. It might perhaps be well at this point to draw to your attention the fact which does not seem to be generally known, namely, that any company selling stock in this province must first receive permission from the Board of Public Utility Commissioners. If anyone should happen to call on you pushing stock in a new company, or one that is not well known to you, the Central office would be glad of a report and will endeavor to ascertain for you whether the company has been authorized to sell stock in this province and what its prospects of success are.

WORKING FOR BAZAAR

Mrs. M. D. Menzies, secretary of Rising Sun U.F.W.A. reports as follows: "I may



Echoes of the Fryett murder. The seven orphaned children of Captain Ch. Fryett of the Brussels, who was tried by German Court Martial and sentenced to be shot for attempting with his vessel to run down a German submarine.

say in sending this report that we have felt in the past that we had nothing to report as our business has been small compared to other unions, and as our members were scattered widely and could not attend in winter time we had to reorganize on the 1st of April, the meeting being held at the Golden Valley schoolhouse. Six ladies were present. Mrs. I. Plummer was elected president; Mrs. F. Brown, vice-president; and Mrs. M. D. Menzies, secretary-treasurer. The directors: Mrs. MacKenzie, Mrs. Evans and Mrs. Barclay. The second meeting was held at Mrs. MacKenzie's at 2 p.m. on April 29, one new member being enrolled, making seven present. In all we have had eight meetings this summer and our main object has been bazaar work, each member doing some sewing. The proceeds of this work will be given for any charitable purposes which the union may choose to put it to, but mainly Red Cross work. This bazaar is to be held on December 2 at 8 p.m. in the Golden Valley schoolhouse. Besides our sewing we are selling children's toys for Christmas at the bazaar. We are also having a small program and supper for which a small charge will be set for admission. I may say we have twelve members at present.

Alberta

This section of The Guide is conducted officially for the United Farmers of Alberta by P. P. Woodbridge, Secretary, Calgary, Alberta, to whom all communications for this page should be sent.

SEVEN PERSONS ACTIVE

Mrs. A. M. Scully, secretary of Seven Persons U.F.W.A., reports: Owing to sickness I am late in making my report for the third quarter; however, I hope I am not entirely too late. We took in one new member during the quarter, making a total now of fifteen members. Our new member is Mrs. D. C. Sweet of Seven Persons. We held a pie social on July 19 and turned over \$6.25 toward building the new church at Seven Persons on July 28. We served ice cream and dance supper, but being a bad night we only received \$1.45 above expenses. We made a fruit order on August 12 for \$17.75 and again on August 28 for \$13.35, making a total of \$31.10 for fruit. Our average attendance for the quarter was six. This was very poor, but we are doing better this quarter and hope to have a better report at the end of same.

COMMON SENSE ADVICE

I reproduce herewith an article taken from the Lethbridge Weekly Herald. The article is by G. R. Marnoch, president of the Lethbridge Board of Trade, and conveys a message which I think is well worth attention:

The question was asked by a visitor

if there is anybody else he owes anything to. And he will remember his hard working wife who helped him to have courage when things looked blue; his children, who went on short rations for many a day; maybe he is only a lone bachelor and has nobody left to whom he owes anything but himself.

Inside the House

The inside of the house has been bare and comfortless; a coat of whitewash or paint, or a new wall paper, a shelf with a few rows of books, one or two more chairs, a kitchen cabinet for the wife; maybe a new stove—the washing machine the housewife has dreamed of for so long; a cream separator—there are quite a few little things to be thought of. Then there is that idea of connecting the sink in the kitchen by means of a bit of pipe and a tank and a pump with the water supply outside—it will save many a backache. And that spouting around the eaves that is to catch the fine, soft, clean rainwater.

Maybe a new house altogether? Why not? Some farmers have already bought themselves a little pleasure and a great deal of trouble to follow in the shape of an expensive automobile. How will it feel to lie in bed in winter feeling a bit chilly for want of that hot-air furnace you promised yourself, and thinking of the beautifully upholstered six cylinder car in the shed outside? Well, you had been cooped up so long on the farm you wanted to get around and see things. Sure! But why in a \$2000 car? Two thousand dollars, or even a bit less would build quite a fine house; and the house would be there to live in long after the car was in the scrap heap.

Outside the house; what about that? A coat of paint and how much more like a home it is. Some trees and shrubs—and you know quite well that if you get these from Alberta nurserymen they will be plants that you can rely on if you set them out properly at first. Don't let the stranger tempt you to buy plants and trees from British Columbia or Ontario or Minnesota; it was the fatal experiments with these that made your neighbors come to the wrong conclusion that trees and fruit shrubs would not grow at all here.

What about digging a well or building another water reservoir, or improving the old ones so that the water in them is sure to be kept free of drainage from the outside? A machine shed and a small workshop to keep the tools so that you know just where to lay your hand on them?

The Farm Itself

The farm itself: What do you owe to the farm? It has been a good friend to you these last two years, and you know now that you are going to stay by it, dry or wet year, and get a crop off the summerfallow in the driest year that can come. But you know you owe it something. How is the fertility to be kept up after some years cropping if you don't start in now to put something back into the soil by gradually building up a little herd of cattle or sheep? Their upkeep will cost you nothing, and what they bring will be all to the good if you start in with just a small bunch to begin with. And the manure is the very best means of building up the soil on the farm.

What does the farmer owe his country? The manufacturer down east and in the States is not the only one who has made war profits. These high prices for your grain are very largely war profits. So you will not forget to add to what you and the boys have already given to the Patriotic Fund, and your wife and the girls will want to do just a little more yet for the Red Cross.

The Stranger—Nothing

What do you owe to the stranger who comes from some other part of the country wanting to sell you useless notions—or maybe worse still, a bit of blue sky? He will not call it that, but by some other name, but you will recognize it all right. If you are doubtful ask your banker what he thinks of it, before you hand over any of your hard-earned money. What do you owe this stranger? Nothing! Give it to him.

Think a little bit after you have made provision for all the necessary things that you have longed for to make life easier and more comfortable and happier. Then, if there is any money left over, put it in the bank on deposit, or get a little bit of the War Loan at 5 per cent. interest; or lay out a little on life insurance. Then, when you think of what you owe yourself when you lie down at night, you can roll over on the other side and go to sleep with an easy mind.

After that the farmer will just wonder