

Farm Crop Queries

Conducted by Professor Henry G. Bell.

The object of this department is to place at the service of our farmland 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—S. H. (1) How can I best get humus into a sandy soil? I have a field of about 5 acres which is unproductive. Last year it was not even good for grazing. I ploughed it last fall and have been thinking of sowing it in the spring, and turning it under the following spring. What would you suggest that I sow and get a fair crop the same year, yet improve the soil?

Answer—You would do well in the spring, as soon as the ground will work, to harrow it down to a smooth seedbed, first having given it a dressing of from two to five tons of manure to the acre; then seed it to an early variety of oats, such as O. A. C. No. 72, or Daubeneys, using about 1½ bus. of seed to the acre. Seed this with about 10 lbs. of Common Red Clover and 4 lbs. of Alsike to the acre. The oats will harvest early, and the clover should get a pretty good growth by fall. As soon as it has made a satisfactory start in spring, instead of cutting it, plow it under, and you will have enriched your soil by a good addition of organic matter.

Question—(2) What is the best fertilizer to use for potatoes on sandy soil, and what quantity should be applied per acre?

Answer—Potatoes on a sandy soil

should receive a fairly high-grade fertilizer. You will do well to use one carrying from 4 to 5% ammonia, 8 to 10% available phosphoric acid, and as much potash (up to 3%) as you can get this year. If you cannot buy a fertilizer with a high amount of potash, you will do well to apply wood ashes, up to ½ ton to the acre, working it into the soil before you apply the fertilizer. If you do apply wood ashes, be sure to treat your seed potatoes with formalin in order to kill the spores of the scab which is likely to thrive where wood ashes have been applied. In applying the fertilizer, if you are putting on 500 lbs. or more to the acre, apply one-half through the fertilizer attachment of the grain drill, if you have a grain drill with fertilizer attachment, or spread it broadcast over the potato field before the last harrowing if you do not have a drill distributor. Thoroughly harrow this fertilizer into the soil and apply the rest of the fertilizer through the fertilizer dropping attachment of the potato planter. It is not advisable to apply more than 300 lbs. to the acre through the fertilizer attachment of the potato planter; hence any excess of this amount should be worked in broadcast when preparing the potato seedbed.

Horse Sense

If a horse has a loud, dry, hoarse cough, becoming moist later on, loud and frequent respirations, dullness,ropy saliva from mouth, bowels constive and urine high colored, and stands continuously, he is showing symptoms of bronchitis.

See that he has comfortable, well-ventilated quarters, excluded from draught. Apply mustard to breast and sides. Steam nostrils, holding head over boiling water with a little carbolic acid. Give cold water with 3 or 4 drams nitrate of potassium in it. When inflammation subsides, give dram doses each of gentian, ginger, and sulphate of iron 3 times daily.

If hay is kept in front of idle horses all the time they will keep on eating it, to their own detriment, and at the waste of a lot of good feed.

It is more economical to give a small feed of grain at noon than to stuff them with hay. Give just as much hay morning and night as will be eaten up clean in a reasonable time.

Study your horses. Some require more roughage than others to keep them in condition. Some horses will never stuff themselves with hay, no matter how much is given them; others will eat everything in sight. The intelligence of the feeder must control the situation.

Bring the head-stalls into the kitchen at night if the stable is frosty, or cover the bits with smooth leather. Never put a frosty bit in a horse's mouth.

The idle work horses and the colts should spend a few hours every pleasant day in a sheltered yard. Never leave them out until they are chilled; that doesn't pay.

Be very careful with the breeding mares. Don't let them slip, and don't make them back heavy loads. A good teamster will manage to make his team back as little as possible. Backing is unnatural and very straining.

Poultry

Never feed chicks till the third day after hatching, let them have all the dry sand and water they will take. Their first real feed should be rolled oats and hard-boiled eggs chopped fine. Two tablespoonfuls are sufficient for 100 chicks.

Are pens mated up? Don't delay any longer.

Fowls, like men, tire of sameness in diet. They must have a variety in the bill of fare to do well.

Select the breed intelligently, and then care for it judiciously. The man who sticks to his breed, getting out of it all that is possible; is the man who succeeds.

Neglect does a lot of mischief in the poultry yard. The fowls need regular attention. There are many details that must be heeded, or disaster may result.

It doesn't seem possible, in this era when the pure-bred fowl has proved its worth to be double that of the mongrel, that any intelligent farmer should tolerate the latter. But, alas,



MURAD CIGARETTES

Everywhere Why?

The blending is exceptional



there are still some Peter Tumble-downs in our rural districts!

If a hen is not comfortable, if she is not provided for according to her demands, she just simply refuses to produce eggs. She can not be fooled; she can control her egg output at will.

The Dairy

Silage furnishes a juicy food for winter, and thus helps to keep the digestive organs of cattle in good order.

On the same acreage, two cows can be kept on silage at the cost of keeping one cow on hay or other roughage.

Plan to look over the pasture fences as soon as the winter is over. No time to stop to fix them after the stock is turned out and you are busy with the plowing.

Fear, cold, any kind of discomfort, are expensive in a dairy herd. Comfort always means profit. It is up to you if your cows do not turn you a profit.

Give the heifers that are to calve in the spring very special care. They should have exercise, but not where they can be knocked around by the older cows.

They should be handled every day, and made very gentle and tractable. This handling will be found to have been time well spent when they come into milk.

More Military Precision

A colonel in the French army, who had a great eye for neatness but not much of an ear for music, took occasion one day to compliment his bandmaster on the appearance of his men.

"Their uniforms are neat," said the colonel, "and their instruments are nicely polished and kept in order, but there is one improvement that I must insist upon."

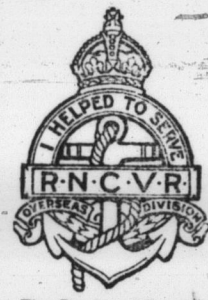
"What is it, colonel?"

"You must train your men, when they perform, to lift their fingers all at exactly the same time and at regular intervals on their instruments, so—one, two, one, two!"

spinal fluids to aid in diagnosing mental diseases.

RECRUITS FOR NAVAL SERVICE

The Women of Canada Are Asked to Support Campaign for Royal Navy Volunteers.



The Pendant Offered by Lady Gwendolen Guinness

Captain the Hon. Rupert Guinness, A.D.C., C.B., C.M.G., R.N.V.R., Senior Officer of the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve, and his wife, Lady Gwendolen Guinness, sailed a few weeks ago for England after having spoken in almost every town of any size in Canada from Sydney and Halifax on the Atlantic, to Vancouver and Victoria on the Pacific.

Their aim was to organize Committees to secure recruits for the Overseas Division of the Royal Naval Canadian Volunteer Reserve, and the work which they launched and which was unreservedly helped along by the Hon. Mr. Hazen for the Canadian Government, has already had splendid results, and hundreds of good recruits have joined the Navy under the auspices of the R.N.C.V.R.

Before leaving, The Lady Gwendolen made arrangements to have a specially designed souvenir pendant distributed through the various recruiting centres to the Mothers, or Wives—or Sweethearts whose influence had helped to secure recruits.

This pendant is a very pretty one of silver—gilt—and bears the motto "I helped to serve."

The badge is now, we are informed, being distributed by the Committees and will doubtless be worn by many women as a badge of honor, as well as a souvenir of their loved ones. The illustration gives some idea of its general appearance.

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.

S. W.—1. Efficiency is indeed a word to conjure with, and nowhere is it more needed than in the Canadian household at the present time. A food expert gives the following five ways in which he estimates twenty per cent. of the money expended for food is wasted. 1. Needlessly expensive material. 2. A great deal thrown away. 3. Bad preparation. 4. Failure to select rightly according to season. 5. Badly constructed ovens. Protein foods are eggs, meats, fish, beans, peas, cheese. Starchy foods are the grains—wheat, rice, rye, oats, corn, etc., and potatoes. Fats are nuts, cream, butter, lard, fat meats. Minerals are contained in carrots, lettuce, spinach, beets, parsnips. A well balanced meal consists of one protein, two starch, two mineral, and one sweet. You will see therefore that beans and peas should not be served with meat. 2. The proper height of working surface for a woman of five feet three inches is 29½ inches. For every inch in a woman's height there should be a variation of half an inch in the height of table, ironing board, sink, etc. 3. Time savers are: Food choppers, bread mixers, cake mixers, washing machines, dish dryers, silver clean pans. There is also a lot of list of electric devices: irons, washing machines, vacuum cleaners, toasters, grills, percolators, fans, ventilators.

C. H. D.—1. A cleaning liquid for the nails can be made as follows: One dram tartaric acid, one dram tincture of myrrh, two drams cologne water, three ounces water. Dissolve the acid in the water, mix the tincture of myrrh and cologne and add these to the acid solution. Dip an orange-wood stick in this, apply to the nails,

and polish with a chamois skin. 2. A eating soup the spoon should be dipped away from oneself and the soup be taken from the side of the bowl, not the tip.

H. B.—1. To disguise castor oil pour a small quantity of lemon juice in a tumbler, then add the castor oil, and on top of this more lemon juice. The acid taste completely disguises the oil. 2. If tapes of about 4 inches in length are sewed to the tops of stockings and each child is taught to tie his or her stockings together before putting them in the wash basket, the time and trouble taken in mending the stockings when they come from the wash may be avoided. This is done at many boarding schools and is found to be satisfactory.

A. F.—1. To set the color in gingham put the garment before washing into strong salt water. Let it stand for ten or fifteen minutes and then dry thoroughly and as quickly as possible before washing. Adding one teaspoonful Epsom salts to each gallon of water in the washing is another good way to set color. Of course, under present dye conditions, some dyes will run in spite of all you can do. 2. Rice should be stirred very slowly into rapidly boiling water and the water kept at a brisk boil if the rice is to be flaky and not mushy. It should be stirred lightly with a fork, as a spoon will crush the grains. 3. A cloth should be wrapped tightly around a frozen water pipe before pouring hot water over it to thaw it out. 4. One pair of stockings will make a capital iron-holder if split and folded neatly into a square, quilted and bound round the edges. Slip a piece of asbestos cloth between the folds to keep the heat from the hand.

SheepNotes

Sheep will stand a lot of cold weather, but draughts are as dangerous to them as to other animals. Do not crowd the flock. Exercise is very essential to the ewes and the coming lambs.

Feed regularly, and be quiet and kind to the flock. Sheep appreciate a kind, well-modulated voice.

Provide for plenty of clean fresh water in the sheep barn. Give it fresh every day.

Are you just sheep, or the very best you can find?

When a sheep does not chew its cud or eat, you have a sick sheep on your hands. Good treatment is to take the sheep out of the flock, put it in a sunny yard or pen and give it a chance to drink what pure water it will. Don't urge it to eat, and be patient.

Men Carry Fans

In China and Japan men and women of all classes, callings and professions, carry fans.

Hogs

Don't expect to succeed with hogs if you give them any old thing to eat. Pigs must be fed clean wholesome food if you wish to eat fine hams and bacon of delicious flavor.

The ill-smelling pig-pen is a relic of the past in up-to-date farming communities.

Cleanliness is the watchword for success with pigs.

To expel worms from hogs the following prescription is right for a pig weighing about 100 pounds: Santal, five grains; calomel, two grains; areca nut, two grains; sodium bicarbonate, one dram. Keep the hogs off feed for about twelve hours and give the dose in a slop of middlings. The evening of the same day give a mass of wheat bran. This will flush the bowels. Gather all worms and burn them.

Worms often are the forerunner of disease.

If hog or pig has a big appetite and thriffliness condition, with dry dead hair, it is a good indication of the presence of worms.

Health

Causes of Indigestion.

The teeth are the first factor in the process of digestion. They represent the millstones that cut and grind the food. As they do so, alkaline secretions are given out by glands in the mouth and mix with the food to make the first change it undergoes in the process of being absorbed by the system.

Good teeth are essential to normal digestion. Teeth which are diseased or artificial teeth held in place by settings which retain foodstuffs are injurious to health because they provide places in which disease-producing germs grow and multiply.

If you have diseased teeth or false teeth not easy to keep clean have them attended to. The germs they foster are producing poisonous substances that interfere with the normal functions of vital organs, such as the heart and kidneys.

If you put your teeth in order, provided the organs have not become chronically affected by long submission to improper conditions in the mouth, the discontinuance of the poisons will permit nature to reassert herself and the organs whose functions have been affected will resume their normal course in sustaining the scheme of life.

Care of the teeth should begin with the advent of the child's first ones. They should be kept clean by means that will insure no wounding of the gums. They are usually destroyed by acid, therefore no mouth washes containing acids should be used. Consult your dentist before using mouth washes or preparations in the form of powders, cream, etc.

If you are interested in your digestion you will avoid incongruous mixtures of foodstuffs made up solely to tickle the taste. Potatoes salad in the Canadian style is a good example. The potato is composed chiefly of starch. That is digested in the second stomach where the secretions are alkaline. If you soak the potato in vinegar you have something whose nature is strictly opposite to the alkaline, which it fights. Therefore, you are materially delaying the digestive process.

Poor cooking often makes proper food either difficult or impossible to digest. The hard earned money of the household goes to the purchase of good food which is often ruined by the housewife ignorant in the art of cooking. Good cooking is not a matter of whim or flattery to the palate. It is an absolute essential to health. Therefore the art should be taught in all our public schools.

If you eat too fast when the body is over-tired, heated or chilled, you will often suffer distressing indigestion. Eating in impure or stale air will interfere with digestion. If you are compelled to take a meal under such circumstances the quantity of the food should be reduced to a minimum.

Outside of some of these things which have been mentioned, all of which can be controlled to a greater or less extent, it will be found that certain foods do not in themselves agree with certain persons. If you are eating sensible food in a sensible manner and you find that some particular thing does not agree with you, the only thing to do it to cut it off your list.

YAWNING FOR HEALTH.

Great Exercise for Vocal and Respiratory Organs.

"From my early days I was sickly," said a famous singer recently. "My lungs were weak. Yet everybody said I had a good singing voice. But whenever I tried singing, my throat got sore. So what could I do?"

To-day her breathing organs and vocal chords are a seven-day wonder. Her health troubles have gone, and her voice is not only strong, but of a certain clear and bird-like quality difficult to describe. In a word, she is one of the best examples of defects overcome and exuberant life and health that one could find.

For I knew a lot of people would like to learn the secret of her transformation.

"Yawning—systematic yawning—scientific yawning—I learned it from a Japanese teacher. Yawning, combined with swallowing and deep breathing, worked up into an interesting exercise!"

"You see it's a little more than one mere yawn," she explained. "It consists of yawning several times in succession, fresh air, every yawn being followed by a swallowing of all the saliva one can gather in the mouth. This should be repeated many times during the day and evening, and as a sort of side show the patient ought to practice breathing."

"My respiratory organs began to feel new life pulsating through their length and depth and width. Remember, that was five years ago."

"Yawning was the foundation of my present health," she went on. "The yawning, followed by the swallowing, if practised faithfully, causes the tonsils and uvula to retract and harden. You can see, therefore, the advantage for a singer or speaker, or for anyone for that matter, for it clears the passages and gives the voice a greater volume and the entire person improved health."

A surgical instrument has been invented to measure the turbidity of

The Doings of the Duffs.

