

## 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.

Question—C. B.:—What is your opinion regarding summer-fallowing? On what does success depend?

Answer:—Summer-fallowing is an efficient practice of getting rid of troublesome weeds, if the soil is tilled sufficiently often so as to cut off the young weeds as they sprout. It also stores up moisture to a considerable extent and if the soil is fairly full of organic matter, it conserves plantfood for succeeding crops. Success of summer-fallowing depends upon working the surface of the ground sufficiently often to prevent the escape of moisture and to prevent the growth of weeds which exhaust the moisture and plantfood of the soil. The ground should be plowed early in spring, disked and harrowed immediately after plowing, and harrowed and disked sufficiently often to keep the surface clean and open.

Question—L. J.:—Can one pasture new seedling for a while this summer and then turn the cattle out and cut a crop of clover seed? The wheat on this field was thin last year and while the clover came up evenly and made a splendid growth it was weedy in places and for that reason I do not want to cut it for hay.

Answer:—It is possible to pasture new seedling if there is sufficient clover growth, granted that the soil is not a heavy clay type. If the soil is heavy clay, pasturing with heavy stock will tend to tramp the soil together, so that the clover setting will be smothered out. I am afraid you will find the weed seeds among the clover seed a greater detriment than the weeds in the hay. They certainly reduce the value of the seed. Cutting the crop for hay will do a lot towards killing out the weeds.

## GIVE THE BOY HIS OWN ROOM

The Possession of a Comfortable Room Where He Can Keep His Treasures Will Do Much to Safeguard Your Boy in the Haven of His Home.

Why is it that the boy of the house is usually sentenced (I use that last word deliberately and I believe appropriately) to the least desirable, most uninviting room in the house, not infrequently two of them being packed in together for no reason than to save trouble caring for two rooms instead of one? Not only is the boy's room rather doubtfully located and of shoe-box dimensions, but it has a sorry habit of being meagerly furnished or else crowded, being used as a sort of dumping ground for the cast-off furniture from the rest of the house. Anything seems good enough for Bill because, mother reasons, he hardly knows one piece of furniture from another; has no conception of good or bad taste, nor is he appreciative of beauty. Isn't he? Perhaps he couldn't express it in so many words, but—oh, well, let's begin at the beginning.

The thing of first importance is that a chap should have a room of his own if possible. The kind of room and the location are secondary matters.

Some one has happily described one's own room as "a home within a home." It is more—*a haven*. The house may be seething, our loved ones may for the time misunderstand (and who so often misunderstands the average boy?) but with closed door in our very own room we can breathe tranquilly.

"I've shut my door and I am all alone, Here in my room all fragrant with my better self."

Outside, the strife and struggle and the strain; In here there's peace and quietude and strength."

and come out with new poise for the living of life among others. And that is what a separate room means to a boy, too, though he would scorn to express it so poetically.

With his own room the boy will have an opportunity to express his individuality. He should be allowed to hang up posters, pictures of sports heroes, pennants and banners, and the many other tremendous trifles in which boyhood revels. Nearly every lad has a collection of colored stones, coins, butterflies, or something. This collection he should be allowed to keep in his own room, where, safe from unsympathetic fingers, he may proudly keep it upon display upon a shelf or table or in a little cabinet. It is his room, remember, and he should be allowed to keep his treasures in it, provided they are sanitary and that he keeps them in reasonable order.

Pride in a room is the best incentive to orderliness. A boy cannot be expected to take pride in a shabby or shabby room, where the furniture is totally unsuited or is of various woods

and finishes and, therefore, unrelated. Did you ever know a boy who did not love to paint? If it is not possible to have matching furniture for his room, suggest to him that he first remove the quarrelsome finishes from the variegated articles with some commercial paint remover and then paint it all the same color. Pride? That boy will take a tremendous pride in his room. Just think of showing "the fellows" a room full of pretty furniture painted by himself!

To make order as easy as possible, the room should never be crowded. The essential pieces of furniture are a bed, single or in couch form if the room is small, a bureau, or chiffonier, two easy chairs for himself and a possible guest, a desk, and a bookcase, if the youngster can be trusted not to get up and read in the middle of the night—as some have been known to do.

Rather than an ugly old carpet or a shoddy rug, place one or two small rugs upon the painted floor. If the room happens to be large he should be allowed to keep other things in it besides those mentioned, but always with the stipulation that he keep a reasonable amount of order. A room screen is fine for a fairly large room, as it can be made to partition off a corner for a study or den.

It does seem that most mothers cannot help being annoyed by their sons' tastes in "art." The treasured posters are eyesores, the worshipped field heroes are an abomination, the pennants are dust-catchers. But please, oh, please, don't throw those things away or bundle them away out of sight! They do mean so much to a boy, at least for a while. He will throw them away himself when they are outgrown. It is wise to give him really good pictures that he will like, such as Howard Pyle's colorful pirates, Remington's superb Indians and cowboys, or the inspiring picture of Sir Galahad. These are all well executed subjects after his own heart, and soon, by comparison he will see the tawdriness of his chosen prints.

—R. S.

### Watering Hanging Basket.

Here is one way of watering a hanging basket. Take a small can and punch a hole in the bottom just large enough for water to drip through. Fill and place in hanging basket, and refill it every morning. In this way there is no chance of the fern baskets drying out, as the water has a chance of slowly soaking into the earth instead of all running off as when it is poured into baskets.

Friendship is the best college character can graduate from.



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## Poultry

When birds drop over as if paralyzed, the trouble is heat prostration, caused by pressure on the brain.

To prevent this, provide protection from the sun and avoid overcooling; keep bird cool and apply cold water to the head.

At this time of the year broody hens are in the majority and cause no little trouble to the attendant. While it is advisable for those who do not run incubators and brooders to set every broody during the entire summer, at the same time there will be many broods that can not be utilized. How to rid them of the hatching fever has been the cause of many experiments by farmers and poultrymen.

It is to be regretted that some of

these methods are extremely cruel and should not be allowed. In one instance noted recently a hen was tied by the leg with a piece of rope to a post; in the other instance the hen was being immersed in a pail of water. In both these cases the hen became excited, and the theory is that in this excited state they forget their broodiness. While that may be so to a certain extent, it is equally true that excitement often makes nervous, scary hens; and in the case of fat hens it is not uncommon to have them die from fright, or meet with some severe injury. A more humane treatment is to place them in separate coops without nests, or in a flock where they are kept out-door the entire day and permitted to roost in a house only at night.

Kindness should be an order that is never violated.

Keep the summer chicks growing. Provide shade. Give the youngsters all the range possible. Exercise is the best tonic growing stock can have.

This is considered a good month for caponizing.

There is still a good market for young ducklings and soft roasting fowls.

If breeding is finished, the males are best removed from the pens until after the molting season.

July is the month in which rats, minks, possums and weasels do their most deadly work. Be on the lookout. When their presence is discovered dig after them; give them no quarter.

### Choose Your Associates.

The bond of friendship is a beautiful tie; it is to be highly treasured. True and lasting friendships are the outgrowth of mutual attraction, gradually developing through intimacy, and ripening into a firm bond with respect and keen appreciation of merit as the basis. And as time goes on such friendships become cemented and are unbreakable. Choose your associates; leaving it to chance is not a safe course to pursue.

### Cuts Labor in Half

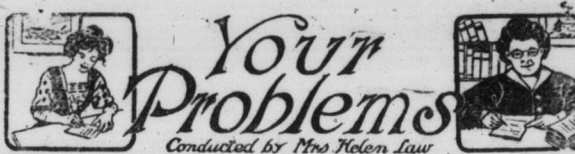
Do you first disinfect, and then go over all surfaces again with white wash in order to keep your stables, dairies and poultry houses bright, cheerful and free from lice, mites, fly eggs and the germs of roup, white diarrhea, cholera, glanders, etc?

Such a method is a waste of time, money and labor. Use Carbola instead—it does the two things at the same time. It is a disinfectant that dries out white—not dark and colorless—and gives much better results.

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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, 235 Woodbine Ave., Toronto.

May—1. It is not good form to wear face veils in the evening. The right foot. Another way to race is to go as partners, each holding onto the opposite ends of a clothespin. Of course, the flags captured by each are retained. Ringing the Victory Bell is another good game. Form an arch of three cross poles, rising considerably above the heads of the company. Imbed the uprights in the earth and nail the crosspiece firmly on. Then decorate the arch with red, white and blue bunting and from the top bar hang a large bell. The game consists in hitting this bell with balls which are provided, each player being given three or more throws in a round. The tape race is fun. Have as many lengths of tape as there will be players and have all the tapes about the same number of feet—ten or twelve—then provide several pairs of sharp scissors. Attach all the tapes to a fence. Four or six players may contest at once, according to the pairs of scissors available. The contestants hold the loose ends of the tapes, which they draw out taut. At the signal each player begins to split his tape up the center line with the scissors, the player arriving at the end which is tied winning the race. After each set has tried, match the winners for the final decision. This would be suitable for the older guests. Another race consists in pushing four pebbles over a prescribed course with walking sticks. All four must be rolled at once, each in turn.

X. Y. Z.:—The engagement ring is put on over the wedding ring and thus guards it. The former is removed before the ceremony, leaving the finger free. Then the bride slips back the engagement ring at her first opportunity.

W. B.:—To restore the color of black kid, mix ink with the white of an egg and apply with a soft sponge. To clean white kid, dip a clean white flannel cloth in a little ammonia and rub lightly on a cake of white soap. Rub the soiled parts gently, changing the cloth as soon as it becomes soiled. To polish tan shoes, wash the shoes clean with a sponge and warm water. Wipe with a dry cloth and let dry. Then rub freely with the inside of a banana peel. Wipe carefully with a dry cloth and polish with cotton flannel. Patent leather shoes should not be "polished" in the strict sense of the word. Apply a mixture of one part linseed oil to two parts cream to the shoes, rubbing it well in with a soft flannel cloth. This will keep the leather soft and it will not crack as readily.

Joe:—Even though you have not yet met the bride, the present should be sent to her. Wedding presents are never sent to the bridegroom.

Francis:—The following are suggestions for your Sunday school picnic. You can have the usual races, some of them for the younger folks, others for the older persons. Fighting for the flag is a particularly timely game for the younger boys and girls. You will need about a dozen medium-sized cotton flags of the inexpensive kind. One flag at a time is placed upright in the ground and six girls or boys start in a race to obtain it. Give them some handicap. The boys can race with potato sacks, while the girls can race blindfolded or running backward; or the boys might race crawling on their hands

## Horse Sense

Baking-soda relieves the distress of colic by getting rid of the gas.

Poor teeth prevent a horse making full use of good feed. It may be necessary to file the teeth down in old horses, so the grain can be properly ground.

A mixture of equal parts of the tincture of iodine, turpentine and sulphuric ether, applied once a day for several days, is said to be death to splints which are forming.

As long as a horse can chew well, meal is a poor feed for him. It is eaten too fast and sticks in the horse's throat. Give the animal a chance to use his grinders. That is what they are for.

Maybe you think you can save time by feeding the horse enough in the morning to last all day. That is a good way to make a job for a horse doctor.

If the yearlings are slow to shed and seem to have little appetite, try doctoring them with worming. Mix three drams of powdered iron sulphate and three drams of gentian root. Use this dose twice a week if necessary.

Save every seed possible for next year. All vegetable seeds are likely to be high in price and the shortage may make it impossible to obtain seeds.

## The Dairy

Kindness is a cheap supplement to the ration and produces big gains in milk flow.

Keep the calf pails as clean as the milk pails.

The cow giving the richest milk does not necessarily bring the biggest cream check. It is the total amount of fat produced that counts.

Heavy milkers due to calve during July should be milked once or twice a day for a couple of weeks before calving, if the udder is distended. This attention may prevent the loss of a valuable cow from milk-fever, or injury to the udder, which makes a cow almost worthless for milking.

When the butter granules do not form after churning a reasonable time, try putting a small amount of table salt in the churn. A little warm water has the same effect of hastening the granules. Too much warm water makes soft butter.

Memory is rather an uncertain thing to depend on to identify the calves that are taken away from their mothers and raised by hand. When the question of ownership or parentage is raised, it is much more convincing to have each calf marked with a metal tag fastened to a strap around the calf's neck. Records are half the value of a good herd.

## Health

### Tea Tipping.

The person to whom tea is doing the most damage is the person most dependent upon it. A cup of tea contains no nutriment other than that in the sugar and milk.

Tea, like coffee, contains a stimulating drug, caffeine. Some people seem to carry off a good deal of this drug without harm. There is, however, a wide variation in susceptibility to it. To most people it has a decidedly stimulating effect. Stimulation means that you are borrowing from the future and that the later years of your life—the time when you will most need your physical resources—will have to pay your early loans. Tea is not, therefore, a desirable beverage for children.

In making tea boiling water should be poured over the leaves, and the brew should be light. The tea itself should not be boiled.

One of the evils of tea drinking is that it deadens the sense of fatigue. This is often described as "refreshment." It is a misleading term. Tea does not correct the fatigue; it merely masks it. When you are drunk with tea, so to speak, you do not realize how tired you are, and you are likely to go beyond your healthy limit. Fatigue is nature's signal that poisons have accumulated and that you should take rest in order to get rid of them. Tea only adds another poison.

The swilling of tea is a harmful habit for people who are already carrying an excess of fat. The sugar in the tea is fattening, and the intake of liquid with meals has a tendency to increase the girth.

When used for washing down the food, tea has a restraining effect upon the digestion. It may, therefore, be harmful in deranging the appetite and upsetting the stomach.

Tea is particularly vicious for people with weak nervous systems, and even in normal persons may induce nervousness and insomnia.

Strong tea contains enough tannin actually to tan leather.

### Rules for Living.

- I. Air
1. Ventilate every room you occupy.
2. Wear light, loose a. porous clothes.
3. Seek out-of-door occupations and recreations.
4. Sleep out, if you can.
5. Breathe deeply.
- II. Food
6. Avoid overeating and overweight.
7. Eat sparingly of meats and eggs.
8. Eat some hard, some bulky, some raw foods.
9. Eat slowly.
- III. Poisons
10. Evacuate thoroughly, regularly and frequently.
11. Stand, sit and walk erect.
12. Do not allow poisons and infections to enter the body.
13. Keep the teeth, gums and tongue clean.
- IV. Activity
14. Work, play, rest and sleep in moderation.
15. Keep serene.

### HUMORS OF "RED TAPE."

Some Amusing Instances Which Come From England.

One of the most amusing instances of the fussiness of red-tapeism is told by a certain officer who was sent on a special mission to Liverpool, says an English writer. He returned his expenses to the authorities on the official form, one of the items being "Porter, 6d." The form came back with the official instructions: "Major—should have returned the item as 'porterage.'" Major—made the alteration, and then, glancing through the remaining items, found "Cab, 2s. 6d.," which he thoughtfully transformed to "Cabbage."

An officer who is a very busy man once, in a rush, sent for two pennyworth of pins and a file for papers, which cost him half-a-crown. Later, he got an imposing communication, set out on foolscap paper, pointing out that pins being provided at the public expense, a form—XL41578-32—should have been sent in for them, and that Form YNP87690 should have been sent in to meet the case of files for papers.

A certain South of England workhouse had been turned into a military hospital. The matron wanted some chimneys swept, and the local sweep offered to do them for fifteen shillings. On writing to the War Office for permission, the Army sweep was sent from an adjacent town. He climbed boldly into the lower part of a wide chimney, and stuck there. The local sweep offered to extricate the Army sweep for fifteen shillings. An urgent wire was despatched to the War Office for permission to spend this further sum, and the reply came back: "You are authorized to remove sweep at all costs."

### Badly Taught.

"Ethel," said her mother, "have you been at my preserves again?" Ethel at once became very busy arranging her doll's hair. "Mother," she replied, "when you were a little girl didn't grandma teach you, same's you have me, not to be 'quisitive'?"

## The Doings of the Duffs.

