

the fire from spreading, and all such circumstances, would be proper matter to submit to a jury in order to enable them to come to a proper conclusion.

There is no particular portion of the year recognised by the law in which fires may be set out. Municipalities have power to pass a by-law restraining the putting out of fires during certain periods of the year, but a violation of the by-law would not be conclusive evidence of negligence, nor would the putting out of the fire within the period permitted by the by-law relieve the person setting it out from taking proper precautions.

We would recommend you to consult a solicitor in your neighborhood, laying all the facts before him, and obtain his opinion as to your possibility of success if an action is brought.

Fall Cultivation of Corn and Root Land

(Continued from page 5)

At our recent annual Farmers' Institute meeting, one of the speakers was heralded as a man who had cleared his farm from the unbroken forest with his own hands. "All honor to such men." In the course of his remarks, however, he announced that the production of his farm was decreasing, making the statement that a few years ago, he could grow more grain per acre where his fields were largely taken up with pine stumps, than he could now on the same fields cleared. He attributed this decrease to the lack of forests. When, however, he explained a little later that he was not much of a stockman, his chief revenue being derived from the sale of timothy hay and oats to the lumberman, it was evident that it would take more than reforesting to renew a farm where such a system was practised.

What brought about the difference in his returns per acre? In the early years of his farm, the soil from the decaying leaves and forest vegetation was rich in humus (one of the most necessary elements in plant production). As his system did not provide for the addition of humus, through the agency of clover, farm yard manure, etc., the presence of this attribute to successful growth gradually disappeared and with it his big yields of cereals, etc., especially in the dry seasons that we have recently experienced.

SOILS LACK HUMUS

If such is the case, and the claim is made that nearly all worn out soil lacks humus more than anything else, any method that would interfere with the addition of humus to the surface soil should be considered defective in this respect at least.

Now, is not Mr. Fixter, in his zeal to get his corn stubble away down in the earth where no one will see it (turnip tops likewise) and where it will not upset all his farm machinery from the cultivator to the farm cow, by turning down his surface soil after corn and roots and bringing up the close compact and less fertile soil, using a method which is far from being a success in the accumulation of humus in the surface soil? Right here, as Mr. Christie, a Dundas Co. correspondent claims, he plows his root ground in order to bring up manure, etc., that has been turned down in his like to ask where, in an ordinary depth of furrow plowed for corn and with the popular practice of deep cultivation early, and shallow cultivation later during the summer cultivation of roots and corn, will the greater part of the rotted clover seed and manure be? At the bottom of the furrow you turned in the spring or near the surface? It is not to me with any ordinary root cultivator working all summer, the most of it would be brought up and incorporated with the surface soil. Then what a serious mis-

take to turn it back down away from the shallow feeding cereals and near the top subsoil where it can leach away and the greater part of its fertility be lost to all future crops.

LUMPY SOIL

The fact of Mr. Fixter mentioning the root ground being torn up into lumps with the cultivator, etc., suggests that very lack of humus in the soil. The virgin soil of the older provinces and the prairie soil of the great West are not hard and lumpy when disturbed with the cultivator. I have not found even my clay loam soil to act in the way that Mr. Fixter describes, which is an additional recommendation for the surface application of manure and a short rotation of crops.

With reference to the weed side of the question, Mr. Fixter asserts "that the lower soils on the average corn field contain fewer weed seeds than the surface soil and that if the surface soil is kept perfectly clean, the man need not worry about the lower soil." I heartily agree with Mr. Fixter in this, providing you leave the surface and lower soils in these positions. But, if Mr. Fixter's field before his root crop has been badly infested with herick, wild oats, etc., would it not be a very serious mistake to turn down the fertile soil that has been thoroughly cleaned during the process of root cultivation and bring up the lower soil infested with the seeds to sprout and grow and seed in your grain crop?

ERADICATING WILD OATS

In this connection, a few years ago, that celebrated farmer and institute speaker, Mr. Henry Glendenning, Manilla, Ont., was advocating the growth of corn as a cleaning crop for weed-infested fields, paying special attention to "wild-oats." A farmer in the audience jumped up and exclaimed "I have been trying that method and have had no success apparently, as the wild-oats seem to come up just as thick as ever in my succeeding grain crop." Mr. Glendenning merely asked him "What did you do with your corn ground after crop was removed?" The farmer replied "I plowed it of course." Mr. Glendenning replied "I think there is the secret of your non-success, merely cultivate your root ground enough for a seed bed for your grain and thus turn up no fresh seeds to sprout in your grain crop and you will have better success in eradicating wild-oats." That farmer has lived long enough to verify Mr. Glendenning's statement and has practically rid his farm of the pest.

A QUESTION FOR MR. CHRISTIE

As Mr. Christie of Dundas Co., nas said, I presume similar to that of MacDonald College Farm, I would like to know if he gave the shallow cultivation method a fair trial during the time he was practising his present rotation (four years), or was it previous to this; if he ever used a sub-soiler or sub-soil plow to loosen up his heavy clay sub-soil while practising the above method and wherein deep plowing of root ground has any advantages over ribbing it up as a means of killing remaining roots of twich grass and sow thistle by the action of frost?

I am glad to see this question so generally discussed and hope to see it thoroughly threshed out, as I am very much interested in good farm methods generally and soil cultivation in particular. Good results it is evident can be obtained by both methods. Fair, I hope, I at least, know enough about this question to desire to know more.

Keeping Good Farm Help

When farmers keep their cows milking for ten months, difficulties of the farm labor problem are

likely to begin to disappear. While at Napanee recently, Mr. Henry Glendenning, of Manilla, pointed out that six or seven months dairymen have not hired men employed all the year around. The result is that when they get a good man they have to let him

go when the work is done.

On the other hand, when farmers dairy all the year around they are able to keep their best men from year to year. In this way they avoid the necessity of having to scurry around each year to employ new men.

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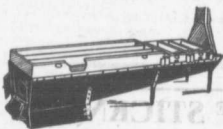
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