

# Soils and Crops

Address communications to Agri-culturist, 73 Adelaide St. West, Toronto

## Fills Its Silos With Sunflowers.

Sunflowers are to-day one of the most important silage crops in Western Canada, and one in which Ontario farmers are rapidly becoming interested. The rise of this once despised weed to a position of recognized value in the economies of a nation has been one of the most interesting agricultural developments of recent years.

Only a little while ago, one perhaps might have seen in Western Canada a few tall sunflowers nodding their big blossoms in some neglected fence corner where they had escaped the reaper or mower. Now on hundreds of prairie farms every summer broad fields of sunflowers make the landscape gorgeous with their masses of yellow blossoms.

Sunflowers have greatly increased the number of silos. Since they have become a cultivated crop, the prairies are becoming dotted with silos. Every prosperous farmer has a silo or is planning to build one.

Time was when Western Canada was divided between wheat and cattle. The cattle pastured on the open range, the wheat was almost an exclusive crop. These were the days of the cattle king and the wheat baron. They were bonanza days when big farmers scored a fortune or a failure in a year.

To-day is the day of the small farmer and diversified farming in Western Canada. The settlers are raising not only wheat but other field crops and all kinds of live stock. Their prosperity is based on a diversity of farm products.

This era of diversified farming has helped the sunflower to its new place in agriculture. Silage is necessary as a winter feed for live stock and sunflowers have solved the silage problem for many farmers. There is a race between corn fodder and sunflowers for supremacy as a silage crop and sunflowers are gradually gaining to the front.

A conclusive test as to the relative merits of sunflowers, corn, oats and pea silage was recently made on a Canadian government experiment farm," said DeWitt Foster, superintendent of the industrial and resources department of the Canadian National Railways. "A herd of Holsteins was fed on the three silages two weeks at a time, each cow being given thirty pounds daily. On sunflower silage, each cow produced 27.24 pounds of milk daily of 3.6 per cent. butter-fat content and gained two pounds in weight per day; on peas and oats, 25.88 pounds of milk of 3.5 per cent. butter-fat and gained one pound per day; on corn, 26.4 pounds of milk of 3.4 per cent. butter-fat and gained 1.85 per day."

Two great advantages sunflowers have over corn as a silage crop. They cost much less to grow and their yield is very much heavier. On good land thirty tons of sunflowers may be grown to the acre. Corn is a hardy crop but sunflowers are harder. They will thrive on dry land where corn would be a failure. They flourish under soil and climate conditions that would kill other crops. Twenty tons to the acre on poor land is not unusual. As for the cost of turning sunflowers into silage, one farmer who has been feeding his cattle sunflower silage for several years estimates that it costs him \$1.50 a ton to pack the sunflowers into the silo. Last year he fed his cows thirty pounds of sunflower silage a day and they averaged from forty to fifty pounds of milk a day.

The palatability of sunflower silage was a question at first which led some farmers to doubt its value. This is no longer a problem. It is sometimes a matter of a little difficulty to wean cows from corn silage when they have grown used to it and accustom them to sunflower silage. Corn perhaps has a daintier flavor to the bovine palate

than sunflowers. But the question is solved quickly by feeding the cattle a mixture of corn and sunflower silage and gradually changing to an exclusive sunflower diet. When they have once acquired the taste for sunflower silage, it is said cattle seem to prefer it to corn silage. At least they eat it with equal appetite and with equal physical benefits.

By making silage cheap and abundant, sunflowers have aided the farmers of Western Canada in a very material way. Silos practically double the stock supporting capacity of land, and sunflower silage enables a farmer almost to double his dairy or beef herd without adding to the acreage of his farm.

## Kill Your Quack Grass in the Spring.

Some six years ago I noticed a few patches of quack grass had worked their way into one of my fields from the highway. If I had the same condition to contend with now I would dig them early in the spring when the ground is soft, and burn the roots. It would have taken less than a day, and would have saved me considerable bother and expense. A person can dig a lot of quack grass in a day if it is just in patches. I had had no previous experience, however, so I tried killing it with a hoe and then tried pulling it. Then I seeded the piece to clover and let it go.

My first success was three years ago, when I set a somewhat infected piece to raspberries, and raised a crop of cucumbers between the rows. The cultivation was very thorough and both the berry plants and cucumbers made a vigorous growth. I do not remember thinking about the quack grass at all as we cultivated (my man did part of the work), but along in the summer it occurred to me that I had not seen any in that piece for a long time, and I began to wonder just what I had done to destroy it. I do not know yet, but I had a theory that I felt sure of, so I plowed up my clover piece the next spring with a determination that in the fall there would not be a spear left.

I planted the field to silage corn, hilling it so I could cultivate it both ways and hand-hoe it. Our corn grew very high with lots of leaves for shade and we cultivated and hoed continually. But when the corn was in the silo and we could look over the field, I could not see that we had hurt the quack grass much. I sowed rye immediately to be plowed under in the spring for another crop of silage corn. My enthusiasm about getting rid of the pest was getting pretty well down, but I put in half a day digging out-lying patches, and made up my mind to do the best I could with the cultivator and let the hoeing go.

We cultivated before the corn was up, and three times more as rapidly as seemed advisable, and then rose bugs, leaf hoppers, grape berry moth, etc., took up our time. But this year when the corn was in the silo I could not see very much quack grass in the field. What there is left I can dig up in a few hours in the spring with a potato fork.

I have noticed while digging quack grass at this time, that many of the root stalks were dead, leaving only tender sprouts that seemed easy to destroy. It has also surprised me that wherever I dug these patches in the spring, that they were entirely destroyed, though it did not seem possible that I had gotten every root. It seems, therefore, that this must be the plant's most vulnerable time. The vitality of the root-stalk is at its lowest, after going through the winter, and it then makes a rapid growth, storing up food and moisture against the farmer's cultivator and hoe and the summer drought until it is nearly invincible; and we must destroy the plant if at all, before this new growth takes place.

hard to clean. The board floor is the driest and warmest but should have a concrete foundation to keep out rats. In making a concrete floor it pays to build it up on coarse field stone or cinders to prevent dampness. Then place strips of roofing paper in the cement and it makes a moisture-proof floor. On the cement floor it is possible to do thorough cleaning.

The use of a straw loft in a poultry house helps to prevent damp conditions. Such houses are cooler in the summer and warmer in winter. Hollow tile is considered a better material for poultry house walls than cement, but not as dry as lumber.

## A Dangerous Practice,

Please permit me to call the attention of your readers to the dangerous practice of throwing boards down with nails sticking from them, and leaving them lying around, a constant danger to anyone with worn, thin shoes, or barefoot children in summer. This is a very common habit and causes many deaths from tetanus or lockjaw unless attended to promptly and skillfully.—A. L. P.

Milk is baby's building material.

The springing season will soon be at hand. Have your equipment and material ready.

## A Garden for Every Home.

There are two ways in which the residents of cities, towns, and villages can make the surroundings of their dwelling attractive and thus benefit not only themselves but also the entire community. The first is by cleanliness and tidiness in their surroundings, including the back yards, and the second is by paying some attention to the planting of shrubs and flowers. At the recent convention of the Experimental Union held at the Ontario Agricultural College, the president of the Union, Mr. J. B. Spencer, laid particular stress upon the part that horticulture could be made to play in the improvement of the farm and urban dwellings, and indeed in the beautification of the whole countryside. He said that not only were the Horticultural divisions of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, and of the Macdonald College, Quebec, ready to render every assistance in pursuance of this object, but that the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa through the Dominion Horticulturist, Mr. W. T. Macoun, was prepared to give instruction and advice. The lessons acquired at the Experimental Farms during the past forty years were at the disposal of all enquirers by means of reports, circulars and bulletins, which could be had by application to the Publications Branch of the Department of Agriculture at Ottawa. In these were given much information as to the characteristics, planting and cultivation of both ornamental and useful plants. There was also a lantern slide lending service, with accompanying information for lectures, on the planting and care of farm home grounds, available to responsible people for use in addressing meetings. The speaker urged that no opportunity should be lost by horticultural societies in helping, aiding, and assisting the beautification of urban and rural points in this way. Communities in Ontario were advised to take advantage of the new Community Hall Act, an Ontario Act which made provision for encouragement to horticulture. Ottawa, St. Thomas and St. Catharines were typified as cities that had given special attention to beautification through the laying out of land with plants, shrubs and flowers.

Planning your work so that it can be done with the least possible effort is not laziness but good planning. Oil your tractor and keep it oiled. Keep the grease cups screwed down at all times. Don't let the magneto wires get oil or water-soaked.

## Tractor Tips.

If you would be safe rather than sorry, don't overload. To run a straight furrow you must look a long way ahead. Read, study and commit to memory the book of instructions. Carelessness and abuse are at the bottom of most tractor troubles. Don't play with your tractor. Be serious. Make power farming a business. Planning your work so that it can be done with the least possible effort is not laziness but good planning. Oil your tractor and keep it oiled. Keep the grease cups screwed down at all times. Don't let the magneto wires get oil or water-soaked.

## Housing the Tractor.

The tractor represents an investment which should be carefully conserved. Protection from the elements is absolutely necessary if efficiency is to be maintained. Too many farmers leave their tractor exposed during the winter months. Proper protection will aid materially in prolonging the life and usefulness of the machine.

Naturally the tractor will be used primarily for best work during the winter time, and if possible provision should be made for housing it in a dry and well lighted building adjoining the work shop or conveniently near it so that it may be readily accessible and in good condition whenever it is desired to use it. In laying out the tractor the following precautions will insure its being kept in good condition:

1. After running it into a well protected storage room and before stopping the motor, slowly pour about a pint of good clean oil into the bowl of the carburetor and continue running until the oil has all been sucked

4. At your first opportunity go over the tractor carefully and put it in good shape for the spring work.

## When the Son Marries

BY HILDA RICHMOND.

Every real mother likes to send her daughter forth on her wedding day with as nice an outfit as the family purse will afford, but many good mothers are really ignorant of the fact that their sons should have certain articles, as well as should the prospective bride. Many families innocently suppose that if they give the young man a sum of money to help buy his farming equipment and furniture, nothing else is necessary. Indeed many of them, and well-to-do people at that, provide nothing for their sons to take to their new homes. This comes about through lack of knowledge rather than stinginess many times.

One bride was amazed when she looked over her young husband's clothes to find that he owned nothing but garments thriftily patched and repatched by his frugal mother. Of course, he had a new suit to be married in, with new overcoat and new things from the skin out, but his entire wardrobe, which was small, was in poor condition. Now that mother would have given up her life for that boy if it had been necessary, but she did not hesitate to humiliate him by sending him forth with such an outfit, when she could well afford to make or buy new for the young man who had faithfully worked on his father's farm since returning from high school.

The mother of the young man about to be married should see that he has enough undergarments, night shirts, socks, shirts and personal articles, such as handkerchiefs, ties and little things, to last several years. Young men starting in life find many places for their hard-earned dollars, and the boy who does not have to pay out money immediately for working clothes and underwear is very grateful to the mother who foresaw the difficulties and light places of the first years of married life.

Every young man should have his own bedroom trundle to take from his old home with him. Perhaps the bride

into the motor. Then shut down the motor. The object of this is to coat the friction surfaces with a film of oil to prevent rust.

2. Open all drain cocks on the cooling system. Do not forget to drain the water tank and water line in a kerosene-burning machine. Also drain the air washer.

3. Clean off all dirt and grease from the outside of the machine. Wipe first with kerosene and then with gasoline.

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You will do more good work with your tractor with an oil can than you can with a monkey wrench.

"I know a place up country, In God's great order-of-doors, A quiet sheltered corner On which the springtime pours The wine of warmth and magic, And well I know the sun Has kissed the grove of maples, And the sap begins to run."

In raising calves for stock purposes the economical way is to use skim-milk after the calf is eight or ten days old. To this milk should be added a portion of flaxseed meal cooked into a porridge. This meal is excellent for the purpose since its fat content is large and its starch content low, while the rate of digestibility is high.

Now it would have been much easier to have said, "Oh, Robert, run along to school; you do use such poor judgment." But some day Robert is going to work for an employer. And that employer will not always be on hand to tell him what to do when the right kind of material is not available. That employer will hire him for that very purpose, namely, to do his thinking for him and take some of the responsibility of his department. We can't always get the kind of soap we ask for in this world, and we must make quick decisions and wise ones in choosing the next best thing.

But I was rewarded the very next

# Smoke

# OLD CHUM

## The Tobacco of Quality

### 1/2 LB. TINS-and in p'kgs.

## Parents as Educators

### Developing Good Judgment in Children

BY EDITH LOCKRIDGE REID.

Much of the inefficiency throughout the business world to-day is directly due to the lack of proper early training in the home. No business system or course of salesmanship and technique can ever quite overcome the habits and mind development acquired through childhood and the most impressionable years of his existence.

One Monday morning I discovered that I was out of laundry soap because Jennie, our laundress, had not reported the fact before she left the previous week. There was just time for Robert to go to the store before school. "Get five bars of M. B. Laundry Soap," I told him as he started off. Meanwhile Jennie sat around waiting, all because she hadn't told me about the empty soap box the week before. However, while this fact is not exactly the point I am making in this article, yet nevertheless it proves that Jennie had not been taught to use her judgment when she was small.

But to go back to Robert. In the course of time he appeared in the kitchen with empty hands. I had told him to get M. B. Laundry Soap but the store had none, and although the grocer wanted him to bring the next best he decided not to spend his money for something I hadn't told him to get. Now Robert is nine years old, and he knew that few minutes on a busy Monday morning to explain how to use Good Judgment!

Mothers and teachers can recall instances after instance similar to the two mentioned when a child had to make an independent decision. If he had been wisely trained he made a wise decision. If not, he probably came home without the soap. It pays to have patience and spend a little time teaching logic even to the tots. Eventually the time saved by such instruction will be multiplied a hundred fold, and even though we get no immediate results, we owe it to the future of the boy and girl to expend this energy in stressing the vital importance of using good judgment. If they do not learn to weigh and measure and decide things for themselves at the impressionable age, they will not have this faculty developed when they are grown. Habits are not mushrooms that grow over night. They are oak trees that must be planted many years before they are actually needed for shade. But the acorn must drop where the soil is fertile.

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## Sheep Notes

When Ewes Refuse To Own Lambs.

A ewe frequently refuses to own her lamb. She should be confined to a small pen. If she shows a disposition to fight her lamb and refuses to allow it to suckle, a stanchion should be constructed in one corner and the ewe closely confined until she makes up her mind to mother her offspring. This sometimes takes a week but invariably she will submit and give little further trouble. When a ewe drops

week. The soap ordeal made its impression on Robert.

One evening "Daddy" telephoned out that he was bringing home a guest for supper. My first thought was, "No bread." So I sent Robert to the store for two loaves of bread. But it was late in the day, and the store had nothing left but Graham bread. Robert walked out and started home, then he reflected—actually reflected—as I had suggested to him. There was no bread in the house. A guest was due. Some in the nature of bread loaf was necessary. So he returned to the store and said he would take the Graham bread. "Two loaves?" asked the grocer. Again Robert used his brains. Our family does not care for Graham bread. So we would not want any left over for the next day, and he came home with one loaf. I was so pleased I could have hugged him for joy if I hadn't been in such a dreadful hurry to get a hasty meal prepared.

But the next day I had a nice talk with Robert, and I found that he had reasoned about the bread question just as I have indicated above, and he said, "Mother, I would have come home without ANY bread and the store would have been closed before you could send me back, IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR THE SOAP."

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twin lambs and one weaker than the other, the shepherd should be on hand to assist the weaker one until able to care for itself. Sometimes a ewe dies in lambing and leaves a strong, healthy offspring. If there is another ewe in the flock that has lost her lamb she may be induced to act as a foster-mother. It is profitable to rear motherless lambs on cow's milk.

Better overhaul the incubator.

Says Sam: Tell me what your family does after supper and I'll tell you where your boys and girls are.

## TRY THEM IN YOUR GARDEN

**DE LUE'S GOLDEN GIANT SWEET CORN**, one to two weeks earlier. Ear half as long again and 12 to 14 rows where Golden Bantam is 8 rows. Better quality, more productive. Pkt. 25c. 1/2 lb. 40c. 1/4 lb. 65c. 1 lb. \$1.00 postpaid.

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**JOHN A. BRUCE & CO.**  
HAMILTON, LIMITED CANADA  
ESTABLISHED 1850

"SEEDS THAT GROW"

## THE CHILDREN'S HOUR

**What Happened to the Birthday Cake.**  
"It will need four eggs and a cup of sugar and some milk and some flour," mother said as she went to the pantry to get the yellow mixing-bowl and the sifter to make Barbara's birthday cake.

"It needs sugar, too, for the frosting, and please make very thick frosting, mother dear," Barbara begged. She was standing beside the kitchen table, watching, for she was going to be six years old in just a few days. It was to be her birthday cake, rich and sweet, and shining on the supper table with six pink lighted candles.

"I am afraid that the cake and the frosting together will use up all our sugar," mother said, as she came back. "I wonder," she went on, with just a little bit of worry in her voice, "if we could manage with two eggs instead of four. Eggs cost so much now."

"Well, we have to make a birthday cake, don't we, mother, because I always eat it and share it?" Barbara said. Mother looked down in Barbara's kind little face and she thought a moment, too. That was the wondrous part about mother and Barbara, they so often thought the same things. Then they said something to each other, laughed, and hugged each other, and mother put away the big yellow mixing-bowl and flour sifter.

The next day was Barbara's birthday, and two people who didn't have birthdays had surprises.

Timothy, whose mother did the washing, had been very ill for a long time. He was getting better, and could sit in the big rocking chair, all wrapped up in a quilt, and try to smile out through the window when Barbara passed. Barbara stopped at Timothy's door on the morning of her birthday. She had a basket on her arm. She took from it a bottle of creamy milk and a bag that held four white eggs.

"Here is a part of my birthday cake for you, Timothy," Barbara said. "It will make you get well faster."

Granny Blake was just putting her kettle on her stove when she heard a knock at the door of her little house. When she opened it she saw Barbara, who loved Granny so much. No one could make such nice rag dolls as Granny, and she was always cheerful and smiling, even when she had hardly enough coals to make her kettle boil.

Barbara still carried her basket, and she took a package of sugar and a freshly baked loaf of wheat bread out of it.

"Here is a part of my birthday cake for you, dear granny," Barbara said. "This is sugar for your tea, and mother made the flour into a loaf of bread for you to eat with it."

Then Barbara went home almost as happy as if she had eaten a large piece of frosted birthday cake. But when the day was almost over and it grew dark, Barbara began to wish that that she could send the six pink candles shining for her birthday. She went slowly in to supper, thinking of them. And, oh, what a surprise she found there!

In a rosy circle in the middle of the table shone six pink lighted candles set in six pink rosebud holders. In the centre of this birthday circle of lights was a bowl that held six beautiful pink roses from the garden, and beside Barbara's plate was a parcel wrapped in pink tissue paper. When Barbara blew out the candles and opened the parcel she found a pink hair ribbon for a birthday present.

"What a beautiful birthday this has been, mother," Barbara said, "without a birthday cake!"

## Your Agricultural Attitude.

Trouble is the cheapest commodity on the market at the present time. Everybody has an over-supply of it. But money is scarcer than the proverbial hen's teeth.

However, two years ago money was easy getting and a fellow was lucky at it if he tried to borrow trouble. Such attitudes of mind are the result of mob psychology which, in other words, means, we do it because everybody else does it. Such thoughts often seem justified, but they are not.

The man who dares to look through the present and to think or do different than the crowd, is scoffed at the time, but frequently becomes famous in the future because of the satisfactory outcome of his attitude.

Big business men have made fortunes by buying when everybody is selling and selling when everybody is buying. So can we profit if we become optimistic when everybody else is pessimistic and pessimistic when others are all optimistic.

Your present agricultural attitude is of vast importance to you and others. If you sit and bemoan the state of affairs you certainly are not doing much to better conditions. Even though your potatoes failed, your fruit trees did not bear and your corn brings next to nothing, do not plant less, feed less or spray less. But, rather, plant as much, feed as much and spray as much as ever. Have faith that the near future promises improved conditions for the farmer.

We cannot urge you too strongly to farm as nearly normal as possible this year. It does not pay to lay down on the job.

Punjab comes from two Persian words meaning five rivers.