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Soils and Crops

By Agronomist.

This Department is for the use of our farm readers who want the advice of an expert on any question regarding soil, seed crops, etc. If your question is of sufficient general interest, it will be answered through this column. If stamped and addressed envelope is enclosed with your letter, a complete answer will be mailed to you. Address Agronomist, care of Wilson Publishing Co., Ltd., 78 Adelaide St. W., Toronto.

Goose Raising for Profit.

Here is a branch of the poultry business that is not likely to be overdone, at any time in the near future. While there is doubtless an awakening, in many sections, to the fact that geese are very profitable yet a great many people imagine that they are hard to raise. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The fact is, that under ordinary conditions, geese are less difficult to raise than any other domestic fowl. Neither great skill nor expensive equipment are required.

Easy to Start

A few good, healthy stock geese and plenty of pasture are the most important requirements in making a start. Of course, shelter of some kind should be provided, but almost any dry shed will answer. During the winter months the birds do better when protected from the elements, especially at night. However, the goose is a hardy bird and can endure a great deal of cold without apparent suffering. In spite of this fact, we always have comfortable quarters for the geese, old and young. Geese are very thrifty birds and are free from lice. They are also free from disease. We have raised geese for a number of years and have never yet lost a single bird from disease.

We seldom lose a gosling. After a gosling is four days old, we consider it almost as good as raised. A few geese can be kept as a "side-line" by almost any farmer without interfering with other poultry, or in fact, with any other farm industry. They should not be fed or housed with other poultry, however, as they are more or less abusive, as a rule, especially when feeding. Those who admire water fowl should keep geese. We can get more genuine pleasure from a flock of geese than from any other poultry on the premises. They are easily managed and really seem to be more intelligent than any other fowl we have ever raised.

Pasture is Essential

As stated above, plenty of pasture is necessary. It is, in fact, the most important point to be considered. The goose is essentially a grazer; in fact, grass or roughage is as essential to a goose as it is to a cow. They are not over-particular in regard to the quality of the pasture and their downy coats yield a profit that should not be ignored, even in this day of "new fangled" inventions in the way of bedding. There has never yet been a time that we have had any difficulty in disposing of the feathers, at good prices. A well-matured bird will yield about a pound of feathers in a year. Laying geese must never be picked until the laying season is over. We are very careful in handling the geese.

Right now is a good time to plan for goose-raising, if the work has not been done before. If the venture is to be a success, don't put it off until spring. Geese mate in February, as a rule, and new stock should be procured before that time. We have found it advisable not to disturb old mated geese. Once they are properly mated they will remain, year after year, unless the genders get quarrelsome. Some genders will mate with one or two geese, while others will choose four or five. Young stock should be kept separate from the old mated birds at first.

Do Not Give Free Range

We learned, by costly experience, that where the geese have free range it is impossible to control them after they once acquire the habit of running away. A few years ago when we began raising the China geese, (which are much more active than any other geese we have ever raised), a large swamp was fenced for the old birds. This pasture which is not at all suit-

able for other live stock, makes a very good range for a flock of geese during the greater part of the year. Coarse grass and weeds make good goose pasture. However, one must be on the alert for foxes and turtles. As a range for geese we use an apple orchard fenced and equipped with suitable houses. Young goslings must be protected from rats and other destructive animals. Also, they must have shelter at night and during hard rain storms. A cold rain will sometimes kill good-sized goslings, before they can be rescued. A gosling is easy to raise but must not get rain-soaked on the back. We keep the White Chinese geese at the present time and find that they have a number of good points not found in other geese. They are the same in every way except color, as the Brown Chinese. Both are very beautiful in appearance. White China geese have pure white plumage and their bodies are very graceful. Their long, slender, curved necks give the birds a swan-like appearance, which is always greatly admired. The feathers are of the finest quality and always bring the highest market price.

A Good Market Goose

These birds, while not so large as some others, are suitable for market purposes where very large geese are not wanted. While they are sometimes called the "Leghorn of the goose family," they are somewhat larger than common geese. It is not unusual for young birds to weigh fifteen pounds each when ready for market. They can be made much heavier if kept longer and fed a considerable amount of grain, but nothing will be gained this season by feeding large quantities of marketable grain.

We always try to have poultry in good condition before being sent to market, but have always been opposed to "stuffing," partly because it seems like "cruelty to animals," to keep geese so closely confined, and partly because we never have been convinced that it was very profitable.

We feed a reasonable amount of grain and always sell poultry of all kinds alive. Geese require less grain from the time they are hatched until ready for market than any other fowl we know of. While we have always raised geese as a side-line, so to speak, we aim to raise about two hundred young birds each season. We use large, heavy chicken hens. Have never tried hatching with incubators, but have been told that it can be done.

Use Leg-Bands to Distinguish
However, we succeeded in raising 174 fine young geese and together with the old birds, were twenty-two in number (seventeen geese and five genders), we had a pretty nice flock.

We use leg-bands on the old geese as they sometimes get together during the latter part of the season and it is hard to tell old from young. Sometimes the entire flock is allowed free range. Since cool weather began in October we have been feeding more grain than during the early fall because most of the birds now on hand will go to market soon. We have sold quite a number locally, to be kept for next year's stock. We never ship geese.

We have found the China geese to be excellent layers. Young geese will seldom lay as many eggs as mature ones, but an old bird will often lay from seventy-five to one hundred eggs in a season. One young bird laid fifty-four eggs last season.

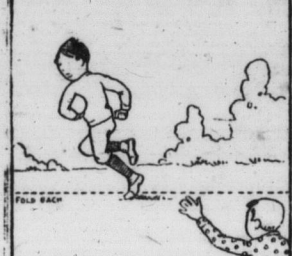
Green rye is a good substitute for grass in winter. Geese must have some sort of roughage. They like clover hay, alfalfa and silage. We feed plenty of these during the winter. Also, grain twice a day. Raw vegetables, chopped, with bran added (also a little salt), gives variety to the ration. Provide good, clean water to drink.—A. W. G.

Be interested in everybody's troubles except your own.

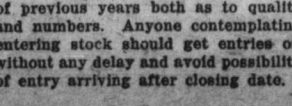
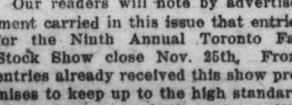
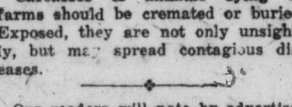
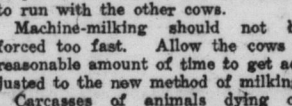
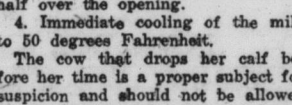
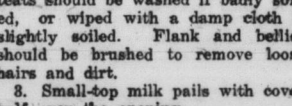
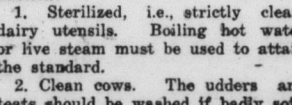
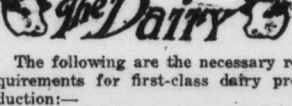
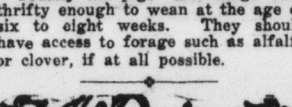
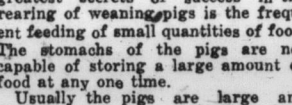
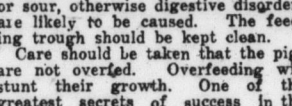
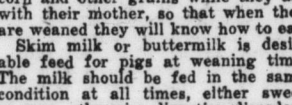
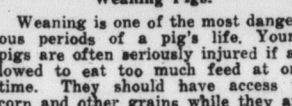
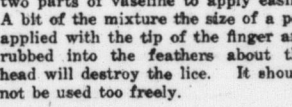
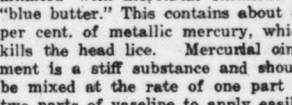
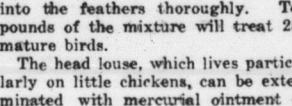
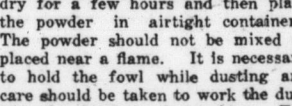
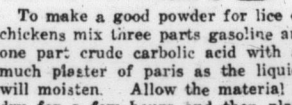
The cellar is not the best place for squashes and pumpkins. A good cool room upstairs in the house is all right. But see to it that rats and mice do not gnaw holes into them. They like the seeds, and the only way you can be sure that they will not get them is to go into the trapping business, and stick to it till the last rat is under the spring.

FUNNY FOLD-UPS

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AT FOOT BALL WILLIE'S SLICK AS GLASS HE STRAIGHT ARMED BOB AND TOLD TO PASS AND VERY NEARLY DID IT TOO. BUT BOBBIE CAUGHT HIM BY THE SHOE.



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What Farm Activity Pays You the Best?

Keeping books pays as well on a farm as in a bank, a railway office or a factory. Many large farms have a regular bookkeeping department. The average size farm does not need such an elaborate system of account books any more than it needs three or four binders, seven cream separators, nine churns, or five hay loaders. The size and detail of the system depend on the acreage of the farm and the amount of business the farm does. Some person on the farm can learn how to conduct a set of books for the farm. Then only a few minutes a day, or once a week, will be needed to keep a set of farm account books. Here are several important things books: How many dollars' worth of a farmer knows if he keeps a set of foodstuffs sold off the farm last year? How much money was cleared on the farm last year? How did crops are not paying? How did this year's profits compare with last year, two years ago, five years ago?

A farmer will be able to check up every item of farm expense such as seed, poultry, cattle, and hogs, their cost and the value of their product to the farm. Another pleasing and profitable thing about a set of farm books—one can take an inventory at the end of the year of all the live stock, the implements, the buildings, the grain on hand, and all of the equipment and know just where the farm stands financially. The Commission of Conservation has issued a very simple yet comprehensive farmer's account book which will be sent free to Canadian farmers who ask for it, stating at the same time how many acres they work. The supply of these is limited and the rule of "first come, first served" will apply.

The Extra Touch.
One more stroke with the brush rubs the paint in so that it lasts longer. Once more over the plowed ground with the harrow and the seed-bed is mellowed and the promise of a good harvest is nearer.

Go and do the right action over again and again and it becomes a habit of the life which can not easily be broken. The extra touch is the only mark between success and failure that can not be wiped out. That will stick, and it amounts to more than its costs.

Rats Are Big Eaters.

Experts have estimated that one rat will consume 40 to 50 pounds of food in a year. It has also been found that it requires the continuous work of about 165,000 men with farms, agricultural implements, and other equipments to supply the foodstuffs destroyed annually by rats in the United States and Canada. In addition rats destroy other property, mainly of agricultural origin, the production of which requires the work of about 55,000 men. This gives a total of 220,000 men whose economic output is devoted solely to feeding and otherwise providing for rats.

To Prevent Potato Rot.

Pick over your potatoes about three or four weeks after you have stored them away. The wet weather this season increases the tendency to rot and unless the diseased potatoes are at once separated from the healthy, there will be heavy loss. Many potatoes that look good when harvested will decay after being in storage a few weeks.

Potatoes should be stored in a cool dry place. The color of the atmosphere, providing, of course, freezing is not permitted, the better they will keep.

The outdoor fall air is the best tonic in the world. Drink lots of it, and be thankful every minute.

GOOD HEALTH QUESTION BOX

By Andrew F. Currier, M.D.
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Scrofula.
Forty or fifty years ago it would have been difficult to find a person of average intelligence in this country who did not have an idea of what was meant by the term scrofula. Nowadays the term is so seldom used that the average person is ignorant of its meaning, showing that words of the past have become obsolete, and are forgotten. Fifty years ago scrofula was thought to be a real disease like mumps or chicken pox, and the scrofulous person, old or young, had a thick, swollen neck with running sores. As now recognized, scrofula is an irregular collection of symptoms, without any definite disease history. When we speak of scrofulous gland nowadays we usually mean tuberculosis in the lymph glands of the neck, when we speak of scrofula deforms we mean various kinds of skin eruption of tubercular origin. Scrofulous blood used to be regarded as impure blood causing acne and other eruptions and was the excuse for giving children sulphur and molasses, senna, stillingia, sarsaparilla and other remedies supposed to be required for an annual spring cleaning. It may be said that scrofula stands for disease and organs which easily get out of order and get well slowly. Sores on a scrofulous child heal slowly, run indefinitely and when healed are followed by others in the vicinity. Scrofulous children have weak mouth and ears, adenoids and enlarged tonsils. The glands of the neck and elsewhere in such people are large and often the seat of running sores. Such people resist disease badly and are always catching diseases that have the possibility of being caught. A scrofulous child is almost sure to have had parents or grandparents who had the same trouble or else tuberculosis or syphilis or if a child with this tendency lives amid bad hygienic surroundings he will almost to a certainty develop scrofula.

The germs of tuberculosis are most frequently found in such cases, attacking the glands of the neck and

the skin and causing swellings and eruptions which are only too common. Scrofulous children often have intestinal catarrh with enlarged abdominal glands, diseased bones and joints and in almost all of them the tubercle bacillus will be found; they are also sufferers from all kinds of ear diseases. Two kinds of children are described as scrofulous in the writings of half a century ago, one being pale with tender, white skin, large veins, flabby muscles and quick intellect, the other with red face, thick nose and lips, and dull intellect. Beware of patent medicines for such troubles. The sins of patent medicine makers in imposing on the public, especially the poor, in advertising and vending their nostrums for scrofula are many and if there is to be retribution for such sins I hope they will get it good and proper. Good food, plenty of sleep, out of door life, a daily bath, a well ventilated home and school, these are the best means for fighting scrofula. Three drugs have been found effective in treating scrofula, iodine, cod liver oil and iron, and they should be given not only in a form in which they can be readily assimilated but in one which will make them acceptable to the sensitiveness of children.

Questions and Answers.
S. E. B.—Are there certain foods which are beneficial when one is suffering from a torpid liver?

2.—Please mention a good medicine to restore such an organ to its normal condition.

Answer.—I suppose you mean by a "torpid liver," an organ which is not secreting the proper quantity of bile. If that is due to an obstruction by gall stones, of course the obstruction must be removed; if it is merely a feature in the general condition, an abundance of simple, easily digested food would be all that you would require.

2.—You must remember that this department is not for the purpose of treating individual cases or providing prescriptions. If you need a medicine to affect your liver, your physician is the proper person to furnish it.

heroes by helping the public to realize that we must face facts and disregard fancies and suppositions in the solution of this present problem.

Cleaning Old Barrels.
Old barrels should be used cautiously. If they have contained no material which has permeated the wood, they may be cleaned by the use of steam, hot potash lye obtainable from wood-ashes, or crude potash secured at drug-stores. They must be treated repeatedly, and thoroughly rinsed and drained.

Barrels in which sauerkraut or molasses has been stored can be cleaned by first scalding well with boiling water (letting the water stand in them till cold); then fill with cold water, and throw in a large quantity of live coals from a wood fire, leaving the cask uncovered. Another and better method is to rinse the barrels with a strong solution of oil of vitriol and water.

"A sneer is the apology for argument made by a man who does not understand."—G. H. Morrison.

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SACKING OF ITALIAN CITIES

WAS CARRIED ON BY AUSTRIAN INVADERS

Residents of Towns Captured by Teutons Were Made to Endure Unspeakable Outrages by Foes.

It is the end. The Austrians are in full retreat, wrote a war correspondent on October 31. I crossed the Piave with delighted artillerymen, who, when they reached the opposite bank, did not so much as cheer as they turned round and grinned happily at each other. Each man turned with a huge smile of complete satisfaction to the comrade behind "partenza per Udine" (we are on way to Udine) he shouted. One whistled like a train about to start. In the village of Susegana I met first a group of three refugees. They had spent the last few days in cellars hiding from the bombardment. Susegana now looks, with its wrecked houses, like a heap of discarded orange peel. Some of the inhabitants had to live on herbs. Three I met were barefoot, others were in rags. It made a sad picture. All around were wrecked houses and shattered trees.

"Did you know the Austrians were going to flee?" I asked.

"Yes, they've been preparing to go for some time. They used to say they were only waiting for the Italian offensive to drive it back to the river and cross and capture the army, but that was months ago. When the guns began the bombardment one of their N. C. O.'s who was left in charge of a post near our refuge, said 'It's the offensive, we must be off.' They went that night."

Conegliano Intentionally Destroyed.

On Conegliano one comes into a dominion of shame and sorrow. It was a beautiful town, but its houses and inhabitants speak of things suffered that do not come within the category of honorable warfare. The syndic of the town himself explained to me how the Germans, immediately after their arrival a year before, went into houses, put in inflammable materials, sprinkled petrol on them and then threw on lighted candles. "We were not allowed to do anything but watch," they said.

When the next day the houses were smoldering ruins the Germans photographed them, grinning as they did it. Afterward in other parts of the occupied territory they circulated post cards of the scene entitled "Wanton damage in an Italian town ordered by the Italian generals and the Italian Government."

They showed these cards to the inhabitants. Other houses which appeared intact were stripped of everything. A great number had no floors even as the Hungarians who looted it here after the Germans, carried off all the beams, so the floors fell. The syndic told of worse things than the destruction of buildings. One hesitates to tell all the evil. Much of it hung like a cloud over the women. The Hungarians used to come into houses and tell mothers they wanted their daughters. They would take ladders and try unashamedly to enter houses at night. Many times this was confirmed. We had many witnesses, honest girls who were forced to take refuge on the roofs on winter nights to escape their tormentors.

Outrages Happily at an End.

Bestiality of this character took another form when the Hungarians captured four brave soldiers of the Bohemian army. They shot and hanged them, which first was not clear, but they were hanged to trees in an avenue of the town. Papers branding them as traitors were pinned to the breasts of blood-covered corpses and then were exposed three days as a lesson. It was said, to the inhabitants, so the women and children had to pass them as they went to their daily duties.

All the evil done at Conegliano had to be submitted to. On the wall I read an order by the German commander, General Von Below, designed to calm any resentment. It said any "aggression" by the civilian population against German troops would be punished with death, "especially if it was armed aggression."

But yesterday the people of Conegliano forgot all these evil days. The Bersaglieri were greeted with cheers, rousing and splendid. Women flung out their arms and shouted welcomes. At Vittorio the scene was extraordinary. There were Austrian machine guns at the entrance to Serravalle Pass. Still the commander went into the outskirts of the town. I could see wildly emotional welcomes and waving tricolors in the same street from which I could hear the bullets tear past overhead. The ardent, singing choruses, were filling out of town to surround these guns.

This is the gospel of labor—Ring it, ye bells of the kirk: The Lord of love came down from above

To live with the men who work:—Henry Van Dyke

Seager Wheeler, the noted Saskatchewan wheat grower, has developed a variety of wheat that is claimed to mature ten days earlier than the famous Marquis wheat, and is therefore, practically immune from rust and early frost on the prairie

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