

THE FARM.

Manure and Wireworms.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I notice in "The Farmer's Advocate," dated 22nd December, the question asked by J. H. P., how to rid clover sod from wireworm, for potatoes next year. I will give my experience; it may be helpful. Last year I worked the ground up well, marked it out with the plow, and, after the potatoes were dropped, put a small forkful of manure on each hill, then covered that with earth. Not a single wireworm appeared in the potatoes, and there were more potatoes there than where the ground was evenly manured, and the potatoes were nice and clean, and free of scabs. I planted ten rows, forty rods long; and, having been bothered so long with wireworm, I was led to experiment, and on two rows I dropped the potatoes in hills, then drove alongside with a load of manure and put a small forkful on each hill. The one load just did the two rows; then I put a little earth on with the plow. The other eight rows I manured in the usual way, spreading and disking it in. On the two rows first mentioned there was not a trace of a single wireworm, and there was one-third more potatoes per row than on the other eight, while the last mentioned were bored full of holes by the worms, and not fit for sale at all. When they are peeled, they have to be half cut away before the worm-holes can be all got out. So I consider I was well paid for my trouble in two ways: First, in the crop being free from worms; and, second, in the extra potatoes in the two rows. My potatoes, after this, will all be covered with manure.

Bruce Co., Ont.

S. A. POLLOCK.

COMMENT.

Mr. Pollock's method of protecting his potatoes from wireworms is interesting, and worth trying, though I find it difficult to see why the potatoes thus treated should escape so much better than those in the other well-manured parts of the field. It is possible, however, that the strength of the fertilizing elements is sufficient to make that area distasteful or unattractive to the wireworms, and therefore saves the potatoes. One would like to see the method well tested, as it is very simple, and easily applied. Of course, it is always necessary to be sure that the field is badly infested before feeling certain that the freedom from attack is due to the treatment given. There should also in every case be check rows to compare with the treated rows.

The best-known method at present of keeping a farm free from wireworms is a system of short rotation of crops, together with early fall plowing, and working of the land late in the season. Ribbing up in autumn is also good practice. When old pastures have to be broken up, this should be done in the fall, preferably soon after the first of August; they should be worked, if possible, that autumn. The most damage is usually done the second year after the sod has been broken. Often the first year wheat may be sown in the field, or barley the next spring, without any appreciable injury, but the second year I should recommend that barley and peas be sown. The barley will attract the wireworms, and the peas will usually come through without injury. The greater proportion should be peas; perhaps half a bushel of barley to the acre may be used, and the rest peas. Each year, until there is no further damage, fall plowing should be done. This destroys the insects in their little earthen cases, especially the pupae and the adults; for if the earthen cases containing either of these, in the autumn of the year, are once broken up, the insect then dies. Usually, the third year after the sod has been broken up, if the fall plowing has been carried out as suggested, it is safe to put in almost any of the crops.

A few persons are recommending very strongly for the protection of corn, which is often attacked before it can germinate, that the corn be covered with tar in the manner ordinarily resorted to to keep off crows, and then, instead of drying it with ashes or with the road dust, so as to make it go through the seeder, Paris green is mixed with the ashes or dust in such proportions that the green can be seen on all parts of the corn. This is said to ward off attacks from wireworms. Prof. Fernald has had great success with it for two years. I should not, however, recommend anyone to use it on an extensive scale the first season, but to try a few rows, and see whether it has any effect upon the germination, and whether it is as satisfactory as claimed against the wireworms.

L. CAESAR.

Ontario Agricultural College.

Wallace's Farmer concludes a suggestive article, headed, "If Fields Could Speak," with this poetical observation: "It takes some time to understand the language of the fields; but it is easier to understand it than to acquire a foreign language. They do speak. Their language is like the speech of the stars, like the voice of the wind, like that of the silent forces of nature. It can be understood by those who have ears to

hear, eyes to see, who are in sympathy with nature; by those who, by training or experience, understand the language of the fields. For, like the voice of the heavens, which David heard, "Their line is gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world."

Taps 1,200 Trees.

We use an evaporator, and find it satisfactory. The bucket used is one that is long and narrow, hanging level when on the tree, and, of course, made of the best material. We store our sap on the north side, outside the camp, in two low-down, galvanized-iron vats, pumping the sap from the one on the ground to the other (elevated), in order that gravity may feed the evaporator. We gather the sap as often as possible, and evaporate immediately, as this makes the best quality of syrup. Sap containing much rainwater is discarded, and dark syrup made thus is converted into sugar. The syrup is all put in one-gallon tins, and sold direct to the consumer. We tap about 1,200 trees on from 15 to 17 acres of land, and these trees average about 25 cents per tree



The Stately Maples of the Sugar Grove.

per year. After the tapping is finished, two men, with modern conveniences, can handle the sap and convert it into the finished product.

Lambton Co., Ont.

R. L. M.

Money in the Syrup Business.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

We began syrup-making about four years ago, with a feed-boiling furnace which held 30 gallons, and 50 buckets, and it certainly kept us going to keep the sap boiled down. We did the gathering with a light bobsleigh and the churn. The next year (1908) we bought a second-hand arch and new pans, and enough more buckets to make 160; also 150 sap spouts. Again, in 1909, we bought 50 more sap spouts, and took 60 trees from a neighbor on shares, and used most of his buckets and spiles. We cleared the evaporator that spring, and had some left over.

In 1910 we rented 50 trees from a neighbor, and used our own buckets. Our expenses ran up pretty high last spring, as we got some syrup cans, some sap spouts, some fire-bricks, 70 second-



Pet Lambs.

hand buckets, and had to pay \$3.00 for the rent of the trees; but we didn't lose anything, as we have the goods to show for the expenses. We sold 20 gallons last spring, and we made 36 gallons 1 quart, so you see we use a good many gallons at home.

If we were in the business for profit only, we could make more money, but we are in it for the fun, too, and what syrup we do sell is more to oblige people than anything else.

We sell the syrup at \$1.40 a gallon, 75 cents a half-gallon, and 45 cents a quart, and we could easily sell more if we wanted to sell it.

Our sugar house is 15 feet long by 8 feet wide, by 6 feet high at the eaves, and 10 feet at the

peak. It is part clap-boarded and part plain-boarded, and has two doors, one in the front end and the other in one side at the back corner. We built a lean-to to the main part last spring, and it ran the whole length, and is about 4 feet high at the eave. Two-thirds of it is wood-shed, and the other third we use for a kind of kitchen and store-room. There is a large hole cut into the wood shed from the main part to get wood through. The roof of the main part is clap-boarded, and the two top boards open up to allow the steam to escape.

There is lots of money in the sap business for anyone who has or can rent one hundred or more trees from a near neighbor, and, as it comes in the time of year when other work is not pressing, it can be attended to without interfering with the other farm work.

THE SON OF A SUBSCRIBER.
Wellington Co., Ont.

Silo Materials Contrasted.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

As I did not keep a special account of all materials used in my cement-block silo, and labor, it would be a rather hard matter to recall it all from memory. When I started, I did not aim at how cheap I could build, but how good, and to secure as nice an appearance as possible. I consider it our duty, as well as our privilege to make our home surroundings pleasant and inviting.

The total cost of the silo completed, as nearly as I can get at it now, was \$450; the mason work and plastering \$325, and the chute, roof and

painting, figured out to the sum of \$125.00. The dimensions are 15 feet 5 inches in diameter, 40 feet 2 inches high. The foundation is put down in the ground 3 feet, being about 2 feet thick at the bottom, and 16 inches at the surface of the ground. The rest of the wall is made of cement blocks, hollow, 8 inches thick, by 16 inches long, reinforced by two strands of No. 9 galvanized wire, twisted together in a cable.

At the bottom, they are laid in every other course, for a ways, in a small groove made for the purpose; and, as we went up, we put one in every third course, then every fourth, and so on, till at the top there are six or seven courses that have no reinforcement at all.

The silage has kept first-class. We have had no trouble to speak of with silage freezing; perhaps the weather has not been cold enough. About 1½ inches is all that has frozen onto the walls at any time this winter, but when it would come a thaw, as we have had frequently this winter, it would scale off and mix up with the rest of the day's feed. I don't think it is spoiled in any way; at any rate, the cattle clean it all up. As regards freezing on the sides, I think a great deal depends on the one who takes the silage out, as in extreme weather it will freeze over the top, anyway, and considerably harder at the outside, and if you do not try to keep it down at the outside, it will freeze thicker every day.

If I were building another silo, and had a cement-block foundation under my barn, I would certainly build a block silo. If, on the other hand, my foundation were solid concrete walls, I would build a solid wall, as I think the silage keeps fully as well in the one as in the other. Then, again, in some localities, where good gravel is scarce, and has to be hauled a long way, the cement-block silo can be built with about half the quantity of gravel. I would build a round wooden silo if I could not get gravel handy, providing my building site were not too much exposed to the wind, as I think they are as good as any as long as they will last, and can be built much more cheaply than cement.

I consider the silo is far superior to the old plan of handling the corn. You get the corn off early, which gives a chance to fall plow the ground while it is dry, as late plowing of corn ground after the fall rains has a bad effect on the crop the following year. I think that corn fed to milking cows from the time it is fit to feed, up to the end of the year, or perhaps a little later, will produce about as much milk; but, on in the winter and spring, I think there is far more in the silage, and it is a long way nicer to handle.

WILLIAM TESKEY.

Elgin Co., Ont.

Spring seeding will soon be here. Be prepared with first-class seed grain, horses in good condition, and implements ready for work.