

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., 73 Adelaide St. W., Toronto.

Why It Pays To Disk the Stubble Land.

It will pay to disk stubble land that is to be plowed later, just as soon as the shocks are removed. This disk will conserve moisture, and make it possible to plow this land long after similar undisked land is too dry to plow. It will also kill insects and destroy their eggs, and this effect is especially important where insects have been a great pest. One can disk the stubble land rapidly, and can make good wages doing so.

The early preparation of a seedbed for wheat or for alfalfa is especially important. In tests on the seeded preparation for wheat the best results were obtained by deep plowing early in July, and the profits steadily decreased as the plowing time was advanced. It frequently happens that a drought comes in July and stops the plowing at just the time it should be done, and it is then necessary to wait until the rains come later in the fall, which is frequently as late as September. It is very rare that the weather conditions are such that a good seedbed can be made on September plowed land.

When the stubble is disked, a loose mulch is formed that retards the evaporation of moisture very materially, and also allows the capillary connection between the plowed land and the subsoil to be restored much more quickly after plowing than on undisked land. The disk mixes the trash and stubble with the soil, and it is an easy matter for the plowed land to form a union with the soil that is not stirred. And it is absolutely essential that the capillary connection be restored in good shape before the wheat is planted.

Soil that does not have a mulch will crack when it gets dry, and these cracks are the lines on which the clods are formed. A mulch on the surface will prevent this clod formation, and the labor of seedbed preparation after the plowing will be less. Dry, cloddy soil is a hard proposition when it comes to making a proper seedbed. As a contrast with this, take land that has a good surface mulch before it is plowed. There are but few clods in this case, the soil is mellow and loose, and it is easy to prepare the field in ideal shape to receive the seed.

If you wish to see how capillary attraction works in pumping the water out of the soil, take a cube of sugar and dip a corner of it in your coffee and see how quickly the liquid climbs up. It is being moved by capillary action. If you put some loose sugar on top, you will see that the coffee does not climb up through it so quickly. The reason is that the grains are so far apart that capillary has been destroyed; the grains are not in a condition so the liquid can be raised. Soil grains are placed in a somewhat similar condition when the surface is disked, and the evaporation of the much-needed soil moisture is checked.

When one considers the great amount of moisture necessary to mature a crop properly, it is easy to understand the great need for conserving the supply. It takes more than 500 pounds of water to make every pound of dry matter. A mulch on the surface and it takes about 400 pounds with wheat. A little less, or sometimes as little as 300 pounds, will do for corn. Unless great attention is given to storing the rainfall in the soil, and putting the land in condition so it is not lost by capillary action, there is apt to be a deficiency at just the time it is most needed.

Good Points on Marketing.

Success in farming depends to a considerable extent upon success in marketing, and marketing has come to be a highly specialized business. It involves an understanding of human desires. The consuming public gauges its demand for a product according to the degree in which that product sat-

isfies its tastes. Taste to a considerable extent is influenced by appearance. This is especially true in the case of perishable and semi-perishable products such as fresh vegetables, berries, apples and potatoes.

Competition is keen in marketing. The farmer who wishes to sell his product at a high price must learn the demand of public taste, and put up his product in a way that will give the consumer reasonable satisfaction. Most goods sold in fairly large quantities pass through the hands of a middleman or dealer. These men because of their constant touch with the trade have learned the desires of consumers. Whether a farmer sells directly to the consumer or through a middleman, it may pay him, if he can do so, to visit a marketing centre and spend some time in the wholesale produce district watching how sales are actually conducted. He can then talk with dealers about the methods of preparing products for market, visit their grading and packing rooms and observe how that process is done.

If a personal visit to the trade is too expensive and the farmer sells through a dealer, he should write to him, questioning him carefully about how to sort, grade and pack a product, so that it will bring the highest price.

When a shipment is made, it pays to load goods carefully. If possible learn from some reliable source how to arrange material in cars so that it will best withstand the journey. An itemized account of the number of boxes or packages in the shipment, the different varieties, and amount of each, will be a great help to the dealer and a record for your own use. Send this statement to the dealer at once, together with a letter of explanation, stating the number of the car, the date it is to leave and the road on which it is to be shipped.

Prompt settlements usually follow approved methods in handling bills of lading. It is customary if goods are sold for cash, to have the bill of lading made out to yourself, endorse it over to your local banker, and instruct him to send it to his banking correspondent at point of destination with attached draft for the amount to be collected. Upon payment of draft, the bill is surrendered to the dealer. If inspection is allowed this should be stated upon bill of lading. If goods are sold on time or shipped on consignment, have the bill of lading made out to the dealer, and send it to him at once. When an advance is to be made for part of the consignment the procedure is the same as when the goods are sold for cash.

When putting up goods for market, experiment upon how best to combine quality and attractiveness. These are potent factors in determining price. It is not advisable, ordinarily, to ship to several dealers on the same market at the same time, for they may compete against one another for buyers, thus bringing your product into competition with itself, and forcing down the price.

The farmer who sells to a dealer, finds it best to co-operate with him in handling his goods, for the more money the dealer gets for a product the more will he in turn be able to pay the farmer. If you sell by that method, communicate with your dealer regarding the condition of the trade, a few days before your shipment is ready and learn from him whether he is able to handle the shipment to advantage.

In all cases act promptly in forwarding the dealer records of shipments that he may not be delayed in getting possession of goods. Market conditions often change from hour to hour. In a very short time a considerable fluctuation in price quotations may occur.

Marketing perishable farm products is a business in itself, and co-operation between the buyer and seller is an essential principle of successful business relationship.

filling only, and is big enough for that work. With this size we are told that there is less settling afterward, because there is more time to tramp it down well, and also more time for it to settle while the filling is going on. According to some writers this is an error, and we should not tramp it at all. I am not sure about this point.

The great advantage of this privately owned cutter is that we can get our silos filled when the corn is ready. Corn must go into the silo at the proper time to make the best food. Another great advantage of owning a cutter is that a silo is easily refilled after settling, because it does not leave the neighborhood after the silos are filled. And to the man who wishes to utilize the full capacity of his silo this is of considerable importance. A silo that settles down six feet has that much wasted space, and that part of the investment must be added to the overhead expense of the part of the silo which is filled.

Egg yolk in warm water removes coffee stains.

A Spinning Wheel.

The front gate clicked, and a woman looking up from her sewing beside the window, saw a tramp walk round the house to the back door. She waited for the knock, then opened the door. Before her stood a young man. He was not nearly so old as she had supposed from seeing his slouching gait as he passed the window.

He asked for food, and the woman brought him in and seated him at the table while she prepared some plain fare for him, for he appeared hungry and discouraged. As he ate she learned his story.

At seventeen he had left home and had been away for nearly four years. This was his twenty-first birthday. He had run away from home because of the monotony of life there and the hardships that he thought fell to his lot.

"And still, it was not so much the hard work," he said. "I wanted a change, so I went away. My parents were kind, and they loved me; but I didn't think of that then, although I have thought of it many times since. I'm more tired of this wandering life than I ever was of the continual grind at home. A fellow like me might as well give up the job of living and drop out."

The woman was silent for a moment; then she pointed to a family heirloom that stood in the corner of the sitting room. "My grandmother used that spinning wheel for many years," she said. "My mother has told me that she used to hear her mother working away and humming an old-fashioned song after the other members of the household had gone to bed. Most of the wool that went into the clothes of the family was spun on that wheel. It served its generation well, and still it never did anything except go round and round. But to go round and round was what it was made to do. There it stood in the same corner of the room, year after year, singing its little tune and spinning out its slender thread. It was a monotonous life, and the spinning wheel has a place of honor in our home now. We love it because of the service it performed for those we love."

The young man finished his meal and, rising from the table, started to go. As he stepped out on the porch he turned back again and said, "Thank you for the story of the spinning wheel. I'm going home again. I've covered one big circle of several thousand miles in four years; if I had stayed at home and had gone round my little circle of daily living, I should have a home of my own now and not be begging bread at back doors. When I've learned to spin without breaking thread, I'll write you. Good-bye."

The woman went back into the room, gave the spinning wheel a pat with her hand, and dusted it carefully. As she took up her sewing again by the window she said to herself: "I believe I, too, needed the story of the spinning wheel. I'm glad I have dressed to make and I stockings to darn and food to cook. I'd a thousand times rather be a spinning wheel in a home that I love than a wanderer without a friend or an abiding place."

Hands and Help.

"How did you lose your hand?" "I lost it working with an engine. I was reaching in for a loose bolt when it got caught and drawn into the cog. I have another good hand left, though, and I get along pretty well with it. One hand will do pretty good work for a man if he knows how to use it."

"Help! Help! A man is overboard and drowning!" An office man deck seized a life preserver and throws it to the sinking man. It reaches him and holds him up until a boat is lowered, and the man is brought back safe on board.

The telephone rings in a farmhouse. A neighbor's voice is recognized as he asks, "Can you come over to-morrow and help fill my silo?" The farmer answers, "No, I can't come myself, but I'll send my hand. He will do as much as I could."

The Bible teaches that each part of the body, filling well the place that it is meant to fill, is honorable in that service, whether it be a hand or an eye. But the Bible teaches that it is honorable to do well the highest work that we have the ability to do, and is honorable to continue to be merely a hand when we might be a whole man doing a strong man's work.

The service of a life preserver is honorable in its place, but it would be shameful to remain only a deck hand, a helper, even a life preserver, which hangs on a hook for months and then performs its service of helping to save one life, if you have it in you to be the captain of a great ship and bring her across the sea full of ten thou-

THE CHEERFUL CHERUB

Dusky and dim in the twilight
The pine tree stands and sings.
Its lullaby lifts my spirit
To soar through the night on wings.



Health Talks

By John B. Huber, AM.M.D.

Dr. Huber will answer all signed letters pertaining to Health. If your question is of general interest it will be answered through these columns; if not, it will be answered personally. If stamped, addressed envelope is enclosed, Dr. Huber will not prescribe for individual cases or make diagnosis. Address Dr. John B. Huber, M.D., care of Wilson Publishing Co., 73 Adelaide St. W., Toronto.

Too Much of a Good Thing.

A London physician, learning that many children of the poor of that city were starving, determined to investigate; and he found indeed some such cases. But in the majority of the families he visited the children were suffering not so much from lack of food as from too much sweets and starches. Their appetites were disturbed, their digestions were deranged and they in consequence evidenced much anaemia, and their teeth were as a rule very bad.

Candy is a good thing so far as it goes, but it provides only heat units and is not a tissue builder. Candy develops energy; and if we were to eat candy alone we would be like a fire that must sooner or later burn itself up to nothingness. Meats, milk, vegetables and eggs must have their fit and right place in our diet.

Cakes and other sweet foods are usually compounded of flour and eggs, butter or other fat and plenty of sugar. They are nutritious for both young and old; and many can consume them with impunity. But many other people have heartburn, and other evidences of indigestion, after eating them immoderately. One cause of such indigestion is the fat saturating the flour. Another, and a principle one, is excess of sugar. Besides the objection to sugar mentioned, excess of it leads to a disproportionate secretion of mucus. This hinders digestion by enveloping the food and preventing the gastric juice from penetrating to the latter through the superabund-

ant mucus. Especially should people prone to dyspepsia or people with delicate stomachs avoid sugar, jam, marmalade, syrups, sweet cake, and other food sweetened with sugar. Less likely to cause dyspepsia are honey, molasses and maple syrup. And yet these sweets should also be taken in moderation, especially in the summer time.

Questions and Answers.

I am troubled greatly with my eyes. During the day my eyelids become very heavy and the moisture on my eyes dries up causing the lid to tighten on the eyeball. My lower lids are inflamed and when I awake in the morning the hairs are all stuck together. Until I was 14 years of age I suffered almost constantly with severe headache which appears to have had its origin in the eyes. Sometimes now I am bothered with acute pains which appear to be up in the top of my eyeball.

Answer—Your malady appears to be Keratitis or dry lids. This is a contracted dry condition of the conjunctiva, the membrane which lines the lids, and covers the whites of the eyes. It is uncommon and a serious ailment which occurs mostly in people of below par constitution. Hot compresses and lotions must be applied to the eyes. You must put yourself in the hands of a good eye doctor. Have the kidneys examined. No doubt the origin of the headache is in the eyes. Almost all headaches are referable to that organ, the eye.

Clothesline-Post Games.

The following are games that can be played with clothesline posts: Post Tag—Each player has a post for a goal. The player runs from post to post. The player who is "it" must tag one of them between posts.

Ring the Post—Players stand ten feet from a post and try to ring the post with the string of a hat, cap or hoop. The scores are kept as in other games.

Sitting Tether Ball—Use any small, inflated ball like a tennis ball, or a ball made from a piece of cloth. Fasten it to a string tied to the top of the post. Two players sit on opposite sides of the post, and each tries to wind the string round the post by batting the ball with the hand in the direction opposite to that in which his opponent bats it. The player wins who winds the string up until the ball touches the post.

Hit the Post—Two players start from the same post, and each places one foot against the base and tries to hit the next post with a ball or bean bag. If he throws at the post and fails to hit it, he must pick up the

Get a Rubber Stamp Marked "Fini" and Wear It Out.

The general manager of a big manufacturing plant was talking about some of the problems of his business—particularly the problem of men. "Our office manager resigned some time ago," he said, "and last week he came in to say good-bye. 'He was obviously pleased' with himself. Things were in such good shape, according to his way of thinking, that his successor would find little to do."

"I wished him luck; I had arranged already to put in his place a live young fellow from the West who had made a record in office management. 'A couple of days later the young fellow came in to report on his survey of the office. He threw up his hands. 'It's terrible!' he said. 'I never was up against a more discouraging proposition in my life. Give me a few weeks, however, and you'll begin to notice the difference.'"

"There you have it," the general manager continued. "The condition that was so absolutely satisfactory in the eyes of one man was utterly inexcusable according to the standards of the other. "There was nothing definitely wrong in the character of the first man; he was neither dishonest or lazy. But he just never finished anything. The office was nothing but a bundle of good resolutions unfulfilled."

"The other man, thank Heaven, belongs to that little company of folks who have the habit of seeing the thing through, of making a finished job of what they undertake. They are rare birds; what wouldn't I give for a few more of them!"

Every employer of men has frequent occasion to echo that sentiment. We talk and write about success as though there were some mystery in it. But it is a very simple proposition. All the world asks is that a man should take hold of one task—any old task—and complete it, and then pass on to another.

It is very illuminating to read the lives of great men on this point.

Charles Darwin made his reputation with a single book. And how long do you think he was engaged upon it? On my return it occurred to me, in 1837, that something might perhaps be made out of this question by patiently accumulating and reflecting on all sorts of facts which could possibly have any bearing on it (he says). After five years' work I allowed myself to speculate on the subject, and drew up some short notes; these I enlarged in 1844 into a sketch of the conclusions which then seemed to me probable; from that period to the present day I have steadily pursued the same object. I hope I may be excused for these personal details, as I give them to show that I have not been hasty in coming to my conclusion. My work is now (1859) nearly finished; but as it will take me many more years to complete it, and as my health is far from strong, I have been induced to publish this abstract.

Twenty-two years of sticking to the thing, working always toward the day when it could be called "finished"—it is such work that the world rewards with its highest honors.

"At the Day of Doom," says Christian in Pilgrim's Progress, "men shall be judged by their fruits. It will not be said then, 'Did you believe?' but, 'Were you doers or talkers only?'"

It's a very good thing to look forward occasionally to the end of the chapter—to the day when your work will be done and you must accept the record as you have written it.

Talk, good resolutions, things begun and left in the middle—all these are pretty unsatisfactory items to show up in the final report. It's the things you have started and finished—great or small—that look good when you get to the end.

Let's join the company of finishers; let's be able to say at the end: "Such and such things I did, and finished. They are my monument—the evidence that it was worth while for me to have lived."

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hall or bean bag, run back to the post from which he made the throw and make another trial. When he hits a post he picks up the ball or bean bag, advances to the post that he has hit and tries for the next; and so on in turn until he has hit every post. Whoever first makes a circuit of the posts wins. In a variation of this game the players use a croquet mallet and ball or a golf stick and ball, and advance from post to post in the manner described.

Races Round the Posts—Players may run in competition with one another by starting, each from a different post, running round all the posts to the starting point one or more times, as they may agree. The most exciting races are relay team runs. Each runner of a team takes his turn in covering the course, but he must not start until the preceding runner of his team touches him at the starting post of that team. If there are four posts, it is better to assign each team two adjacent posts round which to run. To prevent starting too soon, require each runner to carry and to pass to his successor a stick or other object. Variations such as running backward and hopping-add to the interest of the races.

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What Is Failure?

"Mother," said Hester Fulton, "I have about decided that I'm a failure as far as trying to be a Christian is concerned. I try and try, but I don't seem to come anywhere near my ideals. I feel like giving the whole thing up."

"The danger with young people, Hester," said her mother, "is to set up absolute standards for themselves, and to call anything less failure. As you grow older you'll learn that failure is a relative thing. You young folks talk in superlatives most of the time. But life will weather down these jagged cliffs of judgment."

"But haven't I failed if I haven't reached my ideals?" Hester asked. "Everyone who has ideals fails in that sense of the word," replied her mother. "But which is better, to set your ideals so low that you can easily reach them, or so high that, although you far outreach a low ideal, you do not attain the higher? You know the old saying, 'Not failure, but low aim, is crime.' It is always a sorrowful thing to see a person whose fortune is as big as his heart and whose dreams are always within reach of fulfillment. When a person has ideals that are never satisfied, he is facing an inevitable failure that really means success."

"Yes; but I don't get done what I want to do," replied Hester. "And surely that is failure."

"There again you are mistaken, dear. There is no failure when you are doing your best. You may not be producing the result that you expected. But your effort is producing a result of its own, which, in the providence of God, may be better than the one you intend. Don't you remember how Browning put it?"

"Not on the vulgar mass
Called work must sentence pass.
Things done that took the eye and had the price;

But all the world's coarse thumb
And finger failed to plumb,
So passed in making up the main account:
All instincts immature.
All purposes unsure.
That swelled not as his work, yet
Thoughts hardly to be packed
Into a narrow act.
Fancies that broke through language
and escaped;
All I could never be,
All men ignored in me,
This I was worth to God, whose wheel
the pitcher shaped.

"To God, my dear, the ideal is the real, the intentional is the actual. Thoughts must be things to Him, and purposes nobly striven for credited for deeds done, or else men are being mocked who dream in marble but must build in mud, think in gold but must give in brass, feel in scarlet but must act in fustian. But I like to think that it is with us as with David, when he was disappointed in building the temple, and God comforted him by telling him, 'Thou didst well that it was in thine heart.' Don't get to thinking in ultimate terms too quickly about life, my dear. There are not so many finalities in life as you young folks think. Remember the old saying, 'Man's periods are God's commas.'"

Ten Rules for Thinning Woodlots.

1. Prepare in advance a list of all the different kinds of trees in the woodlot and arrange the names in order of their desirability. This list may also include facts about the size and kind of products that can be used or sold.

2. Mark on the same side all trees that are to be removed, using the side from which the chopping will naturally progress. If the trees are not to be cut by the owner, he should blaze beforehand all that are to be taken.

3. Cut for firewood only those trees that may not be utilized for timber or other products of a higher grade than fuel wood. Spare young, thirty-growing trees that can later be put to the better uses. Examine each tree carefully as to straightness, soundness, salability, and relation to neighboring trees.

4. In fuel-wood cutting, remove first all dead or badly decayed trees. 5. Remove also defective and inferior trees to insure better growth for the good trees that are left. Even if nothing but poor fuel comes from the first thinning, it is likely that the work will pay in the improved growth of the good trees that are left.

6. Have a definite reason in mind whenever a tree is selected for cutting; and do not mark two adjoining trees except for a very good reason, such as great overcropping.

7. Frequent moderate thinnings give better results than infrequent heavy ones; never thin a stand of young timber heavily.

8. Leave a dense wind-mantle along the edge of the woodlot; nature put it there for a good purpose. So never thin this outer strip.

9. Be conservative; it is better to leave some poor trees than to sacrifice one of great promise.

10. Grade the product, pile the different grades separately, and be sure to know the range of local prices.

To Water Potted Plants.

Potted plants water themselves when placed on a new dish to hold water, in the centre of the cover of which is an opening holding a sponge, through which the water rises into the holes in the flower pots.