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Remit \$5.00 by money order or cheque, when we will immediately acknowledge order and send sweater and toque by Parcel Post, registered.

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## Farm Problems

Any reader of The Guide who wishes an answer to any problem on the farm can have them answered in this column. These questions are valuable to all farmers, and should assist them to a more profitable return for their labors. All questions are answered without charge. Answers by the Correspondence School of Scientific Farming, Winnipeg.

### FLAX WILT

J.K.L., Wynyard, Sask.—Would you mind giving me some detailed information regarding flax wilt. I have heard a lot regarding this disease during the last few weeks and some farmers in this vicinity seem to think our land is affected with it.

Answer.—The greatest expert on the North American continent in this disease is Dean H. L. Bolley, of the North Dakota Agricultural college, who discovered the true cause of the disease. His description is as follows:—

"Flax wilt is caused by a fungus which lives year after year in the soil. The plants are attacked at all ages and die early or late in the stage of the growth, according to the time and intensity of the attack. If the soil is much affected, that is to say, 'flax-sick,' most of the plants are killed before they get through the surface of the ground. Such areas appear in a field of flax as centres of disease, which enlarge throughout the summer as new plants sicken, wilt and die down around the margins of the spots, finally giving the whole field a spotted appearance. Young plants two or five inches in height wilt suddenly, dry up, and soon decay if the weather becomes moist. Older plants which are quite woody take on a sickly, weak yellowish appearance, wilt at the top, slowly die, turn brown and dry up. Nearly mature roots which are attacked but not yet dead, are easily pulled up, the roots breaking off easily at the level of the furrow slice.

"Upon examination, most of the smaller branch roots are found to be dead, as well as the tap root below the point at which it breaks off. These dead roots and the parts of the tap root already diseased have a very characteristic ashen grey color. Many nearly mature plants which are attacked late in life, show this dead grey down one side of the tap root only. The leaves, side branches, and a strip of the main stem above this portion are dead, giving a peculiar one-sided blighting, similar to the appearance of a tree struck by lightning.

"If the disease is sowed with the seed upon breaking but a few plants are attacked the first year; and, at flowering time, dead plants will be seen to be quite evenly distributed in the drills. If weather conditions are quite favorable, each new infection increases sufficiently in area to reach over and attack plants in two or three adjacent drills. These infection areas are nearly always circular in outline, and become much enlarged if flax is seeded there the following year. The first year these spots may reach a diameter of one to three or four feet. The second year these same areas are usually much more than doubled, so that it takes but three to five flax crops upon such lands to make the infection general."

Disease fields have not lost their fertility, as was formerly supposed, but can produce good crops of other plants, as corn, wheat, potatoes, etc. The disease seems to thrive on strong alkaline lands and often under conditions of drouth.

Land once infected by this disease remains infested for many years. The fungus is introduced to new lands chiefly by means of scaly chaffy disease seeds. The diseases may be carried to new land by dust, bloom, or washed from other diseased fields by farm implements, or introduced by manure made from diseased flax straw. For this reason all flax straw should be well composted before using.

Remedies.—Several methods have been offered for fighting this disease, but perhaps the most important are those offered by Dean Bolley himself, which are as follows:

1. Select only plump, bright colored flax seed for sowing purposes.
2. Fan and grade this seed until all light weight seeds and all bits of chaff and straw and dirt particles are re-



WE present our readers with a cut of the new HART-PARR CO.'s Branch House recently opened in Regina, Sask.

This is a very substantial building, containing the Offices, Repair Room, Sample Room and Repair Shop. This makes the fourth Branch House established in Canada by this Company, and the many customers of the Company will find this branch a great convenience to them. The rapid growth of the Company's business has made this a necessity, and the Company will now be able to care for their large trade in Saskatchewan in a much more satisfactory manner. A large stock of repairs and machinery will be carried at all times, and every customer in this territory can be assured of prompt and satisfactory attention. Mr. S. B. Clary is the newly appointed manager of this branch, and he will be ready to extend the glad hand to every customer who calls upon him.



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moved, for these carry the disease internally and cannot be sufficiently wet to destroy the parasites.

3. Place a measured quantity of seed, say 5, 10, 15 or 30 bushels, upon a canvas or tight floor.

4. Use formaldehyde solution at the rate of one pound to 40 gallons of water.

5. While one person rapidly rakes or shovels over the grain, put on the solution in the form of a fine misty spray. A compressed air sprayer is essential for this work. Dry flax seed when treated in this manner will easily absorb one-half of a gallon for each measured bushel. Indeed, if the shovelling and raking is sufficient, two-thirds of a gallon may be used without causing matting. When the work is sufficiently done the seed will look befogged or thoroughly moist.

6. Leave the grain piled, covered by blankets or canvas, from two to three hours, after which it may be shovelled over and then it is ready for seeding.

7. Seed such treated flax upon land that has not previously grown flax for a number of years, preferably five or six years.

8. Cease sowing flax consecutively upon the same land.

9. Introduce as long a series of rotations as possible, especially ones which include a cultivated crop, such as corn. This care with regard to rotation with reference to flax crop is essential, because the flax diseases are of such

nature that they propagate and spread through the soil after the manner characteristic of potato scab. These diseases especially develop upon the masses of flax stubble and roots. The aim of rotation is to allow this food material for the flax parasites to decompose and disappear; the chief aim of the treatment is to prevent the introduction by way of seed of new points of infection in the soil. It does this quite effectively and at the same time insures the treated crop against disease, provided the soil upon which the seeds are sown is not already diseased.

10. Those who have their entire farm flax-sick should practice growing their own seed, for, eventually, if what they save from such flax-sick soil is properly graded, the seed thus obtained will each year grow more and more resistant to wilt.

## HOW TO GET BETTER LIGHT FROM COAL OIL

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