

Farm Crop Queries



Conducted by Professor Henry G. Bell.

The object of this department is to place at the service of our farm readers the advice of an acknowledged authority on all subjects pertaining to soils and crops.

Address all questions to Professor Henry G. Bell, in care of The Wilson Publishing Company, Limited, Toronto, and answers will appear in this column in the order in which they are received. As space is limited it is advisable where immediate reply is necessary that a stamped and addressed envelope be enclosed with the question, when the answer will be mailed direct.

Question—C. H.:—I have a piece of red clay land and for years I have tried either corn or oats or something and it always fails to catch, then turn the stock in the remainder of the season. What is the best way to get it seeded? Which kind of clover should I sow? The land is high and dry, and most always is so hard one cannot cultivate it. It has lots of Canadian thistle on it.

Answer:—Evidently you have been unfortunate in working your clay land at the wrong time. Clay must not be worked while it is too wet else it will break down and puddle, preventing circulation of both air and water in the soil. When you can roll a ball of clay in your hand, and on striking it with your finger, it breaks into several parts, the land is ready to plow. If, however, it is sticky like putty, do not work it. If left until it is too dry, it will break into hard clumps like bricks, which means a bad seed-bed. Some farmers, after plowing clay soil, leave the furrows to dry out for a day or two. This is exceedingly bad practice. If the clay soil is in right condition, just enough should be plowed so that it can be disked or harrowed the same day. It will help your soil to apply about 1,000 pounds per acre of air-slaked burnt lime. Scatter this on the soil and harrow it in carefully. The lime will correct the sourness of the soil and will make the texture of the seed-bed better. Any kind of clover should do well on this soil. When you have produced a good seed-bed, I would advise drilling in barley or oats at the rate of about a bushel and a half per acre and at the same time seeding the ground to a mixture

of clovers, making sure, however, that you have used good grass and clover seed.

In order to insure a good catch of grass, put on 200 pounds of fertilizer at the time of seeding. It will be well to apply the lime at least two weeks previous to sowing the grain and grass seed. The fertilizer should analyze about 2% ammonia, 8 to 10% phosphoric acid and possibly 1% potash. It is available plantfood and will give strength to the young oats and clover the same as whole milk helps the growing cattle.

Question—J. S.:—We have a nine-acre field that had sod plowed under three years ago; it was cropped twice with corn and once with oats. This spring I put it into ensilage corn, and want to seed it next spring. As this field was never manured much I wondered if there was anything I could sow to get a good catch of clover the last time cultivating, to plow under as green manure this fall. This field is partly low, black soil.

Answer:—I would advise you to apply 200 to 250 pounds of fertilizer analyzing 1 to 2% ammonia and 8 to 10% phosphoric acid. This will materially help your corn and at the same time will supply available plantfood to start off your clover vigorously. If the soil is at all sour;—that is, if you can see moss or sheep sorrel growing in the field—I would advise you to scatter ground limestone over the field at once at the rate of a ton per acre. This should be worked into the soil as you cultivate the corn and will sweeten it so that conditions will be proper for the growth of clover. The ground limestone will not materially help the corn, but will sweeten the soil.

Poultry

Market Calendar.
The culling of non-layers from the flock should be continued through July. The season of high production is over and at the high price of feed, it does not pay to keep hens as breeders throughout the summer.

Sell in July old hens, broilers, green ducks and old ducks.

Heat is the great enemy of eggs, both fertile and infertile. Follow these simple rules, which cost nothing but time and thought, and you will add dollars to the poultry yard returns:

Keep the nests clean; provide one nest for every four hens.

Protect Your Stock

Increase your profits, comply with the sanitary demands of health authorities, milk companies, etc., and at a saving of time, money and labor!

Make your stables, dairies, poultry houses and cellars, bright, cheerful and free from lice, mites and the germs of infectious disease! Instead of using whitewash and then a disinfectant, use

ARBOLA

It disinfects and paints at the same time.

It is a finely powdered mineral pigment combined with a carbolic acid 20 times stronger than pure carbolic acid, but absolutely non-poisonous. Will not harm man, beast or fowl.

Ready to apply as soon as mixed with cold water—no waiting, straining or bother as with whitewash. Can be applied with either brush or sprayer. Dries a clear white. Will not blister, flake or peel off. No disagreeable odor.

Sold by Dealers Everywhere.
ROWLAND SON & CO., Ltd.
Toronto, Canada

Bedtime Stories

A Woodland Quarrel.

Reddy Squirrel was having an afternoon nap in his cozy home, deep in the heart of an old chestnut tree. Mrs. Squirrel was out for a little airing, and had left Reddy to mind the babies while she was gone. The little fellows were sleeping so quietly that there seemed no good reason why Reddy should not have a nap, too. His sleep had been badly broken of late by one of the babies that was having trouble with its teeth. So he curled up in a fat red ball and in seven winks was sound asleep.

Rat-tat-tat-tr-r-r-r-r-r-r-r-r-r-r! That was the noise that made Reddy Squirrel wake up with a sudden start. He raised his head and listened hard. What could it have been? A moment later he heard it again.

Rat-tat-tat-tr-r-r-r-r-r-r-r-r-r-r! Then Reddy Squirrel knew very well what the noise was. He had heard it many times in the forest. It was Downy Woodpecker drilling a hole in the bark of the old chestnut. Reddy Squirrel was very cross when he jumped out of bed and ran to the door of his house.

"Go away from here!" he chattered, as he pushed his head outside. "What do you mean by such noises on the trunk of my tree?"

Rat-tat-tat-tr-r-r-r-r-r-r-r-r-r-r! answered Downy Woodpecker, as he pushed his long, barbed tongue into a hole in the bark and pulled out a choice morsel.

"Go away, I say!" chattered Reddy Squirrel, louder than before. "You will wake up the babies!"

"You seem to be the only one to wake up so far!" retorted Downy Woodpecker, and his tones were just as unfriendly as those of Reddy Squirrel. "And don't bother me, for I'm busy getting dinner."

"Well, aren't there trees enough for you without trying to knock mine to pieces?" asked Reddy Squirrel.

"This is not your tree," replied Downy Woodpecker. "One of my cousins used to live here long before you came along. More over,

you come to my tree for nuts, when you feel like it, and only the other day you frightened my family almost out of their wits when you were climbing round there."

So they scolded and argued, but they got nowhere at all. And meanwhile the baby squirrels woke up and cried, and Downy Woodpecker made no further progress toward getting his dinner. It was Reddy Squirrel who finally put an end to the quarrel.

"I'll tell you what I'll do," he said at last. "If you will not come to my tree to drill for your dinner, I will not go to your tree for nuts or to harm your family. In that way things will be much more pleasant all round."

"Agreed!" said Downy Woodpecker. "That is a sensible arrangement. Why not go further than that? Why not get all the squirrels and woodpeckers in the forest to live up to the same arrangement? There are trees enough for all of us."

"Very well," agreed Reddy Squirrel. "I will see all my cousins at once, and you must explain the plan to all the woodpeckers. My, it will be fine to sleep in peace hereafter!"

That is the way the quarrel between the squirrels and the woodpeckers, a quarrel of very long standing, came to an end in the big forest. If you ever hear a squirrel and a woodpecker scolding away at each other you may know that one of them has broken the agreement, and that the council of the wood folk will punish him for it.

The Usual Programme.

Punch once had a scene in which a district visitor is shown entering the cottage of a poor woman. The visitor is evidently new to the business and somewhat embarrassed. The cottager says to her: "I'm quite well, thank you, miss; but I ain't seed you afore. Ye're fresh at it, ain't yer, miss?"

"I have never visited you before, Mrs. Johnson."

"The woman dusts a chair. "Well," she says, "yer sits down here, an' yer reads me a short Psalm, yer gives me a shillin', and then yer goes!"

A farmer with a head full of unused ideas is like a box full of plants—get spindly if not transplanted.

Drying Fruits and Vegetables

Man's primitive effort to avail himself of nature's gift in conserving and storing of foods for winter use was by sun-drying. In many parts of Europe this method alone is used in caring for the abundant harvests. To successfully dry fruits and vegetables a drier is essential. A small one may be constructed at home. This will enable the housewife to bring it indoors in case of sudden storm.

By the drying process the housekeeper can take care of all surplus foods for which she cannot find cans or jars. Small quantities can be dried daily, these may be ground with meal or flour and made into palatable bread.

Peas, beans and corn may be dried, and, if the necessity should arise, How To Dry Peas.

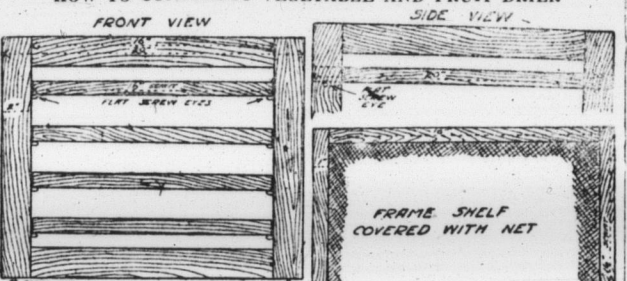
Shell peas, spread on tray of the drier, place in the sun or a place where a strong current of air will strike the drier. At first have a single layer of peas. After the drying has commenced several trays may be thrown together. Peas should be dried until, when one is dropped upon a plate or table, it gives off a hollow sound. This usually will be accomplished in three to five days. It is possible to dry vegetables and fruits and even beef in this way.

After the peas are thoroughly dried they must be cared for in a manner that will insure their keeping qualities.

It is necessary to make bags of cheesecloth. Place the dried peas in these bags, wrap in a newspaper, then again in a piece of cheesecloth. Now give the bag a coat of whitewash, taking care to apply it thoroughly about the string-end of the bag. Hang by string from ceiling in dry, cool store-room or cellar, or they may be packed in an old washbowl. Clean old pillow slips or other pieces of muslin may be used in place of the cheesecloth. A good size to make bags is 8 by 12 inches.

Beans may be dried by the same method.

HOW TO CONSTRUCT VEGETABLE AND FRUIT DRIER



To construct the drier, have twelve pieces of lumber, 2 by 2, each 16 inches long. Put together to form a skeleton box, using screws to fasten. Place a large screw-eye at the bottom at each of the four corners, so that the drier will set on these screw-eyes. Every four inches down the four uprights of the drier place a screw-eye, these to act as holders for the shelves, which will be placed upon them. Make skeleton shelves from 1 by 1 lumber. Each shelf will take two pieces 16 inches long and two pieces 18 inches long. Cover with screen wire and paint with white enamel to prevent rusting. These trays will slide into the skeleton frame. The whole thing may be covered with a clean piece of cheesecloth while the fruit is drying, so that dust cannot come in contact with the drying foods.

Your Problems

Mothers and daughters of all ages are cordially invited to write to this department. Initials only will be published with each question and its answer as a means of identification, but full name and address must be given in each letter. Write on one side of paper only. Answers will be mailed direct if stamped and addressed envelope is enclosed. Address all correspondence for this department to Mrs. Helen Law, 235 Woodbine Ave., Toronto.

F. S.—1. Dingy rubbers can be made to look like new if they are washed with ammonia and water, then covered with a thin coating of shoe blacking and allowed to dry thoroughly before wearing. 2. A silver mesh bag can be cleaned/satisfactorily by washing in warm water with pure white soap, using a small toothbrush to clean the links. Rinse and pat dry between cloths. 3. A sprinkling can which leaks slightly should have a cupful of melted paraffin poured into it and shaken around so the bottom will be evenly covered. When the wax hardens the can will be found to hold water without leaking. 4. In conveying food to the mouth it is proper to change the fork from the left to the right hand after cutting the food, although this rule must not be so strictly adhered to as to appear awkward.

Mrs. C. T.—1. If your pillow cases have worn in the middle you can use the end as a bureau cover. Cut the seam the depth of your bureau, open the pillow case and you will have a bureau cover ready to hem along back and ends. If your cases are embroidered or hemstitched, so much the better, because this will form the front of your cover.

Inquirer.—1. It is not considered good form to say "Pleased to meet you," or "Glad to know you," when introduced, but rather "I am very glad to meet you, Mrs.—," or some such sentence. Always use the personal pronoun "I". 2. Fig sandwiches are unusual and delicious; also gingerbread sandwiches. For the first use two cupfuls chopped figs, one-half cupful water, one-half cupful sugar, one-half cupful butter, white bread. Put the figs through a food chopper, add the sugar and water and cook until thick. Cool, add the butter and mix well. Spread between thin slices of sandwich bread which has had the crust removed. To make the gingerbread sandwiches, cut thin slices of gingerbread, which has been baked a day or two before it is to be used, otherwise it will crumble. Butter each slice and spread with honey. 3. A woman should rise to greet a man if he is the hostess or when a man much older than herself is presented to her, especially if he is distinguished in any way or is a clergyman. Under ordinary circumstances a woman need not rise to greet a man.

Keep on good terms with your horse; he will feed better and develop a better character. Let him increase the number of his human friends as rapidly as possible and attach himself to them so that he will leave his animal associates to quiet rest may save a horse's life and also a veterinarian's bill.

One can learn that a horse is sick as easily as he can that a human being is out of temper.

Many horses are timid by inheritance. It is not a fault, but a misfortune and should not be cured by whipping but by good treatment. The trouble lies not in his will, but in his over-delicate nerves. You will lose time by becoming angry with him. Suppress your angry tones and cruel strokes.

External and internal parasites, such as lice and worms, may cause the loss of 25 to 50 per cent. of feed and

when a man is introduced to her, but it is gracious and courteous for her to rise to greet an old acquaintance, whether man or woman.

Busy Bee.—1. A Panama hat which has become stained with perspiration can be cleaned in the following way: First immerse the hat in a solution of sodium hypophosphite; follow this with a dip into oxalic acid. The stain should disappear in an hour, or two; when it does, rinse the hat in clear water and afterward in a weak glycerin solution. The hat will be ready for blocking. 2. For an oily skin try boric acid, ½ dram; alcohol, ½ ounce; rose water, 5½ ounces. Mop off the surface night and morning with this wash, then dust with a fine rice powder.

Anxious.—To pasteurize milk heat it to a temperature of 145 degrees Fahrenheit for 20 minutes. It should then be cooled quickly to 45 degrees Fahrenheit and kept at this temperature till used. Pasteurization according to these directions will kill the typhoid and other disease germs in milk. 2. Silver which is to be given as a wedding present to a widow should be marked with the initials of the bride's maiden name.

F. D.—1. The first airplane actually to leave the ground was made by Sir George Cayley in 1796. 2. The newest submarines are able to immerse in sixty seconds. 3. St. Paul's Cathedral, London, is 364 feet high. 4. The "Old Lady of Threadneedle Street" is the Bank of England, so called from the street in which it is located.

Maid.—At a home wedding the bride party enter as follows: The officiating clergyman should enter the room first and he is immediately followed by the bridegroom and his best man. When they reach the part of the room where the ceremony is to be performed they turn and face the guests, who stand on either side, leaving a space or aisle for the bride party to walk along. The two bridesmaids enter side by side or singly, as you prefer, then the bride, who slips her arm through the left arm of her father or the person who is to give her in marriage in his place. When they reach the improvised altar the father steps aside and the bridegroom takes his place.

horsepower. Rid the animals and stables of these pests. A few cheap window and door screens will do much to give comfort to the horses, not only in the keeping out of flies but also in the providing of good stable ventilation during the summer months.

Potassium 3 times daily. Draw urine off with catheter.

The draft horse is the safest proposition for the average farmer. Keep on good terms with your horse; he will feed better and develop a better character. Let him increase the number of his human friends as rapidly as possible and attach himself to them so that he will leave his animal associates to quiet rest may save a horse's life and also a veterinarian's bill.

One can learn that a horse is sick as easily as he can that a human being is out of temper.

Many horses are timid by inheritance. It is not a fault, but a misfortune and should not be cured by whipping but by good treatment. The trouble lies not in his will, but in his over-delicate nerves. You will lose time by becoming angry with him. Suppress your angry tones and cruel strokes.

External and internal parasites, such as lice and worms, may cause the loss of 25 to 50 per cent. of feed and

Horse Sense

Azoturia is caused by high feeding during a few days' rest. After going a variable distance, the horse shows pain and lameness, sweats, falls or lies down, may or may not be able to rise, urine becomes thick and very dark in color.

Prevention consists in giving daily exercise or materially reducing grain ration. To cure, give purgative, make comfortable, give 2 drams iodide of potassium 3 times daily. Draw urine off with catheter.

The draft horse is the safest proposition for the average farmer. Keep on good terms with your horse; he will feed better and develop a better character. Let him increase the number of his human friends as rapidly as possible and attach himself to them so that he will leave his animal associates to quiet rest may save a horse's life and also a veterinarian's bill.

One can learn that a horse is sick as easily as he can that a human being is out of temper.

Many horses are timid by inheritance. It is not a fault, but a misfortune and should not be cured by whipping but by good treatment. The trouble lies not in his will, but in his over-delicate nerves. You will lose time by becoming angry with him. Suppress your angry tones and cruel strokes.

External and internal parasites, such as lice and worms, may cause the loss of 25 to 50 per cent. of feed and

Hogs

Put a pair of old cultivator wheels on the front end of the hog chute and it can be moved from one pen to another in half the time and with less work.

Poisoning rats in the hog lots is rather risky business. Pork is too high to be killed in that way.

It is well to be alarmed over the certainty of a decrease per capita in the number of cattle, hogs and sheep. Meat, milk, butterfat and wool constitute a great reserve force in our preparedness campaign.

Less crossing of breeds is responsible for fewer spotted swine than were common several years ago. One breed to a farm and one standard—the best—are pushing the swine industry ahead.

Little pigs that are given plenty of exercise will not overeat. Feed all they will eat up clean of a well-balanced growing ration; if they will eat what is put before them they are not being overfed.

The world's supply of wheat is certain to be dangerously short this year, and this shortage will undoubtedly greatly affect corn prices to the benefit of the grower.

Health

Mosquitoes and Flies.

We do not know what new enemies we may have to fight during the coming summer, but we are quite sure that we shall not fail to meet our old foes—mosquitoes, house flies, and all the usual insects pests. Inasmuch as it has been proved beyond all question that these insects are responsible for the spread of many dreaded diseases, we no longer have the excuse of ignorance if we allow them to multiply round us. In the tropical zones the mosquito carries yellow fever from one human being to another; in the temperate zone it carries malaria. Wherever men succeed in exterminating the insect these disorders die out.

The people of the more civilized parts of the world are paying much attention to this exterminating process and are spending large sums of money, with the result that in many localities the mosquito is becoming rare, much to the improvement of the general health, to say nothing of the general comfort. The worst of it is that a community of conscientious people is more or less at the mercy of their slack neighbors. It is discouraging to exterminate one's own pests only to have the wind drive a flock over from the next community. We must labor, therefore, to educate people morally as well as mentally in these matters and try to convince them that duty calls as clearly as self-interest.

The house fly is so notoriously unclean that the instincts of all good housekeepers are against him, irrespective of the question of health, but if all women were made to look at food through a microscope after flies had been on it, they would be still more particular. Investigators have proved by careful computation that one fly sometimes harbors more than a million bacteria.

The time to begin the fight against these horrors is the very early summer, when the first warm weather brings out the hibernating flies. Destroy each one ruthlessly then and there. Explain the danger of them clearly to children of every age, and show them a magnified picture of a house fly with the accumulated dirt on its legs. Preach aloud until everyone knows that flies spread typhoid fever, many other intestinal disorders, and especially the dysentery that carries off so many young children in the hot weather.

Guard Baby's Mouth. It appears so comforting to the baby to suck his fingers, fists or thumbs, and it is so tiresome to keep always on the alert to circumvent him that many mothers allow the child to form the habit. This is not only unsanitary at times, but if long continued, induces change in the shape of the mouth and teeth.

From the very outset of life, the mouth should be guarded. The baby in the cradle instinctively stuffs his fist into his mouth and sucks it hard whenever he experiences hunger. This habit favors the introduction of infectious germs. The creeping child, especially when allowed the freedom of the floor, which is the repository of household dust, sucks his fist or fingers at his peril.

Dust clings to his hands, hides under his nails, adheres to his rattle and playthings which occupy the floor with him, and when he puts any of them into his mouth he may inoculate himself with tuberculous or some other malady. At least, he may get some bowel disorder.

The "soother," or "consolatory nipple" or "pacifier," as it is variously termed, is conceded to be one of the most unsanitary devices ever invented for a baby's use and should never be permitted.

A baby should not be put upon the floor without first spreading a clean sheet over the floor or carpet to protect it from dirt and dust.

A TOAST TO CANADA.

(A Marching Song.)
Here's to the wheat lands,
The oat lands, the rich lands;
Here's to the grass lands,
Where luscious cattle low.

Here's to the ploughed lands,
The brown lands,
The quick lands,
The rich lands of Canada,
Where foodstuffs grow.

Here's to the deep mines,
The rare mines, the rich mines;
Here's to the black mine,
It's miner's lamp aglow,
Here's to the wild wood,
The strong wood,
The great woods,
The wooden walls of Britain,
Where the wild winds blow.

Here's to the great hearts,
The strong hearts, the true hearts,
The hearts in the breasts
Of Canadian men we know.
Here's to their purpose,
Their high, loyal purpose:
To give even life itself
That freedom shall not go.

—Joanna E. Wood.

Weighing His Words.

Young assistant (at telephone)—
Mrs. Watling wants to know where the squire is she ordered for dinner?

The Jolly Butcher—Tell her it's on the weigh now.

Replace old rail fences with wire and use the wood as a provision against winter scarcity of fuel.

The Doings of the Duffs.

