

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.

Beware of Frosted Clover.

Caution should be exercised in pasturing red clover after its growth has become checked by frost. Because many farmers have given their horses and cattle free range of clover fields after hard frosts in the fall without injury it is difficult to convince them that it is dangerous to utilize this tempting feed. There are many prudent farmers, however, who, knowing the danger of pasturing frosted clover will not permit horses, cattle or sheep to graze on it. If they do not fear injury to the animals they have learned from observation and experience that there is no surer means of injuring a good stand of clover than to allow stock to graze and trample it down. Even though the frosted clover does not quickly injure the animals that graze on it there is such certainty of injury to the clover plants that it is poor economy to let the stand become injured in the effort to find nourishment from feed of doubtful value.

The extent of injury and time required for it to become known is sure to vary with the condition of the animals given access to the frosted crop. The stock may have a regular ration of roughage and grain at the barn and no visible derangement of the stomach or bowels result, but this proves nothing as to the value of the frosted clover. It merely proves that under certain conditions it is not deadly, and may be used with impunity. But when animals have no other feed than frozen clover we have conditions that will be followed by derangement of digestion, which may be evident from forms of colic and acute indigestion, followed in due course by scours, constipation or severe inflammation of the bowels. Science has been unable to explain just how frost affects the digestibility of clover plants. But we do know that when frost gets in its work, the aroma, the juices and the gums change and eventually disappear, leaving only the skeleton or woody fibre. There is a perfect passing of the plant from its perfected growth back to earth and atmosphere, where it originally came. The feeding value of the plant declines rapidly as these nutritive juices and gums change or are dissipated.

The clover plant in full maturity not only contains the largest per cent. of nutrients, but it contains them in the form and quantity best suited to the requirements of the animal's digestive system. All departures from this perfection of feeding value tends to depreciation until it arrives at a point

of decomposition, when it is no longer fit for food. The freezing of an immature, succulent plant throws the juices to the surface and as they carry off the gums and sugars, they are soon washed off or change into compounds so as to leave the plant reduced in palatability and digestibility. It is poor economy to make horses, cattle and sheep try to digest plants that carry so little nutritive value, especially when his effort at economy is sure to result in injury to the succeeding crop of clover, and probable injury to the animals.

The Care and Preparation of the Farm Buildings for the Housing of Live Stock for the Winter Months.

This is the season of the year when every farmer should be considering the putting of his farm buildings in the best shape possible for the winter housing of his live stock, that is (1) in regard to cleanliness, (2) light, (3) ventilation and (4) warmth.

First—The farmer should see that all dirt and cobwebs that may have accumulated through the summer are swept down and a good coat of white-wash applied with a certain amount of disinfectant, such as is used on all farms, added to the white-wash, in order to eliminate as much as possible any disease which may be present.

Second—See that there are as many windows as possible in your buildings and that the glass is tight in all of them, for there is no better preventive of disease than plenty of light. If it is not possible to have double windows for all your stables be sure to use what you have on windows on the north side in order to conserve heat.

Third—Ventilation is one of the most important things in live stock industry, and unfortunately, one that there is not enough stress laid upon, for without proper ventilation, it is practically impossible to get the good, healthy development and benefit from feed consumed. We should have in our live stock.

Fourth—It is also very important to see that all boarding is tightly nailed down and all cracks closed in order to keep as uniform a temperature as possible and prevent drafts which are very detrimental to our live stock at certain times.

The Experimental Farm system is pleased at all times to forward bulletins of farm buildings, ventilation, etc., also answer questions and help prepare plans of such buildings as may be required on your farms.

FUNNY FOLD-UPS

CUT OUT AND FOLD ON DOTTED LINES



THERE'S PAPA'S COAT AND HAT ON GEE!
I WONDER HOW THEY'D LOOK ON ME!
THE COAT'S A LITTLE LARGE, YOU SEE!
I DON'T KNOW HOW THE HAT WILL BE!



Nest Boxes For The Birds.

Before the leaves fall is the best time to choose the spots where the new nest-boxes are to be hung. If this is left until Spring they must be up before the leaves are out of the way, and it is then very difficult to tell whether the spot chosen will be too shaded when the foliage has grown.

Possibly, however, the most important thing to consider first is the importance of these nest-boxes. So many have said: "We cannot stop to think about birds in war time." If one would stop to consider one would realize that the war has made the protection of birds all the more important. Innumerable instances might be given of the good they have done in saving crops from destruction by insects. Perhaps what would seem just now the most timely benefit is their lessening the need for spraying and much of the spray material is used for various war purposes.

One of the best authorities on birds has made the statement, after very careful observations, that if it were not for vireos, warblers, chickadees, kinglets, wrens and nuthatches, the insects destroyed by these small birds would quickly destroy our forests and set at naught the best work of the fruitgrower. The bluebird also has an excellent record as an insect destroyer, and of this bird a noted scientist has said: "One hundred bluebirds at even thirty insects a day (and they would devour many more) would eat in eight months about seven hundred and sixty thousand insects. If these birds were destroyed or driven away the result would be the preservation on the territory where these birds would have nested of about seventy thousand moths and caterpillars (a large proportion of these cutworms), twenty thousand leaf hoppers, ten thousand curculios, and sixty-five thousand locusts and grasshoppers. What injury such a horde of insects could bring to the farms and gardens! And the bluebirds, the destroyers of these pests fatal to our vegetable life, can be attracted to any spot by suitable nest-boxes hung in suitable places and protected from dangers. Is it not time well spent?

Many of the small birds that work among the trees literally saving our forests every year can also be attracted by suitable nest-boxes. The natural home of the chickadee and the nuthatch is a hollow tree, not an easy thing to find about most orchards now, but a nest-box made out of an old log with an egg-shaped oval scooped out is almost sure to attract them. As to the invaluable little wren almost any sort of a nest-box will satisfy it, and no tenant will pay better rent for the value received.

A Prayer for the World's Rebuilders. We send them off to school again today, This cool September morning. All the street Is musical with pattering of small feet And little, shining faces all the way Seem wayside posies for our smiles to greet.

I wonder if they ever guess or know With what strange tenderness we watch them go? Just children on their way to school again? Nay, it is ours to watch a greater thing— These are the World's Rebuilders, these must bring Order to chaos, comforting to pain, and light in blasted fields new fires of spring.

Dear Lord, Thy childish hands were weak and small— Yet had they power to clasp the world withal, Grant these, Thy little kindred, strength as true— They have so much to learn, so much to do!

You can't eat wheat and ship it.

GOOD HEALTH QUESTION BOX

By Andrew F. Currier, M.D.

Dr. Currier 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. Currier does not prescribe for individual cases or make diagnosis. Address Dr. Andrew F. Currier, care of Wilson Publishing Co., 73 Adelaide St. West, Toronto.

The Sin of Quackery.

There is a class of men calling themselves doctors and hanging out their sign as such, who pose as specialists in certain disorders which are very common among young men, but are not nearly so serious in the majority of cases as they are represented to be.

They also, as I have very good reason to believe, find diseases, particularly in the sexual organs of young men, which do not exist.

But because they impose upon these young men and tell them they have serious, exhausting and perhaps fatal diseases, they frighten them beyond measure and extort from them large sums of money.

When they have drained their victims of their pecuniary resources their interest in their welfare ceases. If a rejected young man can possibly raise more money he may be taken in by another sharper of the same kind.

When his money is all gone he perhaps awakens to the consciousness that he has been duped, and he is fortunate if he at length realizes that there is not and never has been anything serious the matter with him, and goes about his business with less and less worry about imaginary ailments and their serious significance.

I am not now referring to the venereal diseases, those are certainly as bad as they can be painted, and there is a class of quacks which feast and fatten upon them, they may or may not be distinct from those to whom I have been referring.

I have many times received letters from the victims of the quacks and charlatans to whom I am calling attention, asking me to advise them.

One of these bearing the essential marks of genuineness was from a man who said he was 23, was in great distress of mind and body and had been told by a so-called doctor whose name and address he gave, that he was suffering from varicose veins and disease of the prostate gland.

This quack got \$40 out of him for three months treatment, he then told me that he had paid \$200, up to the time when he wrote me, was then out of work, was suffering unbearable pain, as he said, and begged me to tell him where he could have an operation, performed to be paid for when he could get work.

Of course with this man and with many others who have written similar letters the disease was mainly in his mind.

He had been imposed upon by a series of advertising quacks, he imagined he was suffering and every time he visited one of the quacks fuel was added to the flame.

Varicose veins may come to anybody but that they should cause such dire distress as was depicted in the literature which this poor victim sent me, while conceivable, is possible only in rare instances.

The story was a fraud and an imposition. The other disease, while possible in a man of 23 is almost exclusively confined to advanced life. The medicines which these men give are probably the least harmful part of their treatment. It is more than likely that their only value is in their appeal to the imagination.

If they were to deal with powerful drugs, the drugs would be too expensive and they might do serious harm to the victim which would hurt the sharper's business in either case.

That such men should perform surgical operations when operations are not called for or required is one of the causes for the disrepute of legitimate surgery among large numbers of people.

It has led to mutilations and disfigurements and loss of function in countless cases which were entirely inexcusable.

Two hundred dollars of the earnings of a clerk or book-keeper or professional man means a good deal of money, and to throw it away in this fashion is worse than speculation in stocks. It would be well if every community where this evil abounds would take pains to get rid of it.

The Origin of Conscription.

The Athenians had a mode of universal military training more like that of modern Europe than were most of the other military training schemes of the ancient world. Every Athenian youth was compelled to do two years of garrison duty at Piræus, the Port of Athens.

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The Gentle Rebuke.

When a wealthy man who was stopping at a Florida hotel neglected to inquire the hotel rates, the proprietor took advantage of the oversight, and at the guest's departure presented an exorbitant bill.

The guest, however, paid without a murmur. Then, he said, as he folded up the receipt in his wallet:

"By the way, have you any two-cent stamps?"

"Yes, sir," said the proprietor.

"How many would you like?"

"Well," answered the guest, cautiously, "how much are they apiece?"

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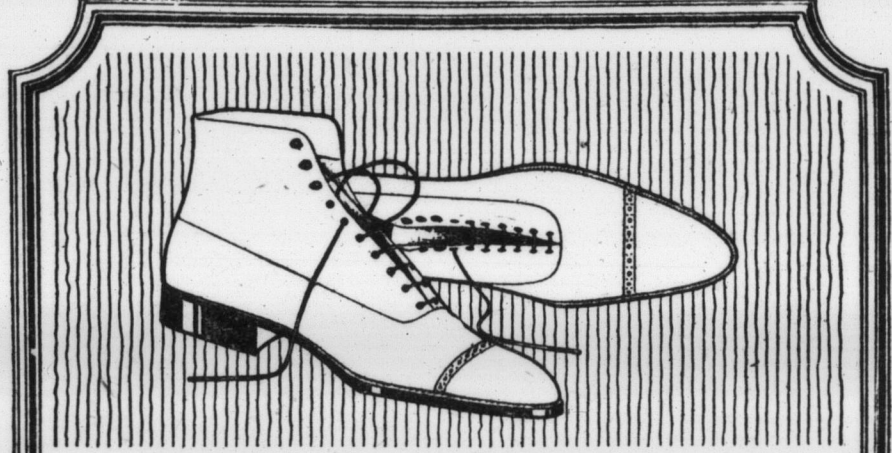
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MR. LEWIS MEETS A NATURE STUDENT

"You noticed that young fellow from the city that's been boardin' with me a spell this summer, Martin?" asked Mr. Lewis as he wound his reins round the whipstock and disposed himself aside upon the seat of his "porter wagon."

"I've seen him once or twice," admitted Mr. Martin. "Fust time was a day or two after he got here—mebbe 'twas a week. He looked kind of bunged up to me. That was one time. And the next time I saw him was down to the post office one mornin'. He walked kind of lame that day. What's been the matter with him?"

"Mr. Lewis grinned a little ruefully. "When he come," he said, "he was goin' to stay all summer and write a book. He was some kind of a scintist, so he told us. He'd studied up things in the schools in the cities, and now he'd got to the p'int where he was goin' to jest move into the country, where he'd have a chance to observe things at fust-hand—that's what he told me and my wife—and make notes of all he saw, and then he'd be at cocked and primed, near's I could gather, to write all about 'em."

"Well, why didn't he stay and do it?" demanded the practical Mr. Martin.

Mr. Lewis grinned again. "I kind of got the notion from what I've seen of him in the past three weeks," he said, "that in one way and 'nother he's picked up enough information to last him a considerable time, such as 'tis. But I don't believe much of it'll ever get printed in any book he'll be likely to write."

"What kind of information?" asked Mr. Martin, impatiently.

"Well," said Mr. Lewis, easily, "I d'know's I can make it plain to you any easier'n to tell you some of the things he's learnt. Fust place, one of the things he was sharp on was the 'wild flora' that grew round here; he tol' me he meant by that the wild flowers of the fields. I tol' him that I'd farmed most fifty years but I'd never come across any weed of that name, fur's I could remember. He smiled at me 'sif I didn't know much and tol' me he'd show me—and the next day he was good's his word. He come home 'bout noon with his hands and arms full of one kind of truck and 'nother, and round his neck he had 'nough p'ison ivy to fill a meal bag; he explained to us that it was a very pretty vine, and he'd brought it along to compare with his book and find out what it was, and he'd draped it round his neck so he could carry it easy, his hands bein' full. The next day he was somethin' to look at; his eyes was shut tight and his face all swelled out of shape, from that ivy. That was when you thought he looked kind of bunged up, I guess."

Mr. Martin nodded.

"'Nother thing he was sot on doin'," Mr. Lewis continued, "was to get 'quainted with the small animals in the woods hereabouts. He knew 'em perfectly from books, he said, but he wanted some fust-hand knowledge—and he managed to get some. He come limpin' into the house one day, takin' on bad. Seems what he took to be a woodchuck turned out to be a hedgehog, and when he undertook to stir it up a mite with his foot, he got his leg full of spines. I took him on the grain chest in the barn and pulled 'em out with p'ison, and every one I drew he'd yelp like a fox cub. You say he went a mite lame that day down to the post office? Well, that was why he did."

"I kind of thought that would tame him down and keep him from meddlin' with things he didn't know about, and it did for a spell; but yesterday he come chargin' down out of the pasture, wavin' his arms and battin' with his hat. He tol' me he'd found some 'fungoid' growth on a tree, but jest as he got ready to pick it some insect attacked him, and he had to quit. But he wanted that 'fungoid'—from what he said I thought it was some kind of toadstool—and wanted I should go with him and get it. I made up my mind he'd mebbe trod on a ground wasp's nest, and by goin' round the other side of the tree we'd steer clear of it."

"But when we got to the tree and he p'inted it out, I see what it was,—a hornet's nest as big as a peck measure,—and while I was tryin' to think of what to call him, I'm a sinner if he didn't walk up and try to pick it off with his hands!"

"No," said Mr. Lewis in response to a look, "I didn't wait to see what happened; I put off 'cross that pasture' faster'n a man as old and fat as I be ought to run. I got one look at that 'scintist' as I was startin' and he seemed to be in a kind of fog of hornets, but he was runnin'! He hadn't fell into the brook all over, I d'know but what they'd have stung him to death. And this mornin' he started for home."

"He come to the country to learn," said Mr. Lewis as he took up his reins, "and he did learn. But, as I said, I don't believe he'll feel to write a book about it!"

"If your foot slip you may recover your balance, but if your tongue slip, you cannot recall your words."

The end will come, and this much-tortured earth Find a forgetting and a fuller birth. Man can destroy, but Nature will replace, And from man's ruins raise a nobler race.

Poultry

Treatment For Fall Colds.

1. Clean dry, comfortable quarters should be provided, free from drafts.

2. Disinfect house with a five per cent. solution of formalin or some good coal tar product.

3. Wash heads of the affected birds with two per cent. solution of potassium permanganate and also put enough in the drinking water to give it a deep claret wine color. (Potassium permanganate can be secured from any druggist. An ounce or two will probably be sufficient.) For drinking purposes use about what can be placed on a five-cent piece to a gallon of water. Remove all other sources of water supply.

4. Feed plenty of good wholesome grains and a mash (wet) of bran middlings, corn meal and meat scraps, using about a teaspoonful of mustard to each twelve chicks. The mustard has a stimulating effect, and also acts as an appetizer.

The Dairy

Two representatives of the Belgian Department of Agriculture, Dr. G. Vanderheyden and Dr. H. Holtermans, are now touring Canada looking for Holstein-Friesian cattle and Belgian horses, in anticipation of purchasing at the close of the war. These gentlemen have already visited a considerable number of the best Holstein herds in Eastern Canada, and express themselves as very much pleased with what they have seen. They are looking for type, size, constitution and production, and breeders will do well to remember that these are qualities that must not be neglected if we are to build up an export trade with Belgium, Holland, Great Britain, South Africa and New Zealand. All these countries are likely buyers of Canadian Holsteins when shipping facilities are again available, and owners of the right sort of cattle will be in a position to do a profitable business. It is worthy of note that all these countries prefer animals rather dark in color; the American fad for light colors never having made any headway abroad.

Calves that are weakly are best castrated later than the more robust youngsters. In the ordinary calf they may safely be operated on when a week or ten days old.

If it is natural for the cow to give milk right up to the time for dropping her calf, it will mean a detriment to her if she is checked in the milk flow. If her natural course is to go dry, it will mean a deranged system if she is forced to produce milk.

Beekeeping With a Capital "B".

Too much emphasis can not be placed upon the importance of giving the colonies a thorough overhauling during early October, so that they will be in good shape for winter. It is far better to build them up strong now and see that they have ample stores for winter than to try to feed them in cold weather, along in November.

In some localities goldenrod, asters and buckwheat furnish abundant forage for bees during September and October. It is astonishing how much nectar the colonies will store from the fall bloom even where in some instances they have secured practically nothing from the early flow. This is evident where buckwheat is extensively grown.

Go over every colony as early as possible in October, and where one is lacking strength, give it some frames of sealed brood from stronger ones. When needed, some frames full of sealed honey may be transferred.

Bees that go into winter quarters with an abundance of honey are usually the ones that winter well. They need no feeding in the spring, for at that time they have sufficient stores with which to rear much brood for the early flow from the clovers.

It is best to strengthen the colonies with both bees and stores while the weather is warm.

No Skirt Hanger. Fold the skirt directly in the middle of the front and back breadths, then fold again, keeping the band even. Run a long hatpin through the band and slip the pin over a hook or nail.

"It is not Love that gives the clearest sight. For out of bitter tears—and tears unshed—Riseth the rainbow of sorrow over head And 'neath the rainbow is the clearest light."

Where silos are carefully filled, so that all air is excluded, there will be little trouble or loss from mould.