

FOR FARMERS

Seasonable and Profitable Hints for the Busy Tillers of the Soil.

WOOD ASHES AS A FERTILIZER.

I think the average farmer does not fully realize the value of wood ashes as a fertilizer, consequently they are in many instances made little or no account of, writes Mr. J. Newell Cotton. This is a grave mistake and should be speedily remedied, for ashes allowed to waste are dollars thrown away, something farmers can ill afford. Wood ashes are generally considered unavailable for low meadow land. My experience proves this to be untrue.

I consider them fully as efficient on damp ground as on dry land. My farm is a low brook meadow. What ashes I make and can obtain otherwise are sown broadcast in the fall on that portion of the farm which is losing its fertility and is manifest by a light, thin crop of grass. The result is astonishing. The spring following the application a perfect mat of white clover comes in with an increased growth of herd's grass. Land that was cutting three-fourths ton per acre before this application cut from 1 1/2 to two tons per acre afterward.

The peculiar part of the process, and what I do not understand, is where the white clover comes from. It always comes in where it was not seen before, when it is not on any other part of the farm. The ashes are responsible for it, but how I do not know. I have sown ashes on a clean piece of herd's grass and the next spring there would be a thick bottom of white clover in addition. This admixture makes admirable feed in winter for milk cows, which they respond to by filling the pails.

I have no definite plan in applying ashes for grass. I simply sow on liberally and nature does the rest. The fall is the best time to top-dress with grass. The winter rains and snows tend to aid assimilation. The ashes are leached down to where the grass roots are and they promptly respond. I much prefer ashes to manure for top dressing. Manure stimulates a rank growth of herd's grass, which cows dislike, and without materially increasing the bottom growth. Again, unless you have a manure spreader, the dressing is applied in lumps and in consequence the growth uneven. Ashes are fully as efficient if applied to plowed ground and stocked with grass, although the white clover is not quite so much in evidence unless it is sown at seeding.

Grass is not the only crop benefited by ashes. They cannot be equalled for cultivated strawberries and are invaluable when sown on to the onion bed in conjunction with the droppings from the hen roost. They are beneficial to corn, applied about the stalks at the first hoeing. I do not need to mention their value for grain, especially oats. Farmers that have raised oats on burned ground realize the value. More farmers are using ashes than formerly. The lasting qualities of ashes are remarkable. One application will make a heavy crop of hay for years. Their lasting qualities are far ahead of manure.

FEED CLOVER FREELY.

I wish to make it clear that large crops of clover cannot be continuously removed from our lands without taking large amounts of potash and phosphoric acid, which in time must be returned to the land in the shape of barnyard manure, or the land will become impoverished for the want of those elements, says Mr. C. C. Pervier. It is therefore necessary that the clover grower should feed as much of his product upon the farm as possible and return the manure to the land. There is far too much of the fertility of our Canadian farms being shipped away in the form of corn, wheat, oats or hay, that should be converted into meat or dairy products where they are grown, and thus retain the greater part of the fertility upon the farm.

There is, I believe, an unjust prejudice existing in the minds of many farmers against clover hay as a feed for horses. I prefer good clover hay to good timothy hay for work horses or colts. It is almost a perfect in itself. It is the quality and quantity of hay and not the variety that is injurious to horses, and as they are especially fond of it, care must be taken to feed less clover than timothy, or injury may result from excessive eating. In the dairy I have found no variety of fodder or hay equal to good clover hay as a milk producer, and I have repeatedly observed that a change of clover for timothy hay is followed by a reduced flow of milk.

I would sow clover with all the small grains each year, and if not wanted for meadow the following year, I would plow it under in the fall or the next spring, and believe that the increased fertility would more than pay cost of seed and labor. As a cleansing crop for ridding a farm of foul weeds, I have found nothing to equal it. By mowing twice a year, and the tendency of the plant to smother the young weeds by its rapid and heavy growth almost any noxious weed, except perhaps the wild morning glory, may be eradicated.

YOU CANNOT DO IT.

Do not try to be a farmer unless you are willing to do the work as well as wear the name. Nor to pay for a farm by going in debt unless you have the sticktoitiveness to hang on through the years of economy and sometimes of shadow which lie between you and success.

Nor to think that you can win the best place in farming by sitting on the fence or at the corner store talking farming while somebody else who does not care what becomes of things is doing the work.

Nor to imagine that you can "farm it" out of your own head without the help of the best papers and books. Nobody ever has done that. You are no smarter than other folks.

Do not think you can make a startling success because your grandfather did. It is the tub that stands on its own bottom that catches the shower.

Do not depend on that foolish saying, "The world owes me a living." The world demands value received. Have you given it?

Do not lay all your troubles to bad luck. It is the man who turns even bad luck to account that comes out first in the race.

It isn't worth while for you and me to try any of these things, for men have grown gray-headed and worn themselves out, body and soul, trying them already. Why should we follow in their steps?

DAIRY STOCK.

Can you keep your temper when milking a cow, even if she hits you a blow right square in the eye that makes the tears come?

A cow that will eat up all the profits and leave the farmer no reward for his labor, nor interest on the money invested, is poor property to have around. Better trade her for an old hen and chickens.

A horse is a horse. Yes, but some are more so than others. We know horses that are almost as human as any man. Kind treatment and good care develop the better part of the horse the same as they will a man.

We know a man who says when he wants good company he goes out to the barn and talks with his horse. No reflection here on the folks in the house, either. The horse is a social being. He likes to be talked to and to show his feelings in return.

Some horses, like some men, do not seem to look where they are going when on the road or about the farm. In consequence, they often stumble and quite likely something will be broken. The driver of such a horse must hold a close rein on him and be particularly watchful for bad places. It is the misfortune of the horse and not his fault that he makes these missteps.

FEEDING PIGS.

The bacon and hams must be produced on cheap food. Let the hogs utilize the clover pasture; eighteen per cent. less grain is required for a given gain when the hogs run on pasture, if but a three-quarter grain ration is given with the grass. The hogs gain practically the same amount per day as when given a full grain ration without the grass.

Utilize the pumpkins, apples and other fruits and vegetables that are too often wasted. The articles make capital food for the swine and they are cheap and abundant at this time of the year. Feed these succulent and bulky foods as a dessert after the usual grain ration has been eaten. They will not interfere with the amount of grain consumed, but will increase the appetite and tone the system. If the coarse foods are fed before the grain the swine will fill on these and not eat much grain.

Let the pigs in the orchard, after apple picking, to gather the fallen fruit.

Provide each pig pasture with a good shelter and nest. The pig likes to sleep outside on clear nights, but when a cold rain comes he likes to be where it is warm and dry.

Hogs will grunt their satisfaction over a pumpkin feast. When fed pumpkins less corn is required and they eat their corn with a better relish, it seems.

A variety in his diet suits the hog. He will eagerly devour small, unsalable potatoes and apples if given a chance.

The last of October or first of November is a very good time to kill a young porker for early use. The fresh meat is relished by the hard-working men. The cook who has grown tired of dressing chicken finds it easier to prepare a meal. We cannot agree with farmers who think it wasteful to kill a pig early in the season when pork is high-priced.

FOREIGNERS DIP FIRST.

Few people are aware that Britain's mistress-ship of the seas is more than an assertion, and that it is acknowledged by every nation. On entering a foreign port marine etiquette requires a man-of-war to salute the national flag by dipping its own, and in return the host lowers its flag. But no British ship dips the Union Jack until the foreigner has first dipped his colors. In all seas, both home and foreign, Britain claims to be saluted first, and this honor is rendered by every nation as the tribute to her sovereignty of the waves.

England was first divided into shires during the 7th century A.D.

HONOR TO SOME WOMEN.

FEMININE "SIRS" OF SEVERAL FOREIGN COUNTRIES.

The Services Which Won the Distinctions Conferred on Them.

Perhaps the best known foreign order to which women are entitled is the French Order of the Legion d'Honneur. The celebrated animal painter, Rosa Bonheur, was a member of the Legion d'Honneur, and Mme. Dieulafoy, the well-known explorer, who is the only woman permitted to appear in men's clothes, also entitled to wear the crimson ribbon. An interesting fact in connection with the members of the famous French order is that the holders of the decoration are entitled to a military salute, and the sentries come out and salute the ladies thus decorated equally with the men, says the London Mail.

There are in England only four orders for women, and these are all, with the exception of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem, of quite recent institution. The Royal Order of Victoria and Albert was founded by Queen Victoria in 1862. The Imperial Order of the Crown of India, instituted also by Queen Victoria, was founded in order to commemorate her assumption of the title of Empress of India, and the Royal Red Cross was founded in 1883, to reward services rendered in nursing the sick and wounded of the imperial services. The Order of St. John of Jerusalem was introduced into England in the twelfth century. The Queen is the only lady of the Order of the Garter.

AN AMERICAN LADY.

After Her Majesty the Queen and princesses of the blood, perhaps the lady who is entitled to wear the most orders in this country is Mrs. George Cornwallis West, better known as Lady Randolph Churchill, and curiously enough an American by birth. Mrs. West is entitled to wear the decoration of the Order of the Crown of India, the Royal Red Cross, and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. The last named honor she shares with Baroness Burdett-Coutts, Georgiana Countess of Dudley, Miss Agnes Keyser, Countess Howe, Lady Sarah Wilson, Lady Edward Cecil and Mrs. Josceline Bagot, all of whom rendered good service during the late Boer war.

The Marchioness of Lansdowne and the Duchess of Buccleuch are members of the Order of Victoria and Albert, to which belong all the princesses of England besides the Empress of Germany, the Empress of Russia, the Queen of Roumania, and the Queen of the Netherlands. Other well-known Englishwomen who belong to the order are Dowager Lady Lytton, Lady Cadogan, Lady Ponsbury, the Hon. Mrs. Malet and Lady Biddulph. The decoration of the order (first and second class) is a medallion of the late Queen and Prince Albert set in diamonds, surmounted by an enameled and jeweled crown attached to a bow of white moire ribbon. The third class of the order has the medallion set in pearls, and the fourth class an intertwined monogram of V and A in pearls.

The Imperial Order of the Crown of India has the sovereign at its head, and consists of princesses of the royal house, wives and other female relatives of princes of India, and wives and relations of any person holding the office of viceroy or territorial governorships in India. Among the ladies entitled to wear the insignia of this order are the Marchioness of Ripon, the Dowager Lady Napier of Magdala, Countess Roberts, Lady Horace Hamilton, and others, in all over 30 European ladies, besides the royal princesses and about ten Indian princesses. One of the last people to be decorated with this order by Queen Victoria was Lady Curzon, of Kedleston. The insignia of the Order of the Crown of India is particularly pretty, consisting of her late Majesty Queen Victoria's cipher, in diamonds, pearls and turquoises, encircled by a border of pearls, surmounted by an imperial crown enameled and jeweled, the whole being attached to a bow of light blue watered ribbon with a white edge.

ENAMELED DIAMOND CROSS.

Besides Mrs. George West there are several other women entitled to wear the little enameled crimson cross which forms the simple but distinguished insignia of the Order of the Royal Red Cross, among them Miss Nightingale of Crimean fame, Lady Wantage, Lady Roberts, a number of Nursing Sisters, Lady Sarah Wilson, and the Hon. Mrs. Goldmann, Lord Peel's daughter.

Mrs. E. J. Firth is the only woman who holds the Kaiser-i-Hind Medal, which was instituted to reward important services rendered to the sovereign in the Indian Empire. The most ancient order actually instituted for women was the Order of the Slaves of Virtue (Ordre des Dames Esclaves de la Vertu), founded in 1662 by Eleanor of Gonzaga, widow of Frederick III., Emperor of Austria, whose object it was "to encourage in the ladies of her court the sentiments of wisdom and piety." The empress herself was grand mistress of the order. All those desirous of becoming members of the order, which was limited to thirty, had to prove their noble origin.

The Bavarian Order of Elizabeth,

MENACE TO BRITAIN.

Alarm Over Unprotected Cables Lying in Shallow Water Off the Coast of Nova Scotia.

England has just awakened to another danger that confronts her. It is one of serious moment to Great Britain. Up to the present no device has been suggested whereby this danger may be obviated. The facts have been known for some time at the admiralty, but it is only lately that the main details have been revealed to the general public.

As the matter looks at present it seems entirely within the bounds of possibility that at the first outbreak of war against Great Britain the empire would be paralyzed by cutting her lines for the transmission of information, the British cables all lying in shallow water in a small area off the coast of Nova Scotia.

At a single stroke, delivered by any fast steaming cruiser or ocean-going tug, the Pacific fleets rendezvousing at Esquimaux, on the Pacific coast, and at Halifax and Bermuda, on the Atlantic seaboard, would find themselves cut off from Whitehall. They could receive no news from headquarters either as to the plans of the enemy or orders as to their own movements.

All of Canada would be cut off as well as the West Indies. The Canadian Pacific Railway would be practically worthless for the military purposes for which it was large-

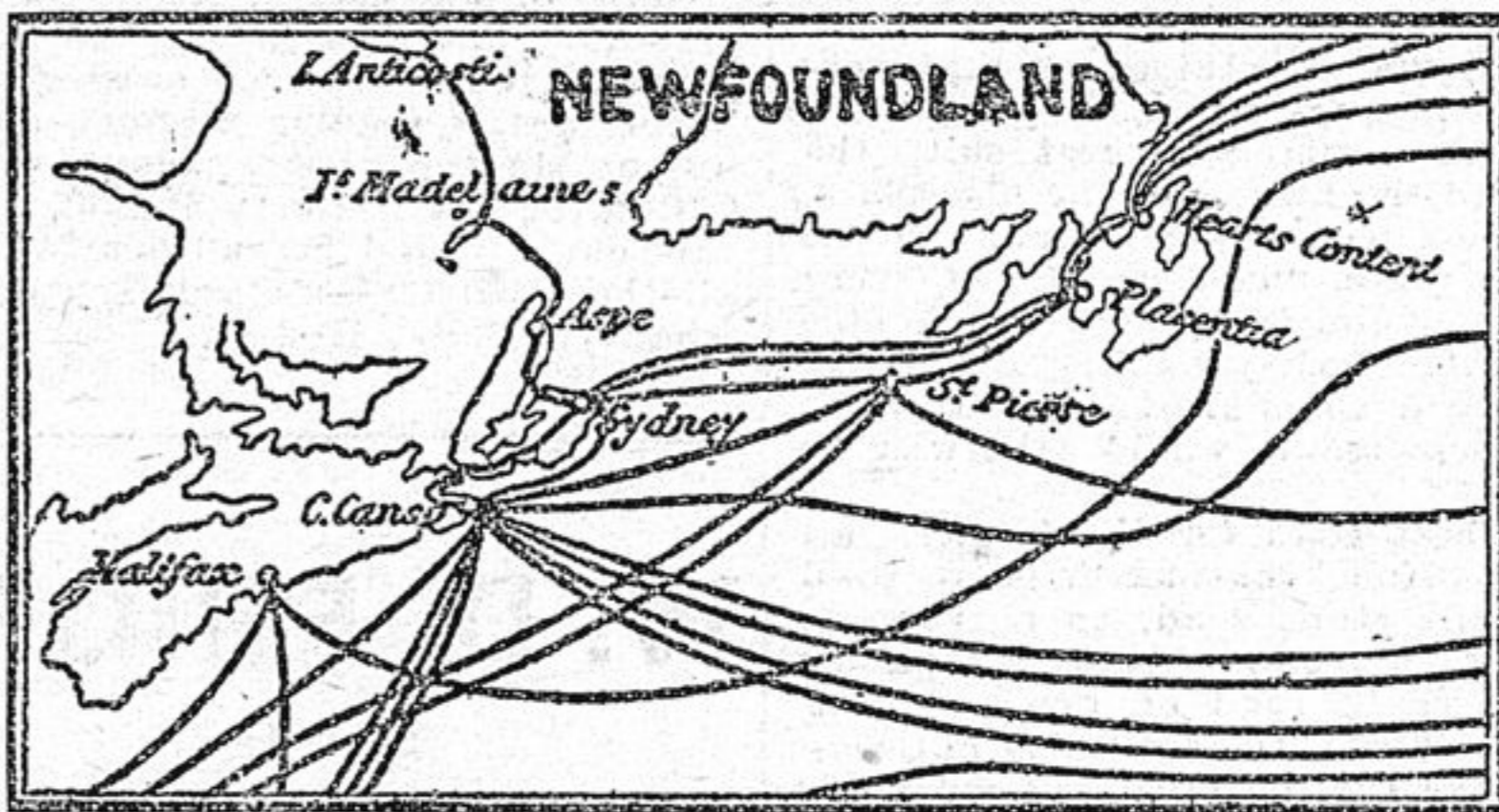
Pouquier Quartier (French), one cable, from Brest to St. Pierre, but passing Newfoundland in shoal water.

Generale (French), one cable, from Brest to Cape Cod, but not passing Newfoundland in shoal water.

German, one cable, from Emden via Azores to Cape Cod, but not passing Newfoundland in shoal water.

As the German cable runs partly through Portuguese territory it is regarded as unreliable and practically valueless to England in war time. It is true there are two cables from Lisbon to Brazil via the Cape Verde Islands, but their connections are so complicated and unreliable because of the countries in which the terminals are situated that they would scarcely be availed of in war time, even if they escaped being wrecked. They can therefore be disregarded.

Attention is called to the recent decision of the United States Supreme Court to the effect that those interested in the British cable between Manila and Hong Kong had no redress from the American Government for the destruction of their property and the loss to their business involved by Admiral Dewey's tearing up that cable when he seiz-



CABLES CONVERGING IN SHALLOW WATER.

ly constructed. By cable cutting the widely scattered British possessions would be isolated from the home Government.

The article in which some of these facts have been revealed in the current number of the Fortnightly Review, points out the grave danger in which such a possibility places Great Britain in connection with a war with the United States. Canso, where the cables converge after their long journey under the Atlantic, is not far from our northern naval stations on the Atlantic. It is within easy striking distance from the Kittery navy yard.

In one day it is estimated a vessel could destroy all the British trans-Atlantic cables, thereby placing Canada and the West Indies at the mercy of the enemy and leaving the British fleets at Esquimaux, Halifax and Bermuda without means of communication with London or even with each other.

In the case of France it is pointed out that the danger is even more serious, for while the exact location of the British cables is known, that of the French cables is unknown except to the French Government, while many of the British cables actually pass through French territory on the island of St. Pierre. At the time of the Fashoda affair, the Admiral Courbet, a French warship hovering in this locality, created consternation in British naval circles, for it was believed she had the single mission of cutting the English and American cables the moment war was declared.

THE CABLES.

Stretching along the Atlantic bed to-day are twelve cables, ten of them being American and British, with two French, while one German cable is being completed from the Azores. These cables are as follows:

Anglo-American, four cables, from west of Ireland to Newfoundland.

Commercial, three cables, from west of Ireland to Nova Scotia, but passing Newfoundland in shoal water.

Direct United States, one cable, from west of Ireland to Nova Scotia, but passing Newfoundland in shoal water.

Western Union, two cables, from Cornwall to Nova Scotia, but passing Newfoundland in shoal water.

founded in 1766 by the Electress Elizabeth Augusta, had an exclusively charitable raison-d'etre, and the Order of Queen Marie Louise (1792) was of a similar nature, and imposed habits of kindness to the poor and charity upon the members of the order.

Lady Chesham, who was one of the chief organizers of the Imperial Yeomanry Hospital in South Africa, is entitled to wear the famous Red Cross (an honor which she shares with Miss Florence Nightingale) and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem. All the orders mentioned have been much in evidence during the coronation festivities.

HOW TO KEEP YOUNG.

One of the secrets of keeping young, vigorous and supple-jointed, is to continue to practice the activities of youth, and to refuse to allow the mind to stiffen the muscles by its suggestion of age limitations. If men like Peter Cooper and Wm. E. Gladstone, who kept up the vitalizing exercises of robust manhood when far into the eighties, had succumbed at 40 to the thought of approaching age, how much of their valuable life-work would have remained undone!

Less than one acre in 100 in Norway is used for grain-growing.