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Societies

A O U W meets on the last Monday in each month, in their lodge room, Christoe's block. Flesherton, at 8 p.m. John Chard, W. M. ; J A Felsenadt, Recorder; W. Bellamy, Financier. Visiting brethren invited

PRINCE ARTHTR LODGE, No. 333, A. A M, meets in the Masonic hall. Strain's block, Flesherton, every Friday on or before the full moon. F H W Hickling W M. Chas. Munshaw, Secretary.

COURT FLESHERTON, I. O. F. meets in Christoe's Block the last Friday evening each month. Visiting Foresters heartily welcome. C. R., R. Waller ; R. S., W. A. Armstrong.

Medical

DR CARTER
M C P & S Ont, Physician, Surgeon, etc
Office and residence—Peter st., Flesherton

DR. F. T. Bibby,—Physician, Surgeon etc. Flesherton, Ont
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G W. MASCE
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J. W. FROST, L L. B.
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PROPRIETOR

Shallow Cultivation and Rotation

For many years farmers in eastern Canada were grain growers merely. Necessity forced the inception of such a system of agriculture. Habit and ignorance prolonged the practice of such farming.

Live stock farming, the system making the smallest demands on soil fertility, is rapidly supplanting grain growing. Parts of nearly every farm are now better in condition than they were a few years ago; and, further, such is nature's wonderful recuperative power, since the practical cessation of the tremendous drain of grain suportation the average crop return for eastern Canada has gone up very considerably. But, as every farmer knows, even live stock farming long continued means a gradual loss of fertility unless considerable food other than that produced on the farm is fed to stock and the manure properly cared for and utilized.

It is impossible to discuss the subject exhaustively in such an article as this, but one plan of cultivation found to give good results is where the meadow or pasture is plowed in August, the sod being turned to a depth of 3½ or 4 inches only. Immediately after plowing, if in a dry time, the land is rolled, then harrowed with a light harrow. It is then left untouched until grass and weeds start to grow when it is again harrowed, care being exercised to prevent the sod being disturbed. The harrowing or cultivating process is continued at intervals (as the weed seeds germinate) until October, when by means of a (3 plow gang) double mould-board plow the surface soil to be a depth of about 4 inches is put into drills about 22 inches apart and 8 to 10 inches high. This is found to be a most satisfactory preparation for corn, roots or grain. Where grain is sown, the soil is ready for seeding at a considerably earlier date than when lale fall plowing is practiced.

If allong with this system of shallow cultivation a proper rotation of crops is adopted most excellent results are sure to follow. As clover is the only crop which, while giving a profitable harvest still serves to enrich rather than to impoverish the soil, it is evident that clover should take a prominent place in August rotations in this country. With this fact in mind, a few rotations suitable for the improving of our lands may be offered as follow :— 3 year rotation, grain, clover hay, pasture, or corn and roots, grain, clover hay; 4 year, corn and roots or pease, grain, clover hay, hay or pasture ; 5 year, grain with 10 lbs. clover seed to plow down as fertilizers, corn and roots, grain, clover hay, hay or pasture; 6 year, same as five but left one year longer in pasture. The reason for surface cultivation and the use of such short rotations as given above is to increase the quantity of and place properly the cheif factor making for soil fertility. Dead vegetable matter exposed to moisture and warmth soon breaks down to humus or black earth, the factors above mentioned. Exposure to heat and intermixture of earthy matter serve to waste. Thus, repeated grain cropping with deep plowing provide the conditions best calculated to dissipate this matter most rapidly and most effectively.

The functions of this common, yet easily lost, substance are varied and important. Being, as anyone can find out for himself, of the nature of a sponge, it retains the moisture in a dry time, but will allow all superfluous water to rapidly and harmlessly percolate to the lower soil layers.

It holds loose, porous soils together, and so otherwise loose sands become staple and provide a good root hold for plants It renders dense, impenetrable soils open and porous permitting the free circulation of air and water and allowing the weak rootlets to penetrate the erstwhile impenetrable space in search of food. In brief, it is the chief requirement of good physical condition in our soils. It contains much plant food, since it is really vegetable matter, and a large percentage of this food is in available forms. It aids also in conversion of the non-available forms of the elements of fertility into available forms. Further, it retains near the surface the dissolved plant food which must otherwise have sunk into the subsoil.

The most important sources of humus on the average farm are farmyard manure and crop residues. Upon the proper application or use of these materials depends the future of Canadian agriculture.

Where the supply of humus is limited its location becomes a very important consideration. Now, most of our crops draw the greatest part of their food from the surface soil, for, while some roots of most plants penetrate to a considerable depth, most roots of all plants are near the surface. Plants of nearly all descriptions thrive best where the surface soil is mellow and rich in humus.

It would, therefore, seem to be clear that available plant food should be near the surfate of our fields and that our surface soil should be in particularly good physical condition of tilth.

How to secure these two requirements of rapid, rank and desirable plant growth must, therefore, be the first consideration of every would be successful farmer. Experiment and long practice seem to prove that shallow cultivation and some rotation, more especially the 3 year or 4 year in dry districts, and the 5 year in rainy districts, are most serviceable in increasing the humus in the surface soil, and so improving the physical condition, which means increasing the productivity of our fields.

J. H. GRISDALE, Ottawa.

On Saturday afternoon last a most deplorable accident occurred at the residence of Mr. John Matthews near New Lowell, which caused the death of Annie May, 15 year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wiggins, of Sunnidale. It appears that Miss Wiggins, who was staying with her uncle, Mr. Matthews, had started to do some ironing, and wishing to make the fire burn more briskly proceeded to pour on a little coal oil. The small can of oil caught fire and exploded in her hands throwing the contents over her and in a minute was enveloped in a flame. Being alone in the house, she at once hastened across a field to her aunt, Mrs. Barker, but before gaining her goal, she fell. The men in the field seeing her rushed to the scene but not before the poor girl was horribly burned. She was carried to the house, and the doctor summoned, but death relieved her of her suffering about two o'clock Sunday morning. The funeral took place on Monday afternoon from her parents residence to the Sunnidale cemetery and was largely attended. Mr. and Mrs. Wiggins, who are heartbroken over such a sad and lamentable death have the heartfelt sympathy of the whole community.—Stayner Sun.

The Assizes.

The Fall Assizes opened Tuesday afternoon at two o'clock before the Honorable Mr. Justice Lount. The Grand Jury having selected as their foreman, John Pratt, Collingwood, merchant, were duly addressed by His Lordship. Their duties this year are comparatively light, their being no criminal cases on the docket for trial.

The following disposition has been made of the cases so far tried :—

Beaton v. Ryan—An action between timber dealers residing in the township of Artemesia, the plaintiff claiming a balance due to him on moneys advanced to the defendent wherewith to purchase lumber for the plaintiff. The defendant counter claims for damages for breach of agreement. This case was settled out of court by the parties. Lucas, Wright & McArdle for plff ; W J. Hatton for deft.

Boyd v. Creighton :—An action for slander brought by George M. Boyd against Abraham J. Creighton, which was adjourned from the spring assizes. The case was again adjourned owing to the absence of some material witnesses for the defendant. Tucker & Cameron for plff ; Kilbourn & Kilbourn for deft.

Huston v. Young & Leslie :—An action brought by Wm. Huston of Owen Sound against Young and Leslie, saw millers, for damages received through the loss of a thumb and finger while he was working in defendants' saw-mill. He claims that the circular saw should have been provided with a guard and with a splitter, and that owing to the absence of these things the accident was caused, and claims that defendants were guilty of negligence in not providing these safeguards. The defence is that the use of a guard and splitter was impractible in the case of this particular saw which apparently was used for general purposes in the mill. The defendants also contended that the accident was caused entirely by the negligence of the plaintiff. Various witnesses were called by the parties, among others, several expert witnesses, as to whether a guard and splitter should have been provided. The Jury disagreed and were discharged. This will necessitate a new trial in the future. Lucas, Wright & McArdle for plff ; W. S. Middlebro' for defts.

Littlejohn v. McNichol :—An action brought by an Artemesia farmer for the seduction of his daughter. The defendant, who is now living in Michigan, denied point blank the story told by the plaintiff's daughter. The Jury disagreed and were discharged. Lucas, Wright & McArdle for Plff ; Tucker and Cameron for deft.

Fenwick v. Betts :—An action brought by plaintiff, a farmer in Artemesia, against the defendant as administrator of the estate of William Betts, who at the time of his decease resided in Eugenia. The plaintiff claimed that he had worked for deceased for some time, and had not received payment. He also claimed that, according to an agreement made between him and the deceased, he was to have certain grain which had since been taken by the administrator. The Judge tried this case without a jury. The deft. got about $75, each party to pay their own costs. McKay & Sampson for plff; Lucas, Wright and McArdle for deft.

Mr. James Dinsmore of Grand Valley sold a farm of 100 acres for $12,000.

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