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.

T. W.:—1. A five acre field has a clay sub-soil with five inches of black earth on surface, is it suitable for turnips and potatoes? 2. How deep should potatoes be planted and how many bushels to the acre?

Answer:—1. The clay soil with the black earth on top if carefully worked should be suitable for turnips and should produce fairly good potatoes. Potatoes as a rule do best on gravelly or sandy loam soil. 2. As a rule potatoes should not be planted more than 4 to 6 inches deep. Ten to twelve bushels to the acre is considered a sufficiently thick seeding.

M. F.:—1. Would it be wise to top-dress fields of grain with manure? The grain is wheat and oats. We were not able to get the manure out earlier.

Answer:—I would not advise top-dressing grain such as wheat or oats with manure at this date, because the manure will tend to dry out and be blown away before its plantfood can render the desired help to the grain crop. It would rather recommend top-dressing the grain with fertilizers at the rate of about 300 pounds per acre. Fertilizers are concentrated soluble plantfood. They are finely pulverized and settle immediately about the roots of the crop. Just as quickly as they get into the moist soil, plantfood becomes available and helps the growing grain just like fresh milk helps the growing calf. Fertilizers can be applied as a top-dresser by broadcasting them with a lime and fertilizer spreader or by crossing the grain with a regular grain drill, applying the fertilizer through the regular fertilizer section. Care should be taken to have the disks or hoes suspended so they will not injure the growing crop.

B. B.:—1. I have ten acres of sweet clover. I intended it for pasture but as help is hard to get I thought of using it for silage. What would you advise?

Answer:—I have no data to hand relative to the use of sweet clover as a silage crop. A little work has been done in British Columbia with common red clover for silage. It appears to be fairly satisfactory. My personal experience with second crop clover used as silage has not been satisfactory. If the sweet clover were mine, I would have it cut and made into hay just before it comes into flowering. Do not allow it to flower to any great extent or the hay will be too woody.

X. Y. Z.:—1. I am ploughing up a low heavy field of sod six years old. What would you advise sowing on it for sheep pasture? 2. Does mustard make good sheep food? 3. Is the spring or the fall the best time to apply fertilizers?

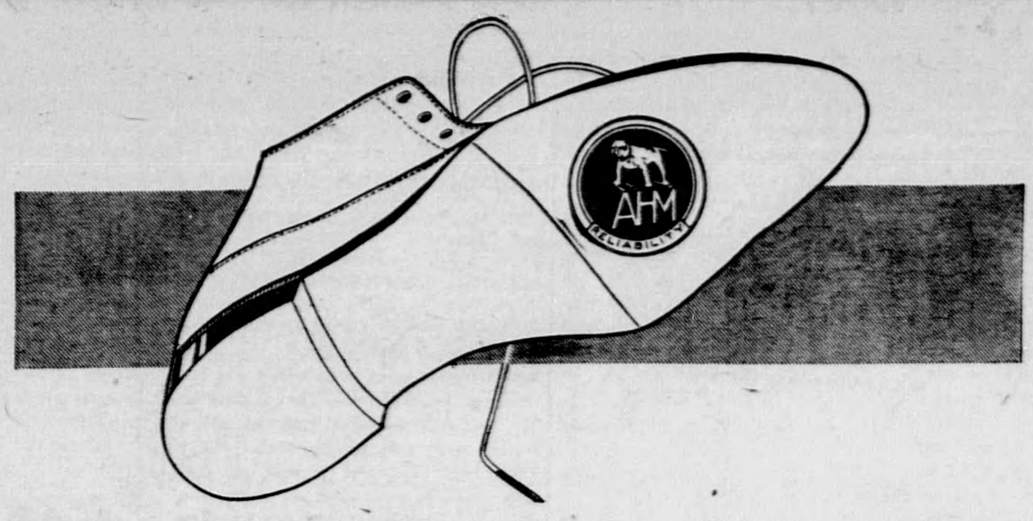
Answer:—1. You would do well to seed your sod field with rape. Dwarf Essex is probably the most satisfactory variety to use, seeding it at the rate of 2 to 4 pounds to the acre. This may be sown broadcast or in drills. It should come along sufficiently early to make a satisfactory sheep pasture, early in the Autumn. Rape has proven an exceedingly valuable pasture crop for sheep. 2. Some types of mustard make fairly good sheep pasture, but as a rule not as good as that obtained from rape. They are lighter yielders. In tests that have been carried on, yields of 13 to 14½ tons of fodder per acre have been obtained with mustard against yields of 21.2 tons per acre from Dwarf Essex Rape. 3. On spring sown crops, fertilizers are best applied at the time of seeding. They are concentrated available plantfood. If applied to the soil in the fall much of the soluble nitrogen and considerable potash will be lost. Of course, on fall-sown wheat or rye, fertilizers should be applied in the autumn at the time the seed is being sown.

The less good plowing you do the more good cultivating you will have to do if you get any corn to husk.

"Lack of paint causes a greater annual loss through deterioration than the aggregate fire loss for the past twelve months," aserts an authority. He urges farmers to apply paint frequently and liberally. There is no "best" time to paint, as many think, but care should be taken that the paints are carefully mixed and well rubbed into the cracks in the wood.

Rice boiled in milk makes a good breakfast cereal.

In dealing with strong spray solutions the farmer must protect himself. After his eyes begin to smart and his fingers crack open, he learns that goggles and rubber gloves are splendid protection. Vaseline or lard smeared on face and hands affords relief. Heavy leather gloves are serviceable when greased or soaked with machine-oil.



Why you should look for this Trade-mark on your Shoes

A TRADE-MARK is a manufacturers' signature. If a firm makes an article they are prepared to stand behind—they stamp it with their trade-mark. It is put on their goods so you may identify them. It stands to reason, therefore, that it is safer for the public to always buy "known" and "trade-marked" shoes rather than "anonymous" shoes.

Each working day of the year, the A. H. M. trade-mark is stamped on the soles of thousands of pairs of shoes for men, women and children, because we want you to know our shoes when you see them—because we are making a sincere effort to produce good values in footwear—because we believe you will find our shoes satisfactory—and buy them again and again.

Ames Holden McCready are Canada's largest makers of shoes. A.H.M. footwear is sold by thousands of dealers in every part of Canada—and by the leading merchants in almost every town.

We make such a large proportion of the boots and shoes that the Canadian people wear that you are probably wearing A. H. M. shoes now. However, the next time you buy shoes, to make sure, look for this trade-mark on the sole.

We make many grades and styles of footwear, but no matter what price you pay for them you will find them excellent value for the money. You will find it profitable and satisfactory in future to always make this trade-mark your guide in buying footwear for yourself and your family.

AMES HOLDEN McCREADY LIMITED

"Shoemakers to the Nation"

ST. JOHN MONTREAL TORONTO WINNIPEG EDMONTON VANCOUVER

3B

YOUR PROBLEMS

BY

MRS HELEN LAW

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.

Anxious Mother:—Will this little bit of "mother-wisdom" help to solve your problem? Never ask a child what she saw or heard when at a neighbor's house; that's the way to make a gossip of her. If she sees you are interested in her stories of what the neighbor was saying or doing, she will watch attentively next time for something to surprise you, and may even be tempted to improve a little on the truth to make her recital spicy.

X. Y. Z.:—The correct clothes for a bridegroom any time of day before 6 o'clock are gray striped trousers, black or dark oxford gray cutaway coat and white waistcoat, gray tie and spats, high hat and gray gloves. Of course, a dress shirt and standing collar and patent leather shoes. After 6 he wears full dress clothes. Since the bride is not going to wear white and the wedding will not be very formal, gloves need not be worn, but they always add to the looks of a costume. It's really a matter of personal taste.

Patience:—French chalk, fuller's earth, powdered magnesia and other absorbent substances will remove grease stains when the grease is clean. Solvents such as ether, chloroform and benzine must be used to remove grease mixed with dirt. Ether and benzine are inflammable and must be used with the greatest care.

Miss June:—Your desire for potato recipes will soon be satisfied, for within a few weeks' time the Canada Food Board hopes to give the public four booklets that will attract the attention of every woman who sets eyes on them and it is hoped that most of the women in Canada will, sooner or later. What's in an attractive cover? After all, it's our first instinct to look twice at a pretty face or a pretty cover. Well, these booklets are going to be good-looking. But it takes more than a cover to make them popular and they are going to be the most practical, up-to-date and S.O.S. publications that have yet been given to the women of Canada. Primarily they are intended to give specific instructions on subjects that now interest every thinking person and each is prepared by an expert. The subpects treated are bread-making, fruit and vegetable canning and drying, fish cook book and the cooking of vegetables.

Mufti:—Although the season is still young and the shoots of life in the garden are barely in their infancy, yet the prudent and patriotic housekeeper should already be turning her thoughts canning-wards. What is not eaten fresh must necessarily be preserved for the winter months, when it will help to lessen the use of the foods which are all-essential for export. The tenderest and most delicious vegetables for pickling are the first young growths of the garden which are thinned out, and often, through ignorance thrown away. For instance, these baby beets much surpass in flavor the later growth, so let Madame of the Rake and Hoe kill two birds with one stone and start her preserving early. If she is wise she will divide her sympathies this year between drying and canning. The simplest method of drying fruit and vegetables is by stringing them across a warm room. Carrots, turnips and beans need only be sliced; apples are better for coring, quartering and baking in an oven for a few minutes. If specimens dried in this fashion are experimented with, they will be found to take up their original shape and flavor when soaked for from 12 to 24 hours.

The Sunday School

INTERNATIONAL LESSON
JUNE 2.

Lesson IX. Jesus Gratefully Accepts Unselfish Service—Mark 13. 1 to 14. 9. Golden Text, Mark 13. 13.

Verse 1. Now after two days was the feast of the passover and the unleavened bread—"Passover" sometime means the paschal lamb which was killed and eaten on the fourteenth of Nisan, the first month in the Jewish year, in memory of the day when the Israelites prepared to quit Egypt. It sometimes means the paschal festival, which lasted from the fourteenth to the twentieth of Nisan. The "unlevened bread" sometimes means the unfermented loaves which the Israelites ate for seven days in commemoration of their departure from Egypt, and it also designates the paschal festival. Sought how they might take him and kill him—They proposed to devise some way of getting hold of Jesus without raising a popular tumult.

Not during the feast—They must therefore begin at once, as the passover opened on the next day, or delay for an entire week. Lest haply there shall be a tumult—Present at the feast would doubtless be a great company from Galilee. It would not do to run the risk of the opposition of these Galileans among whom were so many friends of Jesus. After the feast, when the multitude had scattered, would be a more favorable opportunity.

3. In Bethany in the house of Simon the leper—It is supposed by some that the narratives in Matthew, Mark, and John clearly refer to one and the same occasion. Luke's account of the anointing differs from these. In Luke the character of the woman is different—"a woman who was in the city, a sinner." In the first two Gospels she is designated as "a woman," and has no stigma attached to her, but in the fourth gospel she is "Mary," the sister of Martha and Lazarus. There is no reason for identifying Mary of Bethany with the woman which was in the city, or for attaching to the former the character of the latter. John introduces this incident immediately before the triumphal entry into Jerusalem. Some have taken the four narratives to be four versions of one and the same occurrence, but this does not reconcile the differences. Simon the Leper was probably one who had been healed of this malady by Jesus. Sat at meat—Literally, "reclined at meat." The posture of sitting appears to have been usual in the early history of the Hebrews but this gave way to the custom of reclining at meals. An alabaster cruse—Literally an "alabastron." Because vases were often made out of that material. Pure nard was the most costly of all fragrant oils in the Oriental world.

4. Some that had indignation—Matthew says they were the disciples. John tells us that Judas was the murmurer.

5. Three hundred shillings—That is, about fifty dollars. Given to the poor—The narrow, material viewpoint of the murmurers failed utterly to comprehend that to a loving heart filled with gratitude nothing is too costly to bestow upon one's beloved benefactor.

6. Jesus said, Let her alone . . . she hath wrought a good work—Here was a deed of moral beauty. He was touched by her lavish bestowment of gratitude and has no criticism for her ungrudging love. He would not have them waste one crumb when the five thousand were fed, but he does not regard this as waste.

7. Ye have the poor always with you—He becomes her apologist and vindicates her act. It is right to show kindness to the poor and money should be expended for this purpose, but there are times when a special duty takes precedence over other duties. Never again would she have an opportunity to show her gratitude to her Master, while constantly and all about her would be objects of her charity.

8. She hath done what she could—This sentence is peculiar to Mark. She has the praise of doing all that either means or opportunity made it possible for her to do.

9. Wheresoever the gospel shall be preached . . . for a memorial of her—Her deed stands alone in all the gospel narratives for the high commendation given it and for the prophecy spoken of it, and by it she is forever remembered among men.

Rod your buildings. It is a patriotic duty to eliminate fire waste, for fire waste means everybody's loss. It is not, as some people suppose, merely a loss by one individual which can be recovered through insurance. Anything that is lost by fire is absolutely lost, and the waste is there, no matter whether the individual gets paid for it or not.

Horse Sense

The Workhorse's Ration.

The workhorse should have rich food, as the richer the food the more easily it is digested. The amount the workhorses should receive should be regulated by the size as well as by the amount and kind of work he is required to perform. In practice, the workhorse is supplied with approximately 2½ pounds of provender daily for each 100 pounds of weight. Of this amount from one third to two thirds, the exact amount depending on the severity of the labor, should be grain, and the remainder clean hay.

When the work is very heavy, the grain in the ration should be increased and the hay diminished, as grain contains more energy and is more easily digested. On the other hand, when the work is light, the grain should be diminished and the hay increased. The morning and midday meals should be light. They should not possess much bulk, as much bulky food lessens the animal's usefulness. The heavy feeding should come at night, when the horse has ample time to masticate and digest his food, and is not obliged to go to work immediately after eating.

The hard-working horse should be fed and watered so frequently that he will neither become hungry nor thirsty. Thus, he should be fed at least three times, watered not less than four or, if convenient, six times daily. If accessible, therefore, the horse should be watered in the morning before feeding.

For the morning meal feed one fourth of the daily allowance at least one hour before going to work. This should be in a condition to be easily and rapidly consumed, so as to be well digested when the animal goes to work. He should be watered as he goes to work, and after five hours of exhaustive labor he should be given his midday meal.

Before being fed, however, he should have a drink of fresh, cool water, taking care that he does not drink too rapidly or gorge himself if very warm. Feed another one fourth of the daily allowance, and if convenient remove the harness so he can eat in quiet and comfort, and thus gain a few minutes of much-needed rest. Allow one hour to consume the midday meal. After being watered he is ready to begin the second half of his day's labor.

When worked five hours he should be given the evening meal. As he comes to the stable in the evening he should, first of all, be given a drink, exercising care as before to see that he does not drink too rapidly.

The horse is now ready for the remainder of the day's allowance. Unharness at once, and when the sweat has dried give him a thorough brushing. If convenient, he should be given a drink in two hours after feeding, when he may be bedded down and left for the night.

If for some reason the horse is forced to stand idle in the stable for a few days, the grain ration should be reduced; otherwise, he will become stocky and his legs become swollen and stiff. Many horsemen give a bran mash on Saturday evening and reduce the grain on Sunday.

In formulating a ration for the workhorse, due consideration should be given the cost, which will vary with the size of the animal, the nature of the work performed, and the cost of the food. Hays are ordinarily much cheaper than grains, especially on farms, but a hard-working horse is unable economically to dispose of a large proportion of bulky food. It requires time and energy to masticate and digest rough food, which lessens the usefulness of the horse.

Within proper limits the more concentrated the food the less time and energy will be required to make it available. While the relative proportion between the grain and roughage in the ration will depend upon the amount and kind of work performed, yet a hard working horse should never be expected to consume more roughage than grain by weight.

WANTED POULTRY, EGGS and FEATHERS
Highest Prices Paid
Prompt Returns—No Commission
P. POULIN & CO.
39 Bonsecours Market Montreal

SMOKE TUCKETTS
ORINOCO
CUT FINE FOR CIGARETTES