Soils and Crops

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WINTER GREENS MAKE HEALTHY HENS.

Poultrymen generally find that the use of green feed in the hen's ration is a help in reducing digestive disorders during the winter. It helps cut down the feed bill as the green feed is one of the cheap items in the ration. Hens which have access to green feed lay more eggs and at the same time their bodies retain the vigor and stamina necessary to produce hatchings eggs which produce vigorous chicks.

This problem of producing hatchable eggs is very important because of the large cost of reproducing the pullet flocks each year. On of the greatest complaints expressed by some poultrymen tell of the disappointment at having chicks die in the shell. Feeding green feed and sour milk seems to help in placing a strong spark of life in the eggs.

On many farms where clover is used for cow feed it pays to keep a tub near the mangers. Nearly every day a tub full of broken clover leaves and fine stems can be picked up for the hens. This is a cheap feed that the hens appreciate. It helps to furnish the bulk that is needed in the ration to balance up the more concentrated grains and dry mash. Watch the hens work over a heap of clover chaff on a cold stormy day and you realize it contains the bits of green food which they crave.

Certain types of specialized farming produce crops of value as poultry feed. The celery farmer may have some cull leaves which will be relished by the hens. I hear of one poultryman who has used celery for poultry feeding at the rate of seven pounds per 100 birds every day and they have kept in healthy condition and made a fine egg record. Some orchardists have a lot of cull apples which can be worked into the winter poultry ration. I find that hens like apples and they add a juicy succulent feed to the ration which seems to stimulate their appetites and help keep them healthy.

I have always heard that sudden changes in a poultry ration should be avoided, but do not believe that this applies to green feed in every case. A change from one green feed to another seems to interest the birds. When they have been on a diet of mangels for a few days they doubly appreciate some cabbages, cull apples, or fine clover. When hens have a balanced dry mash they seem in little danger of acquiring digestive disorders from sudden changes in green feed. Here is the reason. They always eat enough mash so their appetites are not ravenous for the green feed and they do not gorge on any one kind of feed.

Mangels are a good source of succulence and in general use by poultrymen who must raise a quantity of bulky feed on a limited acreage. In zero weather I think it is best to slice the mangels and feed them sparingly so they will be cleaned up without being frozen. Carry a large knife with the mangel basket and cut them into long strips, possibly four to six strips to each mangel. Then the birds eat them readily. Frozen mangels are not good poultry feed and may cause bowel trouble. Avoid all mouldy or decayed vegetables as they are dangerous to poultry.

Cabbages contain some green in their leaves which I think makes them of more value than mangels for poultry feed. Cutting the cabbages into a few slices instead of feeding them whole, helps to give all the members of the flock their share of the green feed. I feed my hens some carrots and also use Golden Tankard mangels which have a very rich golden yellow flesh. This seems to help in producing eggs with a rich yellow yolk and such eggs seem to hatch better than eggs with pale yolks. I understand that some of the eastern markets have customers who like eggs with pale yolks. I find that my private egg customers like eggs with rich yellow yolks. I consider this fortunate as the yellow yolked eggs seem to produce thrifty chicks. My only proof of this fact rests on the good hatches of thrifty chicks which have arrived when the hens have been producing eggs with firm rich yellow yolks.

Sprouted oats are probably the best liked and the finest source of green feed for hens. The only objection is the cost of the oats and the time required to sprout them. Many poultrymen find it cheaper to substitute mangels, cabbages and cull vegetables for succulence and use what oats they raise or buy to compose a third or fourth of the scratch grain ration.

Potatoes are used by some poultrymen when the crop is bringing a low price. There are always some cull potatoes that can be boiled and mixed with bran and given to the hens rather sparingly once each day. I find the hens like raw potatoes although they seem to like mangels better. Potatoes contain more food value than mangels and I do not believe their food value for hens has ever been fully determined. Considering the low cost of potatoes, a thorough experiment to find their value in the poultry ration might produce useful information.

Non-Freeze Liquid for the Radiator.

Automobile owners who drive their cars during the winter months find anti-freeze solutions for the radiators quite valuable. There are several brands on the market, all good and worth the prices charged. A similar fluid may be made at home very easily.

A garage owner whose supply of anti-freeze solution gave out during an extended cold snap, presented the following formula to his customers: Use a mixture of salt, baking soda and water. To each gallon of water add about two pounds of salt and one-fourth pound of soda. The salt and soda should be dissolved in the water while boiling and the solution allowed to boil for ten or 15 minutes. Salt and water should not be used alone on account of the corrosive tendency of the salt, which the soda will effectually prevent. This solution is for temporary use only and should be drained from the radiator at the earliest opportunity.

Alcohol, either wood or denatured, is used to make a comparatively cheap and efficient solution. It should be added to the water of the radiator in quantities varying with the climatic conditions. Where the temperature is likely to fall as low as 20 deg. F. below zero, four parts of alcohol to six parts of water will be necessary. If nothing colder than zero weather is to be expected, the proportion may be reduced to one of alcohol and three of water. It is advisable, however, when in doubt, to make the solution strong.

Denatured alcohol, although somewhat cheaper, is not quite so good as the wood product and it will be necessary to add about 20 per cent. more of this to get the same results.

Safety First.

Reggie—"Oh, that you could be with me in the many flights of thought I take on my highest mental plane!"

Miss Sharpe—"Flights on a good airplane would appeal to me as much safer, Mr. Sapp."

Wintering Horses Outside.

At the Experimental Station at Cap Rouge, Quebec, according to the report of the Superintendent for 1923, horses of all ages are wintered outside, having for shelter only single board, open front sheds, facing south. The sheds are on the side of a windswept hill, exposed to bleak winds. Experience has shown that horses wintered in this manner, if left or turned out early in September, go through the winter without colds and apparently without discomfort. Nature provides them with a much heavier coat of hair than they would otherwise have and it has been observed that the horses commence to shed their coats earlier in spring than those wintered inside. It has been claimed in some quarters that horses wintered in cold quarters require extra food to keep up the heat of the body. The experience at Cap Rouge leads to the opinion that the food that is eaten accomplishes more because it is better digested and assimilated out of doors than in the general run of stables in which the animals are kept tied up. Indeed it is felt that young horses remaining in the open can be developed more rapidly because they are able to consume and take care of a more generous diet.

Trees in Winter.

They are so strong, the grim, gaunt trees!
Their sturdy bodies shake
Beneath the fury of the winds—
And bend, but never break.

For they are shorn of shallow things,
Leaves lightly blown away,
And birds, the drunken waifs of joy,
That never come to stay.

And stripped to spirit form, they stand
Final and wise and strong,
Fearing no loss, nor fall, nor flight,
Nor silence after song.

—Louise Webster.

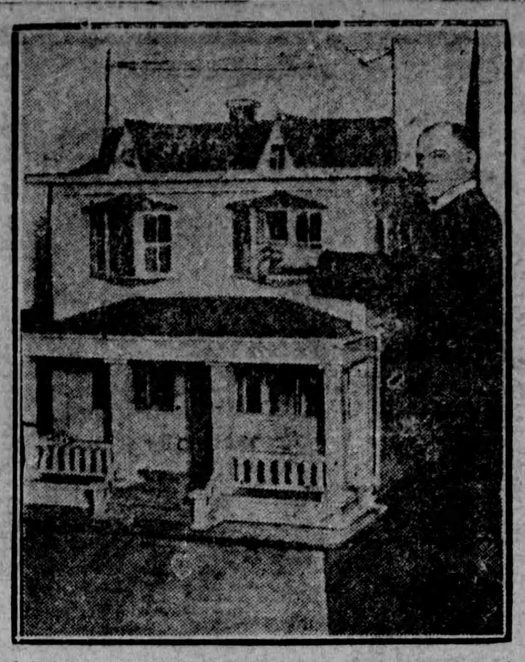
How the Canyon Was Built.

The tourist and his guide were overlooking the Grand Canyon.

"What a wonderful gorge," exclaimed the tourist. "I wonder how it was formed."

"Well," drawled the guide, "it happened like this: One year there was an oversupply of post holes in this neck of the woods, so the farmers piled them up here."

The world membership of the Boy Scouts movement is now nearly 2,000,000.



This doll house is made of tin and has six rooms, each of which has a miniature radio set. By opening the window of each and turning a switch, different radio stations can be heard.

Home Education

"The Child's First School is the Family"—Froebel."

Childish Imitators—By Josephine Weyman.

"Never mind, nobody'll know," said Mother with a smile at Aunt Edith as she picked up the biscuit which had fallen on the perfectly clean kitchen floor and put it back on the plate. 'Never mind, nobody know," echoed little Caroline later, picking up a small piece of bread from the floor of the cafe and putting it on the bread plate.

"That child is a born imitator," you will sometimes hear a parent say, and then watch amazedly as mother or father do or say something which they certainly would not want imitated!

All children are natural imitators. How much harder the parents' task would be if the child did not so unconsciously teach himself!

I know of no other method of so easily giving children the right standards of growth and development than suggestion and example. Here undoubtedly lie the father's and mother's joy and duty. It is for them to suggest in stories, in pictures, in play, as well as in their own personal lives, just what they wish their children to be. Let them wish it hard enough, have faith enough to try hard enough for it, and, as in the old magic tales, the wish is bound to become reality!

Have you ever heard a kindergartner ask, "What does the Little Pig do with his two little ears?"—and the children eagerly respond, "Why, he listens, he hears, with his two little ears!" How much easier, then, for the teacher to obtain and keep the attention of her class!

Dr. Dewey, of Columbia University, tells of a child who quickly picked up a doll's dress from the floor: "I'm not going to teach my child to throw her clothes on the floor," she said. So very often the children's play with their dolls, which to them are so actually identified with themselves, will present the opportunity for a suggestion of lasting value. "How sorry Dolly will be to have to sleep in such a rumpled bed!" or "I am sure that Dolly must like the nice way her things are put away." For this reason the wise mother will provide a box of the proper convertible shape if her little girl has no trunk for dolly's clothes. What little girl doesn't long for a trunk for her baby's small belongings?

Stories and pictures are particularly valuable for right suggestions. Not that every story must have a moral, but rather that good stories invariably suggest a nobler, lovelier way of living, an act of courage, a gentle thoughtfulness, or a sustained endeavor which at the story's end will bring its own deserved reward. If parents only realized how susceptible children are to such suggestion, that they could accomplish much by merely presenting the right pictures and stories, certainly they would examine more carefully the books and pictures placed before them.

"Oh, Robert, don't do that!" exclaimed a mother when she discovered her small son distorting his face before the mirror.

"I'm trying to look like the boy in the picture," he answered pointing to the colored supplement.

Duncan came to dinner recently with a big bump over his eye. "No, I haven't been fighting," he said in answer to his mother's inquiring look. "I interfered and the fellow I wanted to help didn't understand and struck me. He doesn't seem to know much anyway. He's a great big chap and only in the second grade. The fellows were going to punish him for throwing stones at them."

"Why did you want to prevent them?" asked his mother.

"I felt sorry for him. Somehow he always makes me think of Patsy."

"The Patsy of Kate Douglas Wiggins' story?"

"Yes, he looks like him only he's older. Poor kid, I guess he must have lost some years like Patsy."

"Have you read the story recently?"

"No; you read it to me when I was a little chap; don't you remember?"

"Yes," answered his mother thoughtfully.

Care of the Windmill.

On a great many farms the windmill is the source of power depended upon to supply water for the live stock during the winter months. We depend quite largely upon the mill because it is a cheap source of power and very reliable. My windmill has been in operation for over thirty years and is giving as good service to-day as the day it was put up.

I have been very careful to keep the mill well oiled. I think with the windmill, as with any other machinery, proper lubrication is very essential and quite largely upon it depends the life and service of the mill.

During the winter frequent oiling is very important. The older type of windmills, like mine, do not possess a reservoir from which the oil is splashed over the bearings or working parts. So, during cold weather when lubrication is much more difficult than in warm weather, this work must be watched closely. I endeavor to oil my windmill every two weeks winter and summer, with a good quality of medium oil.

One of the great causes of short-life to windmills is failure to keep the joints and adjustments tight. During the winter the windmill is subjected to heavy winds. The braces on the tower should be kept tight. The wheel also should be gone over carefully and all bolts and braces adjusted and tightened.—R. L.

Fill 'Em Again.

Myra, eight years old, was taking a great interest in everything she saw on her uncle's farm. At length milking time came and she was permitted to watch the job. She said nothing until the work was about finished, then piped up with this leading question:

"What do you do when the cow's pockets are empty?"

STOCKING THE LINEN CLOSET

Something About the Skill and Wisdom Needed for Bargain Hunting.

BY GEORGIA BELLE ELWELL.

"When is a bargain not a bargain?" You have probably known women who shop without aim or purpose, having no list of needed articles but who watch the bargain counters and when especially attracted by the price or appearance of something, make the purchase without really stopping to consider whether or not they need the article. Sometimes this may prove profitable but sometimes the money is tied up a long time before the purchaser gets the money's worth out of the so-called bargain.

There are other buyers who need certain articles but fail to determine the quantity necessary for the definite purpose and so, when seeing what appears to be a good buy, they purchase an amount sufficiently large to insure them against making an extra trip for more and quite frequently it happens that there is a remnant left which is probably never used.

NOT ALWAYS A BARGAIN.

An advertised sale does not always indicate bargains. The regular counter may have better bargains than the advertised bargain counter. To really get good bargains from a low-priced purchases standpoint, one must be a close observer of qualities, regular prices and store policies. When a merchant is overstocked in any commodity, he makes every effort possible to move the stock by advertising and attractive display but this does not necessarily mean a genuine reduction in price. Only careful observation of the quality and prices of the reuglar stock will enable the consumer to know whether bargains really are bargains.

There are usually two kinds of sales that are well deserving of the purchaser's attention. The pre-inventory sales are, as a rule, worth investigating. The Annual sales, which have become traditional with many stores, are usually a matter of great pride to the concerns which put forth every effort to make these sales a credit to and a drawing card for that particular store.

Practically every store in the country has one week in January devoted to the sale of all types of white goods from yardage materials to table linen, bedding, towels and so forth. It may be stock that has been on hand and has been reduced for the occasion but more frequently it is apt to be merchandise especially purchased for the sale and bought at a price which enables the merchant to sell at a lower than usual figure.

To get the most and best out of these January white goods sales we should know the normal prices of standard goods and have a list of articles needed carefully thought out. The buyer is then prepared to recognize bargains when they occur and may take advantage of them. If the buyer cares to be even better posted, it is advisable to watch the market quotations on raw materials in the daily papers of the larger cities. If you have been watching these, you now know that the price of raw cotton has advanced and that the goods now in stock can be sold for less than that which will replace them.

BUY BY THE PIECE.

It is a common practice with many householders to buy nainsook, cambric or long cloth at the January sales by the ten or twelve-yard bolt and commence work upon the summer underwear for the family. If there is any considerable amount of underwear to be made, much may be saved by cutting from the large piece. If all the patterns are gathered together at the beginning of the cutting and the various pieces of each pattern are marked with some distinguishing color or emblem so that they can be easily sorted after the cutting, for example—A1, A2, A3, in pencil; B1, B2, B3, in colored crayon, or ink; C1, C2, C3, in another color—it will be found that pieces of different patterns will often fit in so that only a fraction of an inch is wasted. If only one garment is cut, the larger pieces are of such curves and angles as to prevent such close fitting in or dovetailing.

It is a great back-saver to raise the table about eight inches for the cutting-out operation.

Lay all the patterns in place and pin before starting to cut. When certian that they are placed to the best advantage, cut and sort before removing the pattern.

Now is the time to replenish sheets and pillow cases, but whether it is better economy to make them or purchase them ready made must be determined by each housewife for herself. If time spent in making is considered, there is little advantage from a money standpoint in making them, as the cost of ready mades compares very favorably with that of the home made; but there is an advantage in making them if one does not desire the standard sizes in which the ready mades can only be procured. In the home we should be equally careful that the sheet is long enough to protect the sleeper from any possible germs lurking in the blankets and comforters as well as to protect them from soil by contact with hands that possibly were not too carefully washed before retiring. The feet are entitled to the same protection from cold as the rest of the body and so the sheet must be long enough to insure secureness at the foot of the bed, and there should be from twelve to eighteen inches at the side according to whether one or two occupy the bed. Therefore the sheet should be from twenty-four to thirty-six inches longer and wider than the mattress. Too large a sheet is hard to handle and launder and is therefore as much to be shunned as the too small sheet. They should always be torn to be straight or they will never be satisfactory. Ready made ones that have been torn will be so stamped.

PILLOW TUBING.

Pillow tubing is more desirable than seamed cotton as the ironing usually causes the greatest wear at the seam. Rip the bottom seam of the tubed case after it begins to show signs of wear and turn the tube so that the former edges are together in the centre and sew a new seam at the bottom. This gives the case more even usage.

Making the hems of sheets of the same width, insures more even wear as either end will be used at head or foot, and if made long enough to properly tuck in at the foot, there is little danger of reversing head and foot when making the bed.

January is a good time to stock up on towels for both kitchen and personal use. Linen is preferable to cotton. Crash and huckaback are more serviceable than damask although the latter is more beautiful. Here again the question arises as to the advisability of making or buying ready made. Usually a saving is made in making the crash towels but with the others it is merely a preference of hand work to machine work, for if one counts the value of time no money can be saved by making.

The marking of all articles in the linen closet with the date of purchase in indelible ink is a very splendid practice if one keeps a note book with notations made as to the firm and cost of purchases. It is thus possible to know which brands or makes have given satisfactory service and one can tell what to avoid or reorder in future purchases. If marked in the hem, parallel to the selvage, it is very inconspicuous but most valuable for future reference or when buying again.

SLIDING SHELVES.

If beds are of several sizes, the size of the sheets should be plainly marked so that they may be easily sorted in putting away the linen and also that they may be readily found if needed in the absence or illness of the housewife.

In planning a new linen closet, it will be found a great convenience to make the shelves sliding, with a slight ledge on the front and sides and a higher back. These can be drawn out similar to drawers but are less expensive to build and are less cumbersome to handle. They work similar to the wire racks supplied in the cupboard sections of some of the kitchen cabinets.

Radio Bug—"I have a crystal set in a match box."

Fair One—"I'd rather have a crystal set in a ring."

After farming in Alberta for five years, Nick Chyelte, a Norse-American from Montana, steps into the international limelight by winning the championship for alfalfa at the great Chicago Show. Chyelte farms on the Bow Slope in the C.P.R.'s irrigation block in the Brooks district and has made a special study of alfalfa, which thrives in that area.

Winter tourists at Glacier National Park are given a taste of the real thing. This dog team was brought from the north country to provide visitors with a taxi service.