Soils and Crops

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THE SEED CORN SITUATION.

In a normal season in our seed-corn-growing areas, the corn plants mature their seed sufficiently early for it to become well hardened while still on the stalk. This hardening process consists largely in loss of moisture and is necessary in order that corn may go into storage dry enough to prevent moulding of the corn or frost injury to the germ.

Unfavorable weather conditions during the latter part of the past growing season resulted in large quantities of corn failing to dry out or mature sufficiently to produce first-class seed. Unless such corn was artificially dried before heavy frosts set in, its vitality is sure to be impaired to a large extent. Such a condition calls for foresight and good judgment on the part of the prospective buyer, foresight in the matter of early purchasing, as seed corn is likely to be scarce, and good judgment in testing the germination of all seed corn bought in order that sufficient may be planted to ensure a full stand.

The present seed corn situation should also cause is to give thoughtful consideration to the question of the variety of corn we intend to plant. On the whole, seed of the earlier-maturing varieties is likely to be in better condition than the later-maturing sorts. A variety of corn which reaches at least the glazed stage in any district during an average year is therefore likely to be the safest to grow this coming season from the standpoint of the quality of seed that it will be possible to buy. Not only will the chances be better for securing satisfactory seed of such a variety, but the odds are equally good that more actual feeding value per acre will be secured than would be the case with most later sorts.

It would seem to be the policy of wisdom, therefore, for all prospective purchasers of seed corn to (1) buy early (2) buy a variety that will almost reach maturity in the district concerned (3) test thoroughly the germination of all seed before planting.—G. P. McRostie, Dominion Agrostologist.

HOGS.

March and April pigs get to market before the price collapse that comes late every fall. At no other time of the year does it pay as well to take an easy chair down to the hoghouse and sit up with farrowing sows.

Early spring nights are almost always chilly. The new pigs are apt to crawl under their mothers, in search of warmth, and get crushed. I find it pays to be on hand to effect rescues in case of need.

Year after year, every spring, I have sat up with my sows. It is not as inconvenient as it sounds. I bundle up warmly and take a good lantern along. The night passes quickly. I half doze in my chair, keeping one eye open for possible mischances to the increasing families.

Long ago I learned to distinguish between the combative squeals of the new arrivals and the choking moan that means that one of them is being crushed. It is well to shoo small wanderers back to their mother's side, where they will be safe from chill. —E. V. L.

POULTRY.

The first step toward successful breaking up brooding among hens is to get them just as soon as they begin to brood. If you allow them to set for two or three days, they are usually very hard to break. By starting the first day they show inclination toward brooding, it will only take a day or two to break them up.

Usually the best way is to go in at night, taking out any birds which are on the nest, and putting them in coops with slatted or wide bottoms. Feed them nothing but mash feed, with plenty of green food and water. Starving brooding hens is absolutely wrong, as it throws them clear off production and they are usually a month or six weeks coming back.

Get Machinery Ready.

Repair parts for farm implements should be ordered months ahead of the time to put implements in use, because there is often a considerable delay in obtaining parts, owing to the fact that that particular implement is no longer manufactured, and the part ordered has to be cast and machined after the order is received. And, moreover, there is sometimes weeks of delay in transit by freight. Besides, a grain farmer's time is worth far less in winter than in summer, so he can better spare the time to tinker up implements in winter.

It is necessary to replace worn out equipment with new:

1. When repair parts can no longer be obtained.
2. Advisable, when repair parts would cost more than a new implement.
3. Advisable, when new implement would prove more efficient than the old one.
4. If a considerable portion of an implement is worn out, or if it is of a too antiquated model, it is usually economy to buy a new implement.

A great many farm implements last the lifetime of the farmer, if well cared for, and minor repairs made when needed. For example, my father erected a windmill forty-five years ago which continues to pump water as when new. A double harness was in almost daily use, except Sunday, for thirty years, being washed and oiled once a year and repaired as needed.

Very many farms are not equipped with enough mechanics' tools so that the owner can do any repair jobs other than to toggle things together with baling wire. A larger assortment of mechanics' tools would pay good interest on the investment, if the owner is fairly handy with tools.

"Good Equipment Makes a Good Farmer Better," because he can do more work, better work, do it in the proper season, and at less expense. —A. N. C.

Boys Make Money Wtih Their Tractor.

One of the few tractors owned and operated in this part of the country is owned by my brother James and his friend, Glenn Storer.

When these boys first bought a tractor, some three years ago, all their friends prophesied that it would lose them money. "There isn't enough work on the small farms we have around here to anything like pay one to own a tractor," they argued. But the boys thought they knew how to get work for the tractor in seasons when the work on their own farms was negligible. In order to supply this work, they bought a small grain-separator, a wood-saw and a small mill for grinding feeds.

Last spring the boys not only plowed their own ground but also plowed quite a bit for their neighbors. This plowing was done at a cost of about 60 cents an acre for oil and fuel. After finishing plowing the boys disked part of their ground with the tractor. As soon as this disking was done the tractor was placed in the shed, where it could be hitched up to the mill two days each week to grind feed for the neighbors round about.

Along in the summer James's pond became almost dry and the tractor was given the job of pulling the big road scraper we used in digging a new one.

When the small grain became ripe enough to harvest, Friend Tractor was hitched to the binder and went chugging away until the grain was cut. Then, without a whimper, he backed up to the separator and pulled it out and began threshing grain. The boys made about a $1,000 run with their thresher last summer.

Threshing time was scarcely over when silo-filling time arrived and the tractor was put to work filling silos. The farmers who own silos own a company silage-cutter but hire the power to operate it.

Without even a breathing spell, millet, buckwheat and soybean threshing followed silo filling and close on the heels of the threshing season came wood sawing. There are still small patches of timber on nearly every farm in this neighborhood. Thus it is that nearly every farmer gets up a pile of wood for his winter's supply of fuel. The tractor's ample and steady power gains him many friends here.

At this time, November 12, wood sawing is the order of the day and such will continue to be the case for some time to come. Then the tractor will move back into its shed and while away the cold winter days grinding feed for his friends.—W. I. C.

Cement in Lime Makes Good Whitewash.

A good whitewash for stables, milk-houses, pig pens, hen houses, or any other building about the farm, may be made by using two parts hydrated lime, and one part cement in water. It dries hard and will not rub off. Better results will be had if hot water is used to mix. Make about as thick as paint.—J. M. P.

Promises That Much.

Edwin—"And we'll be as happy as any married couple that ever lived."

Angelina—"At least as happy as any married couple that ever lived together."

All the large, successful poultry farms of to-day started in a small way and gradually built on a firm foundation.

Mr. Cosgrove, the president of the Irish Free State, is back at work in Dublin after a long stay at Nice, where he went to recover his health. He is shown with his wife and son, Liam.

Results of Co-operative Experiments With Farm Crops in 1924.

The co-operative experimental work with farm crops in connection with the Ontario Agricultural and Experimental Union is rapidly approaching its pre-war magnitude. In 1924 there were 485 more experimenters than in 1923 and 578 more than three years ago. There were in all forty-two distinct co-operative experiments with farm crops in the past year. These included various tests with grain crops, potatoes, field roots, fodder crops, hay crops, etc.

Those varieties of grain crops which gave the highest average yields of grain per acre in the separate experiments in 1924 were as follows: Oats, O.A.C. No. 144; barley, O.A.C. No. 21; hulless barley, Guy Mayle; spring wheat, O.A.C. No. 85; buckwheat, Silver Hull; field peas, Potter; field beans, Michigan No. 630425; soy beans, O.A.C. No. 211, and winter wheat, O.A.C. No. 104.

The highest yielding varieties of roots in the co-operative experiments were: Mangels, Sutton's Mammoth Long Red; sugar mangels, Bruce's Giant White Feeding; Swede turnips, Perfect Model; and field carrots, Rennie's Mammoth Short White.

The following gives the average yield in tons of whole crop and in bushels of shelled grain per acre per annum of each of eight varieties of corn tested throughout Ontario under similar conditions for eight years: Golden Glow, 9.5 and 65.6; White Cap Yellow Dent, 9.4 and 61.4; Wisconsin No. 7, 10.6 and 60.6; Bailey, 9.5 and 59.5; Salzer's North Dakota, 9.1 and 56.4; Longfellow, 9.0 and 54.8; and Compton's Early, 8.5 and 52.5.

In seven years' co-operative experiments the average results in yield of grain per acre per annum from three different seed mixtures were as follows: Oats 1 bushel and barley 1 bushel, 2,104 pounds; oats 1 bushel, barley 1 bushel and Golden Vine peas ½ bushel, 2,019 pounds; oats 1 bushel, barley 1 bushel and Wild Goose spring wheat ½ bushel, 1,913 pounds.

In the 890 successfully conducted tests throughout Ontario in the past seven years, the Green Mountain potatoes gave an average annual yield per acre of 203 bushels and the Irish Cobbler of 177 bushels.

Within the past seven years 475 separate tests were made throughout Ontario in comparing the results from Northern and from Southern grown seed potatoes. The average annual yield per acre from the Northern grown seed was 190 bushels and from the Southern grown seed, 181 bushels. In every one of the seven years the Northern grown seed gave a higher average yield than the Southern grown seed.

In an experiment extending over four years and including in all thirteen tests the average annual yield of oats per acre was 62.8 bushels from the application of ten tons of barnyard manure, 58.4 bushels from the application of 200 pounds of 3-8-3 fertilizer, 56.4 bushels from the application of 200 pounds of 1-8-1 fertilizer and 51.2 bushels from land which received neither manure nor fertilizer.

For detailed information regarding these and other co-operative experiments the reader is referred to the forty-sixth annual report of the Experimental Union which is now being printed and which will be distributed from the Dept. of Agriculture, Toronto, Ontario, a few weeks hence.

Ontario farmers wishing to experiment with field crops in 1925 should write to the Field Husbandry Dept., O.A.C., Guelph, asking for the spring circular of co-operative experiments which will be printed about the end of February.

Plant Rapidly Growing Trees.

A report on foreign practices in timber growing reveals the fact that in private forests rapid growing trees are most favored. This has popularized the poplar tree. Its exceeding rapid growth, the ease with which it can be worked, and the many uses to which it can be put, have made it a favorite. Ash, larch and Douglas fir are also planted generously for the same reasons.

To raise turnip-rooted celery or soup celery successfully, the bottom leaves must be kept pulled off. Otherwise there will be large tops and no large roots. We raise both kinds of celery and found out this secret ourselves. In the fall we pack the roots in boxes of damp sand, and they keep fine until all used—Mrs. W. S.

Boiled vegetables should not be fed too liberally, or they will produce bowel troubles in fowls.

Home Education

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

Childish Fear—By Edith Lochridge Reid.

"You'd better behave for that policeman's looking at you—he grabs little boys that cry." So spoke Donald's mother when her small son was making a scene because she didn't have a penny to let him get some candy from the slot machine while they were waiting for the street car at the corner. Less than a month later Donald got separated from his mother when they were watching a street parade. A blue-coated officer attempted to help the child locate his home and parents but Donald was so terrified to have the policeman touch him that he almost had a spasm. The nervous shock of feeling he was in the power of the man he had been taught to fear left him half sick.

One only needs to walk the streets of any city for a day to hear similar remarks by parents. "The conductor will throw you off the car," or "See that man watching you—he'll chase you with his cane," these are typical expressions to quiet or frighten children because the parent is too weak in discipline to control them in any other way.

Recently a doctor remarked confidentially in describing the trouble he had encountered with a frightened child, "Some one ought to wake up mothers to the fact that it is very serious to have a child fear the doctor. This child to-day had been taught that I carry terrible things in my black bag for children that coax for rich desserts and fall out of trees because they disobey. She raised her temperature several degrees fighting me off."

And this case is only one of many. I heard a mother say to a child that was impatient about staying in bed for the necessary time after an attack of measles, "If you don't mind I'll send you to the hospital and the nurse will come along and strap you right in bed and not give you any dinner."

How much better to have read to the restless tot or planned surprises for her or to have played a new record on the Victrola. She should have willingly stayed in bed because she loved her mother and had been taught to respect authority rather than through fear of being sent to the hospital.

A threat to a child always denotes a weakness in the tie that binds that child to respectful authority. Why does a mother need to tell a child a big black bear will get him if he doesn't shut his eyes and go to sleep? Probably because she has managed his bedtime very erratically. Perhaps one night, he went at seven and the next night if the family wanted to go to a movie he trailed along and was put to bed at nine or later. Now, to-night, because there are guests and Son must be disposed of summarily he is told he must go right to sleep or—then follow the penalties that will come if he disobeys, all of which instill fear into his heart that lasts until he is old enough to become disillusioned.

Can't we aim to have our children do right because it is right, and not because they fear doctors, hospitals, officers and bears? Let us develop caution and judgment but not senseless fear.

A PADDY PARTY FOR MARCH 17

A Paddy Party to be given on St. Patrick's Day, on March 17, could not help but be a very merry one. It would not be natural to be stiff or glum at a table all decorated in Irish green, or to keep a straight face through the merry games which this day is sure to bring forth. So if you are planning a party for this last of the winter months select this felicitous day for the event.

You might send out your invitations like little high hats. Cut them from stiff shiny black cardboard or paper making the crown part double so that the invitation can be written inside. A particularly good way to make them, if you can call an artist friend to your help, is to draw a comical paddy face, make the hat double and separate, and after cutting a slit in the double hat—like a paper doll's hat—slip it on Pat's head. The invitation in either case can be the same. Write it in limerick form, in green ink, something like this:

I am passing around this high hat,
And I know you won't hate me for that,
For it comes to invite
You for Tuesday night
To a party in honor of Pat.

All the opportunity in the world is offered to the hostess on this occasion for her decorations. She has snakes, shamrocks, potatoes, pipes, tall hats and pigs for inspiration. The shamrock idea makes an awfully pretty scheme of decoration. The little three-leafed plants can be cut in large quantities from green tissue paper or cardboard, and strung on gold cord around the room. They can be hung at different lengths in the doorways for portieres. An idea which is not so generally used for the March party is the Irish fairy, or "wee folk." This would make a very lovely idea to work upon for the children's party, with a wishing well for the grab bag in one corner of the room, and a ring of pixies dancing around a circle of green grass and "stones" for the centrepiece on the table. The stones could be prize packages of candy with a tiny favor in each and wrapped in brown or gray paper.

Grown-ups will enjoy the regulation Paddy party better probably, and to give it variety it might take the form of a sight-seeing tour through Ireland. There will have to be a jaunting car, of course, and this can be that old but always amusing stunt of trying to keep balanced in a clothes basket swung between two chairs by putting an umbrella or broomstick through the handle. Each guest must take his turn in the jaunting car, and must be required to pick three shamrocks off the back of a chair just within his reach. If the party needs any livening up, this stunt is sure to do it.

The first stop is Blarney Castle. Here the guide points out the Blarney stone, which each must kiss. This is a piece of muslin marked off into stones with one painted green in the centre. This is hung on the wall, and each guest must try to kiss the Blarney stone by standing about two feet away from the wall and bending backward until he actually kisses the green spot in the muslin. The very athletic will be able to do it, but the others will have to be helped along. If this contest is not too unequal a prize could be awarded to the one who kissed the spot most exactly in the centre.

A famous fortune disclosure well is the next point en route. Into this, the guide says, any maid can see her fate if she looks into it at the time of the crescent moon. This is so arranged that a mirror surrounded by artificial moss and painted muslin rocks is tilted to reflect the picture of a bride. As each girl leaves the well, she is asked not to tell the others what she has seen.

For the centre of the table from which the refreshments are served use a tall hat turned upside down and filled with a ferndish of shamrocks. If you can get an old hat, it would be unusual to slit the hat in several places and let some of the natural shamrock leaves poke through the holes. Pass around plates on which you have a green pepper stuffed with mashed potato salad, with sprigs of parsley "growing" in it, brown bread and butter, sandwiches with very thin slices of tongue or corned beef between the bread, coffee poured from a tea pot, ice cream colored green, or flavored with pistachio nuts, and small cookies cut in the shape of harps, shamrocks, pipes and pigs.

During the refreshments suggest that each guest think up the funniest Irish bull he has ever heard. A prize might be awarded for the best one. And if your evening requires any further entertainment, or if you want to substitute a game for the journey through Ireland, try the following:

TEN PAT ANSWERS.

The Pat which destroyed the hole, Patch.
The Pat that is imitated, Pattern.
The Pat of high birth, Patrician.
The Pat as old as the hills, Patriarch.
The Pat who is hard to keep, Patience.
The Pat who protects your ideas, Patent.
The Pat who gives you a free ride, Patrol.
The Pat who loves his country, Patriot.
The Pat who is like his father, Paternal.
The Pat that is heard in the nursery, Patter.

MME. Margaret Vogel

Who has been made under-secretary to the French ministry of labor, being the first woman ever to have become a member of a French government.

"Bad luck" in poultry keeping is nothing more nor less than another name for wrong management.

Butter and Cheese Exports.

By the News Letter of the Dairy and Cold Storage Branch at Ottawa it is ascertained that during 1924, 22,343,939 lbs. of butter valued at $8,000,512 were exported from Canada compared with 13,173,711 lbs. valued at $4,905,608 in 1923; also that 121,456,600 lbs. of cheese valued at $22,575,787 were exported in 1924 compared with 116,201,900 lbs. valued at $23,445,401 in 1923. It will be seen that exportations of butter last year exceeded those of the year before by 9,170,228 lbs. and of cheese by 5,263,700 lbs. About thirty per cent. of the butter in 1924 and 80 per cent. of the cheese went to the United Kingdom. Nearly twenty per cent. of the butter went to the United States, or 482,613 lbs. over 18 per cent., 459,648 to Germany, and 265,019 lbs. to Panama.

The price of the table fowl is as much regulated by the method of dressing as it is by quality.

Matings should be made at least a month before you intend to incubate the eggs.

Wood ashes must not be mixed with the poultry manure under the roots. It not only injures the fertilizing value of the manure, but is likely to be injurious to the fowls.

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