Farm Queries

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Address All Letters to Farm Editor, 73 Adelaide St. West, Toronto. All Answers Will Appear in this Column. If Personal Reply is Desired, Enclose Stamped and Addressed Envelope.

H. P.—I have 10 acres of clay loam soil where I intend to sow oats next spring. Have grown alfalfa on this same piece of ground two previous years in order to inoculate the ground, and I wish to sow alfalfa with the oats this spring. Would you advise me if lime sown with the oats will injure them? Will lime help to stiffen the straw so that they would not lodge? What kind and how much lime would you sow? How many pounds alfalfa is necessary? Would you use fertilizer?

Answer.—Lime is not usually needed for oats. Cereals such as oats, barley, wheat, etc., thrive on a neutral soil. However, the addition of lime has been nown to increase the yield of oats slightly. The tendency of lime is to help strengthen the straw and is distinctly to help fit the soil for the growth of alfalfa. Alfalfa requires a definitely sweet soil. Likely it would be possible for you to have your soil tested before spring. You could get a small reacto soil set from your Agricultural Representative or from the Department of Chemistry, O.A.C., with which you could test the soil, or you could send in a sample of about one pound either to your Agricultural Representative's office or the laboratory at Guelph and have it tested for lime. This will tell you definitely whether lime is necessary to sweeten your soil.

The use of phosphate-potash fertilizer, or, if your soil is not particularly rich, an analysis of fertilizer of about 2-12-6 at the rate of 200 lbs. per acre would help insure your catch of alfalfa and would tend to strengthen the straw of the oats.

The Field Husbandry Department, O.A.C., recommends the sowing of about twenty lbs. seed per acre in order to get a good stand of alfalfa.

M. F.—Would it be wise to top-dress fields of grain with manure; the grain is wheat and oats? We were unable to get the manure out in the fall.

Answer.—The stand of wheat can be materially helped by a light top-dressing of manure. This can be done any time through the winter, but be sure not to apply too heavy a dressing of manure on the wheat. About 4 to 5 loads per acre has been found to give excellent results.

For the oat field, the manure can be applied during the winter if the soil has been plowed. If not, we would suggest that the manure be applied to the corn or some other ground and that the oat crop be left to benefit from the hold-over effect after the corn crop. It is doubtful if oats at prevailing prices will pay for much application of manure.

H. B.—I wish next spring to plant potatoes on an acre of land which has been in sod the past year. Soil is light, well drained and had stable manure on it last fall. Is commercial fertilizer necessary on this ground?

Answer.—We cannot say that fertilizer is necessary for the growth of potatoes on this soil, but our demonstration experiments show that where potatoes planted following sod are fertilized at a rate of 750 lbs. per acre with such fertilizer as 2-12-6 or 2-8-10, an average increase of over 90 bushels per acre has been obtained. At present prices this would show a paying interest on the money invested in fertilizer.

INFECTIOUS DIARRHOEA.

On one to three days after birth, the lambs suffering from this disease, will stop nursing, have a dull look and spend the time lying down. The excreta is yellow or grey-white in color and soft or fluid. Infected lambs usually die in three days after the disease starts. This disease is due to a germ that gains entrance into the stomach and intestine of the lamb. Dirty yards and pens are dangerous, as the ewes lie down on such, getting their teats soiled, and thereby transfer the germs from the dirty floor to the mouth of the lamb. Clean up and keep the sheep premises clean and dry. Fresh bedding should be provided for all lambing pens and changed for every case. If the disease has been troublesome in past years, anti white scour serum, can be used on both the lambs and ewes as a preventative. Prevention by maintaining a high degree of sanitation around the premises is easier and less expensive way of control, than is treatment.

NECROBACILLOSIS OF LAMBS.

This disease is serious and generally kills the lamb before it is two weeks old. The germs gain entrance to the circulation through the raw naval cord, at the time of birth. Clean lambing pens, fresh bedding for the pen, disinfection of the stump of the naval cord with a ten per cent. carbolic solution or other disinfectant for a few days until the cord heals is strongly advised. If this disease which causes grey spots to develop on the liver, has been prevalent on the premises during the past year, move the sheep to new quarters and keep them away from the old pens and yards until the lambs are two weeks old. Clean up, as medicines are of little use when this disease enters the circulation of the lamb.

Britain Welcomes Visitors

London—Many persons who will visit Britain, whether for business or pleasure, next year may like to see during their stay how industry of one kind or another is carried on.

They should bear in mind that the authorities in the big industrial towns and ports are only too glad to show interested visitors around the areas under their control, provided they receive advance notice.

Industrialists, those interested in trade and commerce, department store heads and so on are as a rule willing to facilitate the inspection of their factories, warehouses, exchanges and shops to bona fide visitors.

Not all institutions, of course, are open to the public, but except where precautions must be taken to guard some trade secret the visitor from abroad can expect a hearty welcome.

Thrifty French Write Christmas Greetings

A former Canadian student in Paris writes: "The expensive habit of Christmas cards, you may be sure has not yet taken firm hold among the thrifty French. They send personal greetings, that's certainly enough, but rather by the direct, intimate and fatiguing path of writing Christmas notes. The week preceding the holiday, hence, becomes a period of care and tribulation to anyone blessed with many friends. To each must go a short note of sentiment, each note similar to the other, each with its odd scrap of news and its best wishes for the coming year. Ten, 20, perhaps 30 or 40 letters, carefully penned in longhand go forth in the mail, while the sender waits eagerly day by day to see whether he or she too is going to be remembered in like fashion."

Lancashire Turns Optimist, Encouraging All Britain

Manchester, Eng.—Those who are watching keenly for any definite signs of improvement in industrial affairs will note with satisfaction that Lancashire is beginning to admit that things are not quite so bad as they were, where cotton is concerned.

Any improvement in this direction can hardly fail to be reflected not only by the many other industries of Lancashire, but by the business of Great Britain as a whole, and, eventually, it may be added, by the business of the world.

PUSH ALONG

A wheelbarrow will stand on its two legs and never move a foot unless you lift it up and push it along. So would business. You've got to pick it up and push it along.—Van Amburgh.

Rhodesians Still Pawn Children

Pawning of children and giving of young girls in marriage still persists in Rhodesia among the native tribes.

Muffs For Men?

Nothing like fur for Moissaye Boguslawski whose tiny muff has Chicago ladies all a twitter. Moissaye is a pianist and says the "muff" keeps his fingers limber.

To Robert Browning

There is delight in singing, though none hear ..
Beside the singer; and there is delight
In praising, though the praiser sit alone ..
And see the prais'd far off him, far above. ..
Shakespeare is not our poet, but the world's,
Therefore on him no speech! and brief for thee, ..
Browning! Since Chaucer was alive and hale
No man hath walked along our roads with step
So active, so inquiring eye, or tongue
So varied in discourse. But warmer climes ..
Give brighter plumage, stronger wing. the breeze
Of Alpine heights thou playest with, borne on
Beyond Sorrento and Amalfi, where
The siren waits thee, singing song for song. ..

—Walter Savage Landor, "Poems."

Holiday Question Is Decided in Chile

Santiago, Chile. — The "battle" of Chile's weekly half-holiday, waged between the "English Saturday" and the "Chilean Monday" has ended, like many a Chilean revolution, in a partial victory for both sides.

For years the large British commercial establishments, which handle the major portion of Chilean trade, have closed on Saturday afternoon, known here as the "English Saturday."

Monday is known as "Saint Monday" as many operatives who have been celebrating over the week-end treat it as a holiday and fail to turn up.

The retailers have been clamoring for the "Chilean Monday," claiming that Saturday afternoons bring in the bulk of the business while Mondays are dull.

The Ministry of Labor has settled the problem by awarding "English Saturdays" to the staffs of wholesale firms and "Chilean Mondays" to the retailers and everybody is happy.

In Walking

(From The London Observer.)

Dark stooks of corn on fields of silver stubble,
I would be one in this and one in these:
A stone of stones in earth,
A leaf of leaves on trees.
And thus we'd merge our separateness together
And form a plume with each a single feather.
I'd be or birds that cut the cold blue air,
A breath in wind
A star of stars up there.
And so I'd lose my solitary trouble.

—Joan Adeney Easdale.

A man's diary is a record in youth of his sentiments, in middle age of his actions, in old age of his reflections.—J. Q. Adams.

Sunday School Lesson

January 22. Lesson IV—Jesus Forgiving Sin—Mark 2: 1-12. Golden Text—The Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins.—Mark 2: 10.

ANALYSIS.

I. STANDING ROOM ONLY, Mark 2: 1, 2.
II. A RESOURCEFUL FAITH, Mark 2: 3-5.
III. A REWARDED FAITH, Mark 2: 6-12.

INTRODUCTION—Mark 3: 6 records an astonishing fact: "And the Pharisees went out and straightway with the Herodians took counsel against him, how they might destroy him." It would be difficult to imagine a more improbable combination of parties. The Pharisees as a party had risen in troubled times to defend the faith of their fathers. They were firm believers in the Law, intensely patriotic, always chafing under foreign bondage, lived up to a high level of moral purity, longed for the coming of Messiah. Yet, when he came, they took counsel with the Herodians how they might destroy him.

The Herodians, as T. H. Robinson points out, were all that the Pharisees were not. They stood opposed to every Pharisaic ideal. They were pledged to the upholding of the Roman power. With the politics, ethics, theology of the Pharisee the Herodian had not the slightest sympathy. Yet it was to them the Pharisees turned in order to destroy Jesus. Such an alliance can be explained only by the bitterest hatred. Today's passage is the first of a series of incidents (Mark 2: 1 to 3: 6) which show how that antagonism originated and grew. There are mileposts along the Costly Way that Jesus chose in the wilderness.

I. STANDING ROOM ONLY, Mark 2: 1, 2.

Apparently our Lord was at this time conducting a series of preaching tours in the Lake district with Capernaum as his centre. During one of his visits to the city the healing of the paralytic took place. When it became known that the preacher and miracle-worker had returned, crowds flocked to the house where he was staying. Even the aproaches from the street were blocked with people.

Why did they come? Was it the appeal of great truths uttered from the heart that drew them? Sometimes it is said, by way of advice to preachers, "Preach the truth and the churches will be filled." Jesus discovered that loyalty to truth in some situations is one of the best ways for emptying churches. In his healing work Jesus was providing something that people wanted. When the time came when the things they wanted were not forthcoming, they deserted him. While Jesus' compassion for all people in trouble was an essential part of his God-revealing personality; nevertheless, it was a constant occasion of embarrassment. People were continually interpreting him in terms of their own desires. When, in his determination to provide for their spiritual needs he failed to gratify their material desires, Jesus went to Calvary.

II. A RESOURCEFUL FAITH, Mark 2: 3-5.

Into the midst of the crowd at the doorway there pushed four men, carrying on his bed another man who was paralyzed. The word translated "bed" means a "poor man's bed,' simply a folded sheet or something of the kind. Finding their passage blocked with the throng of people, they made their way to the rear of the one-storey house, climbed up the outside stair to the roof, through which they lowerod their man into the room where Jesus was. This they did by removing the top covering of earth, then the reeds, branches, thistles over which the earth was pecked, then the cross-sticks which covered the main beams supporting the roof. Possibly they just eniarged the opening of the roof which was used in summer to let down the grain and other provisions which wei dried on the roof. Luke 5: 9, with its "tiling" and "couch," is Roman rather than Jewish.

Jesus was accustomed to insistent people, but the determination and resourcefulness of these four men, now peering down through the roof, must have won his admiration. "Faith," in v. 5, refers to their confidence in his willingness and ability to help them.

III. A REWARDED FAITH, Mark 2: 6-12.

Jesus read the mind of the sufferer, or gathered from something he said that he was troubled in conscience. Mark does not necessarily tell us all that happened. The surrounding spectators were astonished to hear Jesus say, "Son (child, a word of affection), thy sins are forgiven thee." Noticing at once the indignation showing in their faces, he asked the scribes, "Which is easier to say to a man, 'Thy sins are forgiven,' or 'Rise, take up thy bed and walk'?" They knew, of course, that it was easier, although blasphemous, to declare a man's sins forgiven. The results of the attempt would not be so easily recognized. The bodily healing, when it did take place (vs. 10-12) was treated as an external proof that Jesus had power to forgive the man's sins. This passage in Mark would serve as a vindication to the early church of it claim to declare the forgiveness of sins in the name of Jesus.

"The true sign of forgiveness is not some mysterious signal waved from the sky; not some obscure emotion hunted out in your heart; not some stray text culled out of your Bible; certainly not some word of mortal priest telling you that your satisfaction is complete. The soul full of responsive love to Christ and ready, longing, hungry to serve him, is its own sign of forgiveness. It is not sorrow for sin for the sake of sorrowfulness that Jesus ever wants. He wants sorrow for sin only that it may bring escape from sin."—Phillips Brooks.

The resourceful faith of this man and his friends was thus rewarded. Had he or they become discouraged at the gate and said, "No use trying to get in there, let us go home," he would have remained sin-burdened in soul, and a paralytic in body. Using the brains God gave them, refusing to admit defeat in the face of apparently insurmountable difficulties, their prayer, that is, their dominant desire was answered.

Jesus had once more asserted his authority. He had also said things that were unorthodox. The fact that he had healed a man, body and soul, was as nothing compared with the fact that he had gone "off" on a point of doctrine. The antagonisms and suspicions which dogged our Lord's earthly life from that time on had begun.

Hungarian Officers Work on Tramways

Budapest. — A swaggering young representative of present-day Hungarian militarism has just been instrumental in revealing the post-war tragedy on a distinguished Hungarian officer who fought in the war.

In an overcrowded street car on the line which runs from the Stock Exchange to the zoo, the conductor accidentally bumped into a young subaltern, who turned on him and dressed him down mercilessly. The conductor made no reply and continued to collect fares and punch tickets until the young officer, angered at his calmness, seized him by the collar, shook him and demanded to see his identity card.

The conductor silently produced it and after a glance at the card the young officer turned red, stammered out a full apology and left the car at the next stopping place. The conductor's papers showed him to be a distinguished ex-officer, a cavalry captain permanently disabled 50 per cent. by war wounds, and holder of a number of high decorations.

The incident came to the ears of the Hungarian author and parliamentary Deputy, Joseph Pakots, who asked a question on the subject in Parliament. The Minister of War ascertained that twenty-five doctors, twenty-three lawyers, fifty-one engineers and many ex-officers are thankful to earn some kind of a living as conductors on the Budapest tramways. On the motor buses a similar state of affairs prevails. The earnings of a conductor vary between 100 and 150 pengoes a month.

Imports and Exports of Gold by Britain

British imports of gold bullion and coin during the first eleven months of 1932 totalled £140,217,843 and the exports £113,052,191.

The principal countries from which gold was imported were: British South Africa £59,516,366, British India £51,990,156, United States £3,057,831, Australia £5,074,386, Rhodesia £3,333,071, Straits Settlements £2,353,221, New Zealand £1,633,640.

The leading countries to which gold was exported were: France £30,455,246, Netherlands £13,040,455, United States £6,141,955, Switzerland £3,879,322, Belgium £3,250,444.

LIVING

There appears to exist a greater desire to live long than to live well! Measure by man's desires, he cannot live long enough; measure by his good deeds, and he has not lived long enough; measure by his evil deeds, and he has lived too long.—Zimmermann.

CHARITY

To give to the sick, the infants and the infirm is real, genuine charity, but to go about picking up the shiftless and the crooked and handing these loafers a cup of coffee is not charity.

What Some Famous People Like to Eat

Chef of London Hotel Says Feeding Celebrities is Tricky Job

Feeding the famous is a tricky job! M. Francois Latry, whose job it is, says so. He is chef of the Savoy Hotel, London, and knows the gastronomic foibles of monarchs and celebrities from all over the globe.

"I never know what they are going to ask for," he said. "I have been asked for frogs, roast peacock, and birds' nest soup!"

When Osbert Sitwell, the poet, demanded chrysanthemum salad—made from chopped chrysanthemum petals garnished with a special sauce — M. Latry produced it. When Winston Churchill asked for a rare Italian hor d'oeuvres, made from smoked ham and figs, he served it up in the twinkling of an eye.

Closely Guarded Secret.

Some of his recipes are hundreds of years old and have been handed down for generations. He has one, a closely-guarded secret, used hundreds of years ago in making Catherine de Medici's favorite Christmas pudding. Costly liqueurs and rare spices go to its making, and the succulent pudding is encased in a sort of marzipan.

Carnera eats great quantities of hors d'oeuvres. Chaliapin, the famous singer, likes great juicy steaks fried in oil. Lloyd George prefers good plain food.

"Marconi, the inventor, stayed here for years, and was very particular about what he ate," M. Latry said. "He preferred a little meat, but plenty of fresh fruit and vermicelli."

Noel Coward is another particular young man. For his benefit M. Latry invented a special dish known as Haddock Cavalcade. It is a fillet of haddock served with spaghetti and cheese sauce.

Reinhardt is passionately fond of grills, followed by a special cocktail.

France Has Trouble With Insurance Laws

Paris. — After being effective more than two years, France's social insurance laws are proving increasingly difficult to administer. They are so hedged about by special degrees and regulations that many expert officials still have not completely mastered them. There are many loopholes which dishonest workers frequently manage to benefit by illegally.

Two such persons who have appeared before the Fourteenth Correctional Chamber, proved to the court that it was easy to draw benefits illegally, although it is well known that many employes with perfectly just claims have to go to great trouble to obtain payment.

The principal defendant was Rene Drujon, a Communist and secretary of the Mairie of Ivry, a Red suburb. His first lieutenant was Roman Marteau, a moving man who, in the course of his professional activities had stolen letter-paper from writing desks being transferred from one house to another. In this way sheets of paper bearing the name and address of Dr. Emmanuel Benoit had come into his possession.

Drujon found these papers very useful. Having the official Town Hall rubber stamps at his disposal, he was able to fake certificates of ill-health with the greatest ease. The fraud was not discovered until it had been working perfectly for some time. It was then learned that Dr. Benoit died seven years ago.

WRONG PEA

An old waiter of a club said to a new waiter: "Do you see that old buffer who has just sat down? He's got a brother and they're as alike as two peas. Dress alike, and everything, only this one is as deaf as a post. Watch for some fun."

The old waiter then approached the man and said in an ordinary voice, much to the amusement of the new waiter: "Well, pieface, what do you want in your nosebag today?"

"I'll have a mutton chop," said the diner; "and, by the way, it's my brother who is very deaf."

Telephone Bills Cancelled

Eureka, Ill.—The Eureka Telephone Company said "Happy New Year" to patrons when they sought to pay their December bills. Company officials said there would be no charge for service last month.

MUTT AND JEFF— By BUD FISHER

It All Seems So Foolish to the Dog