International Brotherhood

The following paragraphs will illustrate how world wide the Boy Scouts Association has become, and if these boys maintain their friendly relationships with their foreign Brother Scouts in the years to come, the chances of further warfare will be reduce to a minimum.

Scot Scouts Tour Norway and Sweden

A troop of 20 Dundee Scouts hiked through Norway and Sweden last summer, spending the nights at the headquarters of Norwegian and Swedish troops.

English Scouts For Czechoslovakia

Two Boy Scouts are among the English boys selected to go to Zlin, Czecho-Slovakia, for three years' training at the famous Bata Shoe Company's factory.

Official Dates of World Scout Meet

This year's world gathering of Boy Scouts at Godollo Hungary, will officially open on Wednesday, August 2nd, and close on the 15th. Scout contingents from other countries are expected to arrive July 31st and leave August 16th.

Scout Foreign Friendship Tours

Scouts of Kent, England, hold the record for international visiting. For 12 successive years at Easter they have visited other countries—in succession Czecho-Slovakia, Spain, Holland, Italy, Denmark, France, Switzerland, Belgium, Austria, Hungary, Poland. Last summer they visited Scotland. This Easter a party of 200 will visit Germany.

Scout Fraternizing in Europe

European camps or jamborees in which Scouts from other countries participated were held last summer in Poland, Denmark and the Netherlands.

Scouting and Education

A Hungarian Scouter, Dr. E. de Kraifath, has been made Minister of Education in the Hungarian Government.

Australian and Canadian Boys Swap

An offer to swap kangaroo skins and boomerangs for Indian Canadian basket and bead work and carving has been made to Canadian Boy Scouts by Scouts of Queensland.

Yugoslavia's 1932 Scout Gathering

Yugoslavia's Second National Scout Camp, held last year, was attended by contingents from each province, and by Hungarian, Czechslovakian and Russian Scout troops, and representatives from Great Britain, Austria, Poland and France.

British Scouts to Holland and Poland

Contingents of Scottish and English Scouts will represent Great Britain at the Dutch Campcraft Camp and the Polish Sea Scout Jamboree in August.

Hungarian Scouts Will Write Others

The Hungarian organizing committee of the World Scout gathering planned for 1933 is working on a scheme to develop correspondence between Hungarian Scouts and those of other countries planning to attend the Jamboree.

A New Tribute to the Junior League of Nations

The owners of the Campagne Rigot, adjoining the park in which the new League of Nations buildings are being erected at Geneva, have invited Boy Scouts to camp there as guests. A special Scout dormitory is planned.

Earl Bessborough Commends Scouting to Leading Citizens

Addressing the Dominion Executive Committee of the Boy Scouts Association His Excellency the Governor-General commended the quality of leadership reflected by the many Scout units reviewed by him during his summer tour of the west. He commented particularly upon the smartness of the Scouts in places where the interest of prominent public men was most evident. He commended the Movement to the attention of leading business and professional men everywhere.

Scouting is available, through the Lone Scout Department, to all boys from 12 to 18 years of age inclusive. If you live in a small town or village, or on a Rural Route, etc., and would like to be a Scout, write for particulars to The Boy Scouts Association, Lone Scout Department, 330 Bay St., Toronto 2. We shall be glad to hear from you and will send you particulars without any obligation to yourself.—"Lone E."

Arrival at Dawn

If I might choose the moment of arrival in a strange city, it should be dawn. I could then take the city unawares, before it had time to put on the preoccupied expression of everyday activities in which I had no part. Arriving at dawn, I should begin the day with those who belong there, not as an intruder. The early sunshine would smile its welcome, and my first remark to a stranger, that it was a fine day, would make me feel at ease.

In the hour of dawn, I beheld Bombay for the first time. During the night, there had been unmistakable sounds of arrival. The throb of engines was subdued; somewhere in the ship's deep heart, shining steel and ponderous iron became ominously still. Bare feet went thudding overhead, and voices called out in the darkness. The night was still when we stopped, crept forward, stopped again, and then made a mysterious slow advance. Behind us lay the wide seas we had traversed for three weeks.

At dawn we had arrived. I went up on deck to see palm fringed hills, dim islands of irregular shape, and a low-lying city huddled along its harbor. Round our great ship a score of little craft circled busily in the broadening light, and alien figures came clambering on board to stare at us with curious eyes.

I was to live in Bombay. Where in that opalescent sunrise, was my home? It was strange to reflect that soon many unfamiliar streets would become known to me, that the perfume of exotic flowers, wafted over the water, would hold, for all time, a poignant memory.

Landing at dawn, the city had still an uncaptured beauty, and its breath was sweet as an ocean breeze. It might have been a dream city, evolved from night shadows, nebulous and fair. Later there would be crowds, discordant noises. I, with everyone else, would have a distinct reason for going here or there with a sense of serious undertakings. But, as a stranger. I could roll in my carriage at ease down almost empty streets, dust colored under trees of scarlet gold mohr, and with houses in bowery gardens still asleep. Too soon the enchantment of dim love-lines would give place to hard outlines of photographic clarity. The Bombay of my arrival was beautiful, a city of domes, slender columns, soaring arch and carved balcony, set among lawns of emerald greenness, shadowy palm, and flaming flowers. The Bombay of my arrival was quite different to the Bombay, often wonderfully beautiful, of my later experience. Yes, it is good to arrive at dawn.

Littoria — Italy's New Town

Mussolini's Caesarian operation in producing a new Italian town in the midst of the Pontine Marshes, close to Rome, which makes them habitable and tillable, is a new triumph for Il Duce.

Nero, the Caesars, the Popes, and Napoleon I. according to the Rome correspondent of the London Daily Telegraph, all attempted to drain the tract, which had become a fever-stricken fenland, probably because an earthquake destroyed the natural drainage about 300 B.C.

Fifty-five thousand men are now engaged in the Fascist land-reclamation scheme, and redeemed land has already given health and food to thousands. It is stated that more than 17-000,000 acres of swamps and mountain places have either been rendered fit for cultivation or are almost ready. Il Duce himself is quoted as saying:

"To find work for our growing population, it has hitherto been necessary to cross the Alps or the ocean. But to-day it is here, half-an-hour's journey from Rome that we have succeeded in conquering a new province.

"This is but a fraction of the land we are going to reclaim. Internal work will settle the problem of unemployment before long and Italians will not emigrate any more."

No evil propensity of the human heart is so powerful that it may not be subdued by discipline.—Seneca.

Sunday School Lesson

February 12. Lesson VII — Jesus Teaching By Parables (Four Kinds of Hearers)—Mark 4: 1-10, 13-20. Golden Text—Herein is my Father Glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.—John 15: 8.

ANALYSIS.

I. GOSPEL HARDENED, Mark 4: 4, 15.
II. CHARMED BUT NOT CHANGED, Mark 4: 5, 6, 16, 17.
III. PRE-OCCUPIED, Mark 4: 7, 18, 19.
IV. RESPONSIVE, Mark 4: 8, 20.

INTRODUCTION — Until now Jesus had preached so that any one who happened to listen could understand. This method would no longer do. People were watching him, looking for something to use against him. Some form of instruction was necessary which would be meaningless to the casual or critical hearer, but which would convey truth to those whom he wished specially to instruct. To those who were really interested and sincere he would explain the meaning. From now on he never spoke in public except in parables. He gave private explanations to his disciples, v. 34.

Verse 12 seems to contradict this reason. Matthew's account says "because" (Matt. 13: 10-16), instead of Mark's "in order that." The passage which evidently came to Jesus' mind, as he reflected upon the hardness of people's hearts, was the discouraged exclamation of Isaiah in similar circumstances, Isaiah 6: 9, 10. In Hebrew literature, when some event could be confidently predicted, it was spoken of as having been planned or purposed. Isaiah knew so well how his people would react to unpleasant truth that he predicted that they would harden their hearts against all that he was going to say. They themselves were bringing about their destruction, not God. Matthew, familiar with this characteristic of Hebrew literature, wrote down in plain language, so that none need misunderstand, what Jesus really meant. "I speak to them in parables because . ."

I. GOSPEL HARDENED, Mark 4: 4, 15.

Again, taking to the boat to avoid the pressure of the excited crowds, and probably also to guard against a surprise by the police, Jesus told the parable of the four kinds of soil. The seed which fell by the edge of the beaten path (v. 4) refers to people whose hearts are hardened by continually hearing, but not doing the truth. The gospel calls, not merely for admiration, but for action. Ruskin said, "Every duty we omit obscures some truth we might have known." What could Jesus say, or any other preacher do, with such hearers? At the moment, nothing. The birds, some twittering interest, some new excitement, some trivial item of gossip immediately snatch up the seeds of truth. Until life drives some ploughshare of pain or trouble into such lives, truth will make no hold.

II. CHARMED BUT NOT CHANGED, Mark 4: 5, 6, 16, 17.

The stony ground (v. 5) is a thin layer of good earth on a ledge of rock. It promotes a rapid growth which, in dry weather, quickly withers. This figure pictures the alert mind and the closed heart. "Delighted with your sermon this morning!"—but it merely stimulated the mind, changed neither the character nor conduct. This soil pictures the people who start but never finish, enthusiasms which do not last. "I will follow thee withersoever thou goest" (Luke 9: 57, 58), but the Master gave him no encouragement. He knew that when "following" him would mean giving up cherished plans, undertaking some unwelcome service, being misunderstood, standing up against the cynic's talk that Jesus' ideal is beautiful but impossible to act out in daily life, then the sudden, shallow enthusiasm would settle down, vs. 16, 17. This soil also pictures those who mistake an emotional excitement for a real conversion. A religion that is just feeling, and has not captured both mind and will, can never stand up against life's trials and perplexities.

III. PRE-OCCUPIED, Mark 4: 7, 18, 19.

Verse 7 indicates a soil that is rich and promising, but already sown with the seeds of competing plants. People with splendid gifts of personality, intelligence, character, become so engrossed in business, the making of money, social activities, the struggle for a living, that their spiritual promise never comes to fulfilment. Each life is a limited area. It cannot contain everything. We must select. It is not so much a question of "Is this good or bad?" as "Will this crowd out something better?" As a potato plant becomes a weed if it appears in a flowerbed, so many activities, good enough in themselves and in their proper place, become evils when they occupy time, energy and thought which is needed for greater purposes. Anything that interferes with the best is the "thorn" that chokes the word, rendering one's life unfruitful.

IV. RESPONSIVE, Mark 4: 8, 20.

There is always some good soil. Therefore Jesus sowed in hope. Some honest souls and good hearts were to be found everywhere, Luke 8: 15. They were not faultless, but they were sincere, very much in earnest, practicing faithfully, pursuing patiently every new truth that is revealed to them.

The parable tells, not so much of four persons or classes, as of four possible conditions of every heart and mind. We, ourselves, are responsible for the kind of reception we give the truth. Learning needs to be followed by action. A fitting prayer after every meeting is, "Eternal God, our Father, we have thought together seriously; now help us to go out and live seriously."

He—"On the street to-day a very handsome young lady smiled at me."

She—"Oh, I wouldn't feel badly about it. There are some men who look even funnier than you do."

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Farm Queries

Henry G. Bell, B.S.A., Dept. of Chemistry, O.A.C.

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.

Building the Soil With Supplies From the Farm

Average Ontaro farm soils, after being worked for some time, develop weakness in one or more of the following respects: 1. In plantfood. The plantfood in a soil is determined very largely by its type. Successive cropping will naturally use up considerable of the original plantfood. 2. In organic matter. After cultivation for some years if insufficient attention is paid to the upkeep of the soil, a decided weakness in organic matter will develop. 3. In soil Reaction. Continuous cropping will deplete lime from the soil, leaving the soil sour and in an unfit condition for crops to thrive in it. Moreover, as long as it remains sour, good stable manure and fertilizers added to it will not function at their best. All of the foregoing defects must be corrected as far as possible if largest yields of best quality produce is to be realized.

Relative Values of Manure

In the early days of Ontario agriculture, much manure was hauled from the barnyard to the river to rid the farm of this material. Farmyard manure is a highly valuable by-product of the livestock farm. When well handled, it is a prominent carrier of the important plantfoods, nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash. A ton of manure supplies 10 to 15 lbs. nitrogen; 5 to 9 lbs. phosphoric acid and about 10 lbs. potash. The amount and quality which manure supplies depends upon at least three things: 1. The character and age of animal; 2. The degree of protection which has been given the manure; 3. The type of feed that has been supplied the animal.

Growing beef stock retain most of the body-building elements supplied in fodder. The manure of dairy animals supplies relatively the least amount of plantfood in that these animals are making use of these elements in producing milk. Hogs and sheep produce manure of great value. In order of plantfood content, sheep manure carries the highest per cent. of nitrogen; poultry manure carries the next highest per cent. of nitrogen and also the highest supply of phosphoric acid, while sheep manure carries the highest per cent. of potash.

Horse manure is stronger in nitrogen and potash than is manure of dairy cattle. As a rule, manure of young animals is the least valuable as a source of plantfood since young growing stock retain the elements of nutrition for the building of their bodies. Extra protein fed dairy cattle in order to increase milk flow improves the quality of manure. This is why the manure of dairy cattle is usually of distinctly high value.

The manner of storage definitely influences the value of manure. If it is exposed so that rain and snow wash through it, at least 30% of the nitrogen and 65% of the potash is lost. When one considers that there are kept on Ontario farms over 4½ millions of horses, cattle, sheep and hogs, the enormous amount of this valuable source of plantfood and soil betterment is apparent. Only the manure which is collected from the stables during the period of housing of the livestock, however, can be estimated as an active source. The quality of this manure will depend directly upon the type of handling which is given it. If it is thrown loosely on an open pile, bacterial action may quickly proceed to a point where the manure becomes fire-fanged or burnt in the center of the pile. This fire-fanging liberates nitrogen in the form of ammonia and destroys much of the organic matter. Losses will occur with any method of handling but when one weighs the cost of increased labour necessary to take the manure out all at once in the spring, against the loss from exposure in continuous application, it is considered good business to remove the manure to the field daily or at least weekly. If the soil is well supplied with organic matter, especially if it has been fall plowed, top-dressing during winter will afford a profitable means of handling of manure. Investigations in England indicate that where the rainfall exceeds 35 inches during the period of non-growth manure should be applied to potatoes and root crops, corn, etc., especially if the soil is of a light character. Where there is less rain, say 20 inches or less during the period of non-growth, winter application can be made with good results.

Much study has been given to the value of manure stored in manure pits which retain the liquid manure. Liquid manure is a rich carrier of nitrogen and potash and should at no time be allowed to seep away from the manure heap. It should be absorbed in the litter and the pile kept sufficiently compact so that as little ammonia will escape from the manure pile as possible. Rothamsted Experimental Station investigated the question of shelter for the manure pit. When 10 tons of manure from a sheltered manure pit was applied to potatoes, a yield of 9 tons potatoes per acre was harvested. When an equal amount of manure from an uncovered pit was applied to the same area, the yield was 7.4 tons per acre.

How to Save the Nitrogen

As has already been pointed out there is always a tendency to loss of ammonia as decomposition goes on in the stored manure. In hot weather this is easily discernible. This loss of ammonia or nitrogen can to a large extent be prevented by sprinkling superphosphate on the stable floor at the time the stalls are cleaned out daily. An application of ¼ to ½ lb per head per day will go a long way toward fixing the escaping ammonia or nitrogen in the form of sulphate of ammonia, hence will increase the value of the manure. Manure carries an insufficient amount of phosphoric acid to make it a first class fertilizer for grain crops, hence the addition of superphosphate will not only accomplish the retention of the nitrogen but will build up the manure in phosphoric acid and make it of greater general value.

Farm manure gives its most active help to crops supplied with extensive root systems such as corn, cereals and meadow grasses. Fairly well rotted manure is also of great value to root crops. Turnips benefit by a slightly higher supply of phosphoric acid than is provided by manure. Hence the turnip field which has been manured should receive an additional application of superphosphate if best balance of plantfood for the turnip crop is to be provided. Well rotted manure supplies a valuable ration for potatoes and mangels. On the lighter gravelly loam or sandy loam soils where potatoes thrive, the addition of manure not only supplies plantfood but gives to the soil the power to catch and hold water and plantfood in solution.

In the early agriculture of the country the value of manure was not realized. Too frequently this valuable by product was removed from the farm. Our modern farmer has learned by practical experience and from scientific facts established by long time experiments that the manure pile is one of the most important assets on the farm. It should at all times receive the care which science has shown to be merited by its great value.

Money in Sweet Potatoes

According to a newspaper report Dr. O. L. Fitzsimmons of Delhi, has disposed of his entire crop of sweet potatoes at the satisfactory price of $2.50 per bushel. This speaks well for the quality of Norfolk-grown sweet potatoes and as they become more widely-known they should displace imported sweet potatoes to a great extent. Dr. Fitzsimmons has made a start which will doubtless be followed by other farmers of the district this coming season. He did not wax wealthy this year as the initial investment makes the first year the hardest, but in the seasons ahead he should profit liberally in the branch of agricultural industry which he introduced in Canada.—(Simcoe Reformer.)

LAWS . .

A multitude of laws in a country is like a great number of physicians, a sign of weakness and malady.

MUTT AND JEFF— By BUD FISHER

Jeff Can Do a Hundred Yards in Nine Seconds Flat