

Soils and Crops

By Agronomist.
This Department is for the use of our farm readers who want the advice of an expert on any question regarding soil, seed, crops, etc. If your question is of sufficient general interest, it will be answered through this column. If stamped and addressed envelope is enclosed with your letter, a complete answer will be mailed to you. Address Agronomist, care of Wilson Publishing Co., Ltd., 73 Adelaide St. W., Toronto.

Beware of Frosted Clover.

Care should be exercised in pasturing frost clover after its growth has become checked by frost. Because many farmers have given their horses and cattle free range of clover fields after hard frosts in the fall without injury, it is difficult to convince them that it is dangerous to utilize this tempting feed. There are many prudent farmers, however, who, knowing the danger of pasturing frost clover, will not permit horses, cattle or sheep to graze on it. If they do not fear injury to the animals, they have learned from observation and experience that there is no sure means of injuring a good stand of clover than to allow stock to graze and trample it down. Even though the frost clover does not quickly injure the animals that graze on it, there is such certainty of injury to the clover plants that it is poor economy to let the stand become injured in the effort to find nourishment from feed of doubtful value.

The extent of injury and time required for it to become known is sure to vary with the condition of the animals given access to the frosted crop. The stock may have a regular ration of roughage and grain at the barn and (visible) derangement of the stomach or bowels result, but this proves nothing as to the value of the frosted clover. It merely proves that under certain conditions it is not deadly, but may be used with impunity. But when animals have no other feed than frozen clover we have conditions that will be followed by derangement, ulcerization, which may be evident from signs of colic and gentle indigestion, followed in due course by scours, constipation or severe inflammation of the bowels. Science has been unable to explain just how frost affects the digestibility of clover plants. But we do know that when frost gets its work, the aroma, the juices and the sapus change and eventually disappear, leaving only the skeleton or woody fibre. There is a rapid passing of the plant from its perfect growth back to earth and atmosphere, where it originally came.

The clover plant in full maturity not only contains the largest per cent of nutrients, but it contains them in the form and quantity best suited to the requirements of the animal's digestive system. All departures from this perfection of feeding value tends to depreciation until it arrives at a point

The Care and Preparation of the Farm Buildings for the Housing of Live Stock for the Winter.

This is the season of the year when every farmer should be considering the putting of his farm buildings in the best shape possible for the winter housing of his live stock, that is (1) in regard to cleanliness, (2) light, (3) ventilation, and (4) warmth.

First—The farmer should see that all dirt and cobwebs that may have accumulated through the summer are swept down and a good coat of white wash applied with a certain amount of disinfectant, such as is used on all farms, added to the white-wash, in order to eliminate as much as possible any disease which may be present.

Second—See that there are as many windows as possible in your buildings and that the glass is tight in all of them, for there is no better preventive of disease than plenty of light. If it is not possible to have double windows for all your stables be sure to use what you have on windwps on the north side in order to conserve heat.

Third—Ventilation is one of the most important things in live stock industry, and unfortunately, one that there is not enough stress laid upon. For without proper ventilation, it is practically impossible to get the good healthy development and benefit from spraying and much of the spray material is used for various other purposes.

One of the best authorities on birds has made the statement, after very careful observations, that if it were not for vireos, warblers, chickadees, kinglets, wrens and nuthatches, the insects destroyed by these small birds would quickly destroy our forests and set aught the best work of the fruitgrower. The bluebird also has an excellent record as an insect destroyer, and of this bird a noted scientist has said: "One hundred bluebirds eat even thirty insects a day (and they would devour many more) would eat in eight months about seven hundred and sixty thousand insects. If these birds were destroyed or driven away the results would be the preservation of the territory where these birds would have nested of about seventy thousand moths and caterpillars (a large proportion of these cutworms), twenty thousand leaf hoppers, ten thousand curculios, and sixty-five thousand locusts and grasshoppers. What injury such a horde of insects could bring to the farms and gardens of those pests fatal to our vegetable life, can be attracted to any spot by suitable nest-boxes hung in suitable places and protected from dangers."

It is not well spent?

Many of the small birds that work among the trees literally saving our forests every year can also be attracted by suitable nest-boxes. The natural home of the chipping and the nuthatch is a hollow tree, not an easy thing to find about most orchards now, but a nest-box made out of an old log with an egg-shaped oval scoop out almost sure to attract them. As to the invaluable little wren, almost any sort of a nest-box will satisfy it and no tenant will pay better rent for the value received.

A Prayer for the World's Rebuilders. We send them off to school again today. This cool September morning. All the street is musical with patter of small feet. And little shining faces all the way seem wayside posies for our smiles to greet.

I wonder if they ever guess or know with whom strange tenderness we watch them go?

Just children on their way to school again? Nay, it is ours to watch a greater thing—

These are the World's Rebuilders, these must bring.

Order to chaos, comforting, to pain, and light in blasted fields new fires to spring.

"It is not love that gives the clearest sight,

For our bitter tears—and tears unshed—

Rise in this rainbow of sorrow over head.

And beneath the rainbow is the clearest light."

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GOOD HEALTH QUESTION BOX

By Andrew F. Currier, M.D.

Dr. Currier will answer all signed letters pertaining to Health. If your question is of general interest it will be answered through these columns; if not, it will be answered personally if a stamped, addressed envelope is enclosed. Dr. Currier will not prescribe for individual cases or make diagnosis. Address Dr. Andrew F. Currier, care of Wilson Publishing Co., 73 Adelaide St. West, Toronto.

The Sin of Quackery.

There is a class of men calling themselves doctors and hanging out their sign as such, who pose as specialists in certain disorders which are very common among young men, but are not nearly so serious in the majority of cases as they are represented to be.

They also, as I have very good reason to believe, find diseases, particularly in the sexual organs of young men, which do not exist.

But because they impose upon these young men and tell them they have serious, exhausting and perhaps fatal diseases, they frighten them beyond measure and extort from them large sums of money.

When they have drained their victims of their pecuniary resources their interest in their welfare ceases.

If a rejected young man can possibly raise more money he may be taken in by another sharper of the same kind.

When his money is all gone he perhaps awakens to the consciousness that he has been duped, and he is fortunate if he at length realizes that there is not and never has been anything serious the matter with him, and goes about his business with less loss worry about imaginary ailments and their serious significance.

I am not now referring to the venereal diseases, there are certainly as bad as they can be painted, and there is a class of quacks which feast and fatten upon them, they may or may not be distinct from those to whom I have been referring.

I have many times received letters from the victims of the quacks and charlatans to whom I am calling attention, asking me to advise them.

One of these bearing the essential marks of genuineness was from a man who said he was 23, was in great distress of mind and body and had been told by a so-called doctor whose name and address he gave, that he was suffering from various pains and disease of the prostate gland.

This youth was compelled to do two years of garrison duty at Piraeus, the Port of Athens.

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