MARKDALE STANDARD

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The Markdale STANDARD

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SAUGEEN LODGE, No. 327, I.O.O.F.
Meets first and third Wednesday in the month at 7.30 p.m., in their hall Main street. Visiting brethren always welcome. Herb. M. Irwin, N.G.; Alex. McEachnie, Sec.

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I have taken out an auctioneer's license and am prepared to meet the demands of the public in this capacity. Farm sales a specialty.—F. A. Burnside. Licensed Auctioneer for Grey County.

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Licensed Auctioneer County of Grey. All sales promptly catered to. Rates reasonable. Phone Chatsworth 42 R 2-2, or write Holland Centre R. 3. 32**

Three Ways of Lighting The Farm House.

On my own farm, I have a very good system—a small air-cooled kerosene engine with a thirty-two-volt electric generator built into it. The storage batteries are so large that I need to run the engine only once or twice a week—about four or six hours at a time. My home is quite good sized, but two or three gallons of kerosene a week give me all the electric light I can use.

Some years ago, I had another system; the generator was driven by a belt from a line-shaft. Just which is the better depends on circumstances; the built-in system uses less fuel, takes less space and has a self-starter; the belt-driven system does not need a separate engine, but is run from the same power that does your pumping, grinds your feed, etc. A four-horse engine is needed to run the line-shaft, I have found; a smaller one can be used if the generator is belted direct to the engine pulley.

Don't make the error of buying too small an outfit; I did that the first time. My storage batteries had to be charged every day; consequently, they wore out in three years or so. My present plant has been in service nearly as long, and the batteries are as good as new.

If you have a fair-sized brook running through your farm, you can easily drive your electric generator with a small water-wheel; several concerns make a specialty of farm water-power plants. The more fall you have, the better, but four feet will run a breast-wheel, provided you have a good volume of water. A very small stream, with eight or ten feet of fall, will drive an overshot wheel.

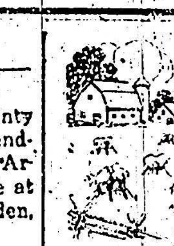
The first cost of a water-driven outfit is usually about the same as an engine-driven one, unless you have to build an elaborate dam, sluice, etc. The great saving comes in the operating cost; water is decidedly less expensive than gasoline or kerosene. I know one farmer who did not buy any storage-battery; his stream is so large that he lets his generator run all night, and uses the current direct.

There have been some attempts to use windmills for running generators, but I believe these attempts have not been very successful. At any rate, there are no wind-driven electric outfits on the market, so far as I know. Nansen, the Arctic explorer, lighted his ship from a windmill. Some day this system will no doubt be perfected for ordinary use.

But, maybe you prefer gas instead of electricity—some of my neighbors do, at any rate. They have acetylene generators installed in small frost-proof buildings, for if the water in the generator freezes, gas stops flowing, of course. Acetylene gas, you know, is produced by letting water come in contact with lumps of calcium carbide. The generators are so built that when you turn on a gas-burner anywhere in your house, the lessened pressure lets the water flow against the carbide. Shutting off the burner raises the pressure and pushes back the water. The whole thing is perfectly automatic. Acetylene gas gives a beautiful, clear, white light—very pleasant to read or work by. It is quite possible to cook with gas, too; meet city people do that in the summer-time, you know. A gas-stove is run on the same principle as an oil-stove, but it is less trouble, and does some things (like broiling or toasting) rather better.

Some people still use the old-fashioned gasoline-gas system; it certainly has some good points. Gasoline can be had anywhere, and quite a small amount will make a large volume of gas. For cooking, it is rather better than acetylene, but the light is not quite so brilliant, even when a mantle is used.

Farm Crop Queries



CONDUCTED BY PROF. HENRY G. BELL

The object of this department is to place at the service of our farm readers the advice of an acknowledged authority on all subjects pertaining to soils and crops.

Address all questions to Professor Henry G. Bell, in care of The Wilson Publishing Company, Limited, Toronto, and answers will appear in this column in the order in which they are received. When writing kindly mention this paper. As space is limited it is advisable where immediate reply is necessary that a stamped and addressed envelope be enclosed with the question, when the answer will be mailed direct.

Lime and Liming.

"Well! When is the expense going to stop? What with high grade seed, new machinery and well bred livestock, the end of expenses seems never to be in sight, and now they tell us we have to put on lime on our land and even some say use fertilizers. We never did this in the good old days, but it is pretty hard to get the yields we got then." Have you ever heard a man make such statements at a Farmers' Institute or other gatherings? He is looking at his problem from the wrong angle. Everything that costs money is catalogued as an expense, rarely as an investment. In his grandfather's time he quite agreed it was good business to spend money to clear up the field, and build new fences, but as time has gone on he fails to appreciate the fact that we never can stand still, progress must be made or we go backward. Hence a good many of his fellows are taking up with this idea of good drainage and the use of lime, etc. But just as in other walks of life when men become impressed with the fact that there are a good many avenues where progress can be made they sometimes do not take care to get a clear picture in their minds of just what the various lines represent.

What I am driving at is a blunder I came across the other day. A man in one of our good counties had used "agricultural" lime. For some reason, most likely that of bad drainage he did not see much result from the application of lime, hence he is down on the use of fertilizers. He thinks they are an unnecessary expense and possibly thinks that they are somewhat of a fake. You may know the difference, reader, between lime and fertilizers, but for the sake of at least half a dozen men in the province that should know better I wish to take time to explain **that liming is not fertilizing,** never was and never will be.

Cleaning out the cow stable isn't feeding the cow. Putting lime on the soil to make the home of the plant right is not feeding the crops. This is the big point to get clearly in mind. Lime is a house cleaner. When the folks at home twist the furniture all out of place, put your hat and coat on a different peg and entirely upset the order of things in the house in spring, you notice they usually whitewash the walls. This is partly to make them clean and bright and partly to make the room sweet and healthy. When you put lime on the soil you do it for very much the same reason. As the plant matter in the soil decays it very often produces conditions in the soil which we call sour soil. Under such conditions good clover will not grow, neither will many other crops do their best. If you add lime it sweetens the soil and makes conditions proper for the millions of small forms of life or bacteria to go ahead with their work in the soil breaking down plant and mineral matter so that it can dissolve in the soil waters and be used to feed your wheat, oats, corn and other crops. But the lime itself does not feed crops. Whitewashing the kitchen didn't get your meals, but it made conditions a whole lot more pleasant when things were straightened away so that your household enjoyed their meals better. Beside liming the soil you must add plant-food either in the form of barnyard manure or fertilizers if you are going to get largest and best quality crops.

Now never be caught saying that because you used agricultural lime you have fertilized your soil. You might just as well condemn the use of automobiles because you had a rough ride in a wheel-barrow sometime or other. Lime on the soil makes better yields even where no plant food is used, and equally as well where plant food is added. This has been proven by many tests. Ohio Experiment Station in a field test extending over more than 20 years shows that by liming the soil once in a five year rotation the yield of wheat was increased from 10.65 bus. per acre to 14.98 bushels or 41 per cent. This was where lime was added without any barnyard manure or fertilizer. Where fertilizers were added alone the average yield of fertilized wheat rose to 25.04 bushels per acre, but where lime was added two years before the fertilizer was used the fertilized yields rose to 29.49 bushels per acre. You see then that lime is responsible for an increase in wheat of about 4 bushels per acre. New York Agricultural Experiment Station aptly summarizes the value of lime as follows, "The Ohio experiment illustrates the fact that lime does not take the place of other fertilizers or manures but supplements them."

The next time you hear a fellow talking about fertilizing his soil with lime take time to explain the difference. Fertilizers carry nitrogen, phosphoric acid and potash. They do not sweeten the soil only in so far as they may contain a little lime in their composition. Fertilizers feed the soil and crops. Lime supplies carbonate of calcium or magnesia which does not feed the crops but corrects soil sourness. For best results your land should be limed, as well as fertilized, but do not mix lime with fertilizer or put it on at the same time. If you do there is danger of some of the available plant food of the fertilizer going back to the unavailable form due to chemical action between the fertilizer and the lime. Put the lime on a week or so previous to the fertilizer or any time during that period of year when the crop is not growing. Put the fertilizer on when you are preparing to plant the crop. But above all things, remember that liming is not fertilizing.—Henry G. Bell.

ON DISCOVERING A FIRE

Quick action on discovering a fire will often prevent disaster, but such action is nearly always the result of forethought. The person who discovers a fire may at once sound an alarm, or he may attempt to extinguish the fire with the means at hand. The majority of fires are extinguished before they get to going well, and quick action often averts serious loss. Most fires have a small beginning, and if discovered at once can easily be extinguished. When fires are caused by lightning or explosions it is a different matter, and in the right conditions the rapidity with which fire spreads is scarcely conceivable to those who have not seen it.

The number of dwelling-house fires that are extinguished at once is incalculable, but it is usually in trying to extinguish insignificant fires that the lives of women are lost by their clothes taking fire. Except from a distance, women should let fires alone. The highly inflammable texture and the shape of their clothing render any other course too hazardous. A fatal accident may occur in less time than it takes to tell of it. When a woman's clothing takes fire she generally dies, because the fire, rising, reaches her face and she inhales it. A person on fire should instantly drop to the floor, or others in the room, if there are any, should throw her down and wrap bedclothes, rugs or something of the kind round her to smother the flames.

Smothering is generally the best way to extinguish a small fire. The blaze that runs up a curtain is often alarmingly big, but it usually dies quickly. The same is true of fire on the fringes of tablecloths and other fabrics of similar kind.

It is a very serious matter for a lamp to explode or be upset, or for an oil stove to take fire. An attempt to remove the lamp or the stove from the building is reckless in the extreme. Ashes, sand, flour or earth should be used to smother the blaze, but quick action with clothing, tablecloths, and so forth, may be effective. Every house should have at least one fire extinguisher. With that a person can stand twenty or thirty feet away and still work effectively. The contents of an extinguisher are sufficient to check the average fire in a dwelling house. Garden hose when attached to a faucet may be very effective. Hand pumps and large plant or spraying syringes are useful, and a bucket of water will work wonders; but the principal means to be relied on in house fires is a blanket, rug or similar thing with which to smother the blaze.

If a really determined attempt is made to check a fire by throwing water on it from buckets, keep the water running into different receptacles or into the sink or bathtub, so that it may be dipped out; but wherever there are no special appliances, beating out and smothering the fire is best, though water, judiciously administered, is a good supplement. Protect the hands, work quickly and keep your head.

If the fire is in a clothes closet, a place in which dwelling-house fires often originate, close the door at once. This, by the way, is an excellent rule to observe on discovering any fire. Shutting the doors will generally confine the fire to the room in which it originated.

Even though confident that you can handle the fire, send some trustworthy person to sound an alarm. Do not trust some one else to think of it. If the fire occurs at night, awaken everyone in the building, and be sure that all are safe.

The chief obstacle encountered by amateur fire fighters is their inability to withstand the smoke. The greatest loss of life at fires is due to suffocation. The smoke from the ordinary clothes-closet fire will generally be found too much for the amateur; but if he will remember to shut the door every time after he throws in water, he can conquer a fire of that kind.

If means of escape is cut off, shut the door of the room that you are in, open the windows and wait for help. Never, under any circumstances, jump until you are compelled to. Even when dense volumes of smoke are rolling through the room it is possible to breathe by keeping your head out of the window, and bending low so as to keep it below the window sill. The smoke then passes out above you. Whenever there is much smoke, keep as near the floor as possible; you will thus be able to breathe where otherwise you would be quickly overcome. A wet cloth or handkerchief over the face is also of service.

Jumping generally results in serious if not fatal injury. Do everything else before you attempt it; and if it must be done, throw out mattresses and clothing to break the fall.

Ropes are sometimes of value, but not often to the weak or to those who have not learned how to use them. A rope should never be allowed to slip through the hands so long as the person on the rope has strength enough to hold fast. By twisting the rope round the leg and compressing it between the sole of one foot and the instep of the other, or hugging the upper part of it between the upper arm and the side, the descent can be checked at will.

Poultry

A self-feeder for hens that costs practically nothing, never clogs up, and never wastes feed is somewhat of a boon, according to my experience. It consists merely of a light wooden box about four inches deep suspended four or five inches from the floor, and a piece of one-inch-mesh poultry netting cut to fit loosely into it. This wire is to be put on top of the feed. It settles down as the feed is consumed, and effectually prevents any from being thrown out. If a piece of heavier wire is bound in around the edge, this added weight will keep the piece of poultry netting in place even when the box is nearly full. The idea in having the whole thing suspended is to keep the hens out of the box, which it does.

These feeders are so inexpensive that there is no excuse for not using enough of them to give even the more timid hens access to feed at all times, thus doing away with one of the chief causes of lowered egg yield in large flocks.

It Was on the Map Once.

A colored infantry regiment was being mustered out, and the company commander sent the home address of every man to the quartermaster, so that each could draw his travel pay to go home. There was some little difficulty about one man, and the captain called him in.

"Jackson, you gave your home address as Prince Frederick, Maryland, and the quartermaster says there is no such place as Prince Frederick, Maryland."

"Doan't you believe him, suh; they is."

"Well, they can't seem to find it."

"Huh!" grunted the soldier. "They didn't have no trouble finding it when they drafted me."

A Rule That Did Not Always Work.

"Grandma," asked six-year-old Paul, "what makes Helen such a pretty girl?"

"She is pretty," replied his grandmother, desirous of improving the occasion, "because she is such a good little girl."

"But, grandma," Paul protested, with a puzzled air, "you are awfully good."

The Sunday School

INTERNATIONAL LESSON
FEBRUARY 1.

Peter and John in Samaria—Acts 8: 4-39. Golden Text—Acts [illegible]8.

4-8. Philip has already been mentioned as one of the "seven men of good report" chosen to have charge of the distribution of aid to the poor from the funds so generously provided by the willing gifts of the Christian community. Like Stephen, who was also one of the seven, Philip was a zealous missionary and advocate of the new faith. Long afterward Paul visited him at Caesarea, where he was known as "Philip the evangelist," and where his four daughters were co-workers with him in the church of Christ.

See 6: 5 and 21: 8-9. Philip went down to the city of Samaria, in spite of the fact that the Jews disliked and would, ordinarily, have no dealings with the Samaritans. The Spirit of Christ was working in the hearts of these first followers of the Cross, over-coming ancient prejudices and hatreds and breaking down the barriers of race and religion.

The multitudes gave heed. The Samaritans also were expecting a Saviour, and the vision of [illegible] had prepared the minds of many of them for the gospel which Philip now preached to them. And to them the gospel was received then, as it brings to-day, healing and much joy.

9-13. Simon, known to the early Christian church as Simon Magus, or Simon the Sorcerer, acquired considerable notoriety, and was regarded by the Christian folk of the centuries as a very bad man, chief of all heretics and "first-born of Satan." Justin Martyr, a writer of the first part of the second century, says that the Samaritans worshipped him as God, because of his success in practice of magic arts. The fact that he was baptized by Philip is good evidence that, while baptism accompanied the public confession of faith in Christ and was regarded as the sacrament by which a person was admitted to the Christian community, it did not necessarily involve regeneration or guarantee his entrance into the Kingdom of God. Though baptized he received no gift of the Holy Spirit, and Peter, when he came, declared that he had "neither part nor lot in this matter."

14-25. They sent unto them Peter and John. The apostles first prayed for the new converts that "they might receive the Holy Ghost," or as we would say, "the Holy Spirit." This they regarded as the prime necessity of the Christian life, first and greatest of the gifts of God. It was, whatever form it might take, the assured certainty of the spiritual presence of Jesus Christ with them, of the life of God in Christ, and, consequently, an experience both of joy and power. It brought also a clearer understanding, a more vivid realization, of the life of the Lord Jesus Christ, His death, and His resurrection. It sent them out to the world, and made glad and whole-hearted giving of themselves to His service. See 14: 16-27; 15: 26; 16: 13-14; [illegible] 8: 14-17. In the teaching of the apostles the Spirit of Christ is the Spirit of God (Rom. 8: 9), and is regarded as dwelling in every true follower of Jesus (1 Cor. 3: 16; 6: 19; 2 Cor. 6: 16; 2 Tim. 1: 14; Jude 19), and as leading him in the way of truth and righteousness (Rom. 8: 14; Gal. 5: 18.)

Simon coveted the joy and power of this new life, filled with the Spirit of God, and thought that the power to bestow it could be purchased, as no doubt the secret of his own magic art could have been purchased. Peter's answer to his presumptuous request is an indignant reproof and denial. The gift of God is not bought and sold. His counsel to Simon is "Repent." and "Pray." For he is still in the "gall," or "bitterness," of iniquity and in its bonds.

26-29. An Angel of the Lord spake unto Philip. The ardent evangelist felt himself divinely guided. He was sped upon his way by heavenly voices. So he goes, like a Knight of old, from one high adventure to another, winning ever fresh victories for the Kingdom of his Master. Next it is the Ethiopian officer of Queen Candace to whom his errand brings him; afterward to Azotus and all the cities" till he came to Caesarea.

For health's sake drink plenty of water; six glasses a day are not too many; and eat plenty of fruit and vegetables. This will be found far better and more conducive to long life than to neglect this simple, natural method, relying on drugs to correct the careless treatment of the body.

It takes some of us a long time to learn that it is risky business to wait about grinding the scythe till the very moment we want to use it. Odd moments now, when other work is not pressing and there is no grass to cut, will grind the scythe for us, put the mower in order, rig up the grindstone, make new pig troughs, boxes for the garden plants and a thousand and one things to save time when the days are long and time at a premium.

Making Linoleum.

Simple as common kitchen linoleum appears, the process of making it is rather intricate. The skill of the workmen is called into play at almost every step. First, the best and cleanest cork waste, as the scraps are called, is ground into flour. The highest grade of pure linseed oil then is boiled and oxidized under the watchful eye of a chemist until it has become a rubber-like mass which is mixed with the cork flour, and other ingredients and is pressed on a burlap base.

From the linseed oil linoleum gets its name linum, flax and oleum, oil. After the oil is boiled, it is pumped into movable conveyors in the oxidizing sheds, which are about thirty feet high. These conveyors have little holes in the bottom, and as they travel from one end of the shed to the other, the oil runs through on sheets of scrim that are hung from the ceiling to the floor and gradually absorbs oxygen from the air. Heat and oxygen together turn it into a [illegible]. The process is tedious, but it gives linoleum toughness and durability.

After the "skins," or sheets of oil, from oxidizing sheds have been run through metal rollers and reduced to pulp, the oil is cooked in kettles that hold about three tons apiece and rosin and several other ingredients are added to make the cement, or binder that holds the pulverized cork together. When the cement is cooled, it is cut into chunks about a foot square and four or five inches thick and sent to the mixing building where it is put through one machine after another to blend thoroughly the cement and the cork. Then the "mix" is pulverized and conveyed to one of the immense calendering machines, which are a series of heated steel rollers that can be adjusted for variations in thickness as fine as one one-thousandth of an inch. The cork and cement mixture is pressed on the top and the burlap at the bottom, and the two are pressed together.

The plain linoleum then goes into the "stoves," which are long, high, narrow brick drying rooms where the linoleum remains from three to six weeks to be seasoned.

The best way to lay linoleum is to cement it down over heavy felt paper. If a waterproof cement is used at the seams and edges, the floor will be water-tight and will give satisfactory service for many years. A linoleum floor should be waxed thoroughly as soon as it is laid.

All In Vain.

It had been done very gently but firmly. Yet the young man was deeply moved.

"Girl!" he hissed. "You have broken my heart!"

The lady placed her shell-like ear against his heaving chest for a moment.

"No," she said presently, "there is no sign of any organic lesion. I can distinguish slight palpitation, due, no doubt, to excessive cigarette smoking. That's all."

And as the rejected wooer went out into the cold, cruel world he determined that next time he fell in love it wouldn't be with a demobilized V.A.D.

Keep a constant lookout for pullets that start laying early. Mark them with a leg band, for these will be the birds to breed from next spring.

Acid phosphate is a fertilizer that can be used with considerable profit on corn, potatoes and oats, and in orchards, gardens and on lawns, and for top dressing wheat and pastures.