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FRATERNAL: A. F. & A. M., Lodge No. 490, G.R.C. Markdale, meets in Masonic Hall, McFarland Block, on Tuesday evening of each month before the full moon every month. Visiting brethren cordially invited. L. G. Campbell, W.M.; R. W. Brady, Secretary.

C. O. C. P., No. 399: Markdale Council, Canadian Order of Chosen Friends, No. 399, meets second Monday in the month in Sarjeant's Hall at 8 o'clock. A. Jackson, Chief; Councilor: Herb. M. Irwin, Recorder.

MARKDALE, L.O.L., No. 1045: Meets in Sarjeant's block on Thursday evening on or before full moon in each month. Visiting brethren made welcome. Rev. A. Richardson, W.M.; Edward Walker, Secretary.

AUCTIONEERS: B. H. WALDEN, Licensed Auctioneer for the County of Grey. All sales promptly attended to. Farm sales a specialty. Arrangements for sales may be made at Standard Office of B. H. Walden, Markdale.

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Cook's Cotton Root Compound: A safe, reliable regulating medicine. Sold in three different strengths—No. 1, 2, 3. No. 2, \$3; No. 3, \$5 per box. Sold by all druggists or direct from the manufacturer. Free pamphlet. Address: THE COOK MEDICINE CO., TORONTO, ONT. (Remedy Widely Used)

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MISCELLANEOUS

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INTERNATIONAL LESSON, MAY 16.

Victory Under Samuel, 1 Sam. 7: 2-17. Golden Text—1 Sam. 7: 3.

24. In Kirjath-jearim. This town is mentioned also in Josh. 9: 17. It was directly west of Jerusalem, on the border of the Philistine country. Here the ark remained in the house of Ahinadab, whose son, Eleazar, was made its priest and custodian. Twenty years passed and still the ark was in the little town—whose people had received and treated it with such respect and reverence. And throughout all the land, both because of the humiliation which they had suffered at the hands of the Philistines and because of the return of the ark, the sacred symbol of Jehovah's presence, the people repented and "were drawn together after the Lord."

Samuel became, during this period, Israel's great spiritual and national leader. He was never a soldier or leader of armies, like Saul or David, but he was a prophet of God. He was a man whose blameless life and high sense of truth and justice commanded confidence and respect. But above all it was his piety, his sense of nearness to God, and his obedience to that divine Voice which had not ceased to speak within him since his boyhood days in the temple at Shiloh, that gave him his strong hold upon the minds and hearts of the people of Israel. It was from the time of Samuel and onward that the prophets came to occupy a large place in the common life of Israel. There appeared then, for the first time, those companies, or "schools of the prophets," which continued down to the end of the Jewish kingdom. They represented the religious and patriotic movement of the greatest importance in the history of the national spirit which appeared the way and made possible the triumph of the Philistine power, the armies of Saul and David. There was fanaticism and, extending of enthusiasm in these schools, which led the people sometimes to despise them or to call the prophets madmen, yet the great influence of men like Samuel and Nathan, and, at a later time, Elijah and Elisha, made for rationality and sanity, and established the prophetic order as the most powerful instrument of good. The prophets maintained the authority of the ancient law, they stood for Jehovah as Israel's King and Lord against all false gods, and they became counsellors of both kings and people.

Farm Crop Queries

CONDUCTED BY PROF. HENRY G. BELL

The object of this department is to place at the service of our farmers 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.

E. B.—I have five acres of rape which I pastured last fall. I would like to know if it would produce seed this summer, and what is the average yield per acre. Please give me information on handling it in harvest time.

Answer:—The rape crop as sown in Canada is an annual, and only in exceptional cases will a plant live through so as to produce seed the following summer. The average yield of seed where the plants do live through winter is approximately 30 bushels per acre. Whether or not it will be profitable depends entirely upon the yield of seed. The only points to observe in harvesting would be to see that the seed pods are fairly well ripened and thresh the plants as soon as they are sufficiently dry. The seed will readily separate from the seed pods.

B. N. V.—Will you please advise me what you consider the best way for a boy to begin with poultry? I have ten dollars that I want to invest in a little business for myself.

Answer:—Would advise you to purchase a dozen chicks two or three weeks old from someone who is hatching chickens from pure bred stock. Any of the standard breeds such as Barred Rock, Leghorn, Orpington, etc., should prove satisfactory. A small house 8 x 7 feet will accommodate this number of chickens. Buying chicks at this time they should be laying late in Fall, and with care should continue to lay all Winter, bringing you in eggs when they are at the highest price. Purchase a good poultry book and study the subject carefully.

M. B.—Is it possible to exterminate milkweed on a rich clay loam, and how can it be done with the least amount of labor?

Answer:—Milkweed on rich clay

Decorations for the Coming Wedding

One of the first of the many details connected with a wedding is the floral setting, for flowers form not only the most beautiful, but the most appropriate decoration for such an occasion.

The points of vantage for decoration in the home are doorways, mirror, mantel-pieces, window-frames, newel posts and banister rails.

All flowers and shrubbery should be gathered the day before and kept overnight in deep pans or jars which have been filled with water. The jars should stand in a cool place away from drafts. Kept thus, the stems become filled with moisture, and when placed in position the flowers will last quite a while without wilting; but if it is possible to place the stems of the flowers in water (while being used for decorations) they will keep fresh much longer. Milk bottles, one-pint size, are excellent receptacles for the flowers, for by fastening wire around the necks of the bottles they can be suspended from any point, by means of tacks or screw-eyes. The bottles are easily concealed in the arrangement of the flowers and greens.

At the spot selected for the ceremony, there should be an alcove background of green; this is easily arranged by the use of cedar trees. Choose trees that are symmetrical in shape, measuring from four to six feet high. Place these in small tubs of soil, or arrange any other support that will hold the trees in an upright position. Arrange the trees to form a curve or semi-circle from wall to wall, and bank them at the bottom with branches of hemlock stuck into and around the tubs and base of the trees to conceal the supports and give a finish.

A pretty canopy effect can be made by using a stout wire curved to extend out from four to six feet from the wall. The ends of the wire can be attached to a strong strip of wood which is fastened to the wall between two window-frames, and about seven feet from the floor. Wreathing the top of the wire with a bow of ribbon, and the lengths are tied together at one end and attached to the wall close to the ceiling; the strands are then spread over the wire frame and fastened to it at regular intervals. A few flowers or sprigs of blossoms arranged in a band around the curved wire make a pretty finish.

A kneeling stool three and one-half or four feet in length can be made of several small cushions placed on low boxes. Cover the whole with a sheet. Upright strips of wood are nailed at each end, and wrapped with some white material. Loop ribbon across the top and finish at the left-hand top corner with a bow of ribbon and a spray of flowers. The stool is placed in front of the alcove or under the canopy, and the minister stands behind it to await the arrival of the bride and groom.

As the season advances, garden flowers, shrubs and dogwood blossoms can be arranged in much the same way, making a beautiful display and a charming setting for the important event. Snowy white sprays, Dextrias, early Hydrangeas, fragrant lilacs, and later on the rambler or Dorothy Perkins roses with their wealth of color afford variety for the entire month of June. At that period the ceremony quite frequently takes place on the lawn, with an improvised arbor forming a suitable background. Neat stakes driven into the ground and garlanded with wreathing will mark a pathway from the dwelling to the arbor; the guests stand outside the garlands; the bridal procession winds its way between them. When flowers are abundant they can be used profusely. They give a decorative effect that will linger in the memory of those present.

When the ceremony takes place in church, the architectural features of the building control the decorations to a certain extent. If the ceremony is performed at the head of the aisle, in front of the pulpit, the platform is generally banked with greens. When palms are not available, cedar, fir, or hemlock, or pails or vases filled with flowering shrubs or rose sprays, should be arranged to present a graceful but not too crowded appearance. Remember that grace and symmetry in the arrangement are of more importance than the quantity or quality of the materials used. Wild flowers and jessamine can be arranged with as good effect as when palms, and hollyhock flowers are used.

The front pews are reserved for the families of the contracting parties. The bride's family occupy the pews on the left of the centre aisle. The bridegroom's family is seated in the pews on the right. Flowers are tied to the ends of the pews to mark the reserved section.

The flowers carried by the bride and her attendants should be selected and arranged with care. The bride's flowers are usually white, although pale tints are sometimes introduced. The loosely arranged spray or shawl bouquet is preferred. Tulle and ribbon streamers, to which small roses, buds or lilies of the valley are tied, make a veritable shower of flowers. Care should be exercised to have the bouquet of proper size. A girl of small build would be lost behind a large bouquet, while a girl of large build and stately carriage would look ridiculous carrying a bouquet of the dimensions suited to her smaller sister.

HER CASE SEEMED NOPELESS

"Fruit-a-lives" Brought Health and Strength

29 St. Ross St., Montreal. I was writing you to tell you that I had been relieved when I had been up hope of ever being well. I was a terrible sufferer from Rheumatism—had suffered for years. Nothing I took did me any good. I read about "Fruit-a-lives" and tried them. After taking a few boxes of the wonderful medicine, I was completely cured. My name ROSINA FOISEL, Montreal. Price, 6 for \$2.50, trial size, 3 for \$1.00. Dealers or sent postpaid by Fruit-a-lives Limited, Ottawa.

Poultry

And fresh water are two things that cost nothing in growing chicks that will come into profit-layers, and how many flocks neglected several years ago and those that had been kept in the orchard were plentiful made the most economical gains and better adults than those that were no shade.

gets into the habit of doing things that cost nothing in growing chicks that will come into profit-layers, and how many flocks neglected several years ago and those that had been kept in the orchard were plentiful made the most economical gains and better adults than those that were no shade.

Secrets of Poultry Feeding

Feed your poultry on a regular basis. It is the product of all that is fed to them. If proper food is not given, the health and strength of the birds will suffer. It is not a question of quantity, but of quality. The best food is that which is most nutritious and easiest to digest. Avoid feeding them anything that is stale or spoiled. Keep their water clean and fresh at all times.

A Covered Drain Will Last a Lifetime

When a field is so situated that there is no natural outlet for its water, a system of underground tiles, resort must be had to a drainage ditch leading to some point which offers escape for the surplus moisture, or the same result must be effected through the use of large tiles placed underground.

Mismanagement

Officer (to recruit)—"Goodness gracious, man, where are all your shots?" Soldier (nervously)—"I don't know. They left here all right."