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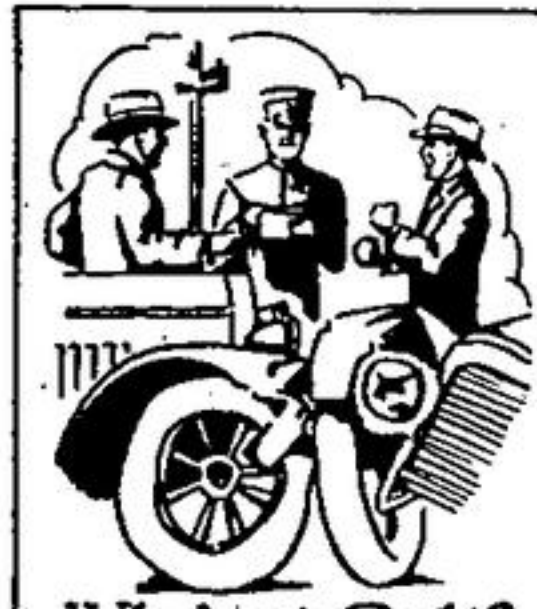
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**MANY SOILS NEED LIME**

MINISTRY DEPT. OF A. A. C. HAS MADE SPECIAL STUDY.  
Is Your Soil Acid or Sour? If So Lime Will Help—Any way the Subject Is Worth Your Study.

What is soil acidity? When we speak of a substance being acid we think of it having a sour taste, something that will put our teeth on edge, like lemon juice, or vinegar. This is acidity. Chemicals so much richer and draw much finer distinction, one of which is the effect on certain substances that we term indicators. A common one is the blue litmus paper. This paper changes color from blue to red when it comes in contact with an acid. Many substances when dissolved in water have an acid reaction. One of these is copper sulphate or blue-stone. We know that if we dissolve it in a tin of iron paint it will "eat it". This is due to acid formed on dissolving. There are many compounds in a soil which have the same property. They are sulphuric acid, phosphoric acid, silicic acid, and iron. For example if we heat ordinary sand in steam under pressure it becomes an acid, silicic acid, which has properties common to all acids. So, acid soil.

So often we hear the expression "sour" in speaking of soils. It is generally used to describe a soil which is poorly drained, more or less water-logged and in poor physical condition. It may be acid or it may not, but it is "sour" in the popular sense. There is only one term we can correctly use and that is "acid". If a soil behaves under chemical investigation in a certain way it is acid. So we will drop the term "sour" when speaking of soils.

**How Soils Become Acid.**  
The acidity of soils is, therefore, due to acid salts, those that have an acid action when in solution, or to acids. These acids and acid salts may result from decomposition of organic matter or from changes which occur gradually, due to leaching or washing away of bases from the soil. Thus we have two types of acidity which may occur together.

**Decaying Organic Matter.**  
Acidity due to decaying organic matter is largely found in peaty soils which are not affected by washings from surrounding high lands. We find this condition of affairs in Northern Ontario muskegs, where the sub-soils, which normally might contain lime, are buried deeply under a soil composed entirely of decayed plant matter.

**High Lands and Acidity.**  
High lands tend to become acid. This idea is new or comparatively so and contrary to the belief of many. It has been generally understood that low lying land is generally acid but now the opposite has been proven. Let us see how this is. In a climate like ours we get about 30 inches of rainfall in a year. As this rain falls on the soil it soaks in, passing through the air it dissolves carbon dioxide which is always present and forms a very weak acid. So weak is this acid that we cannot detect it except by very delicate tests. This acid dissolves the lime out of the soil, and though it is very slow in action, within a hundred years it dissolves out a great deal. Many strokes will fall great oaks, and though the solution of lime is very slow we can readily understand how after a hundred years a great deal of lime will be removed. How do we know lime is dissolved? Look at the inside of a tea kettle and ask yourself how this lime got there. Plainly from the water. The water comes from the well or spring so that the rain water must have dissolved the lime in passing through the soil. We can readily understand how higher areas are more subjected to washing and leaching than more level lands.

Don't Plant Diseased Potatoes.  
It would seem wise on the part of everyone who plants potatoes to make a thorough examination of the stock before planting. If people plant diseased potatoes they are committing a crime, because they are propagating a disease to the district, may spread and do much damage to another grower's crop. With diseased seed potatoes being offered in many markets and by many who sell direct from the farm, it will pay the grower to put on his specs and carefully look over the offering before ordering shipment.—L. Stevenson, Director of Extension, O. A. College.

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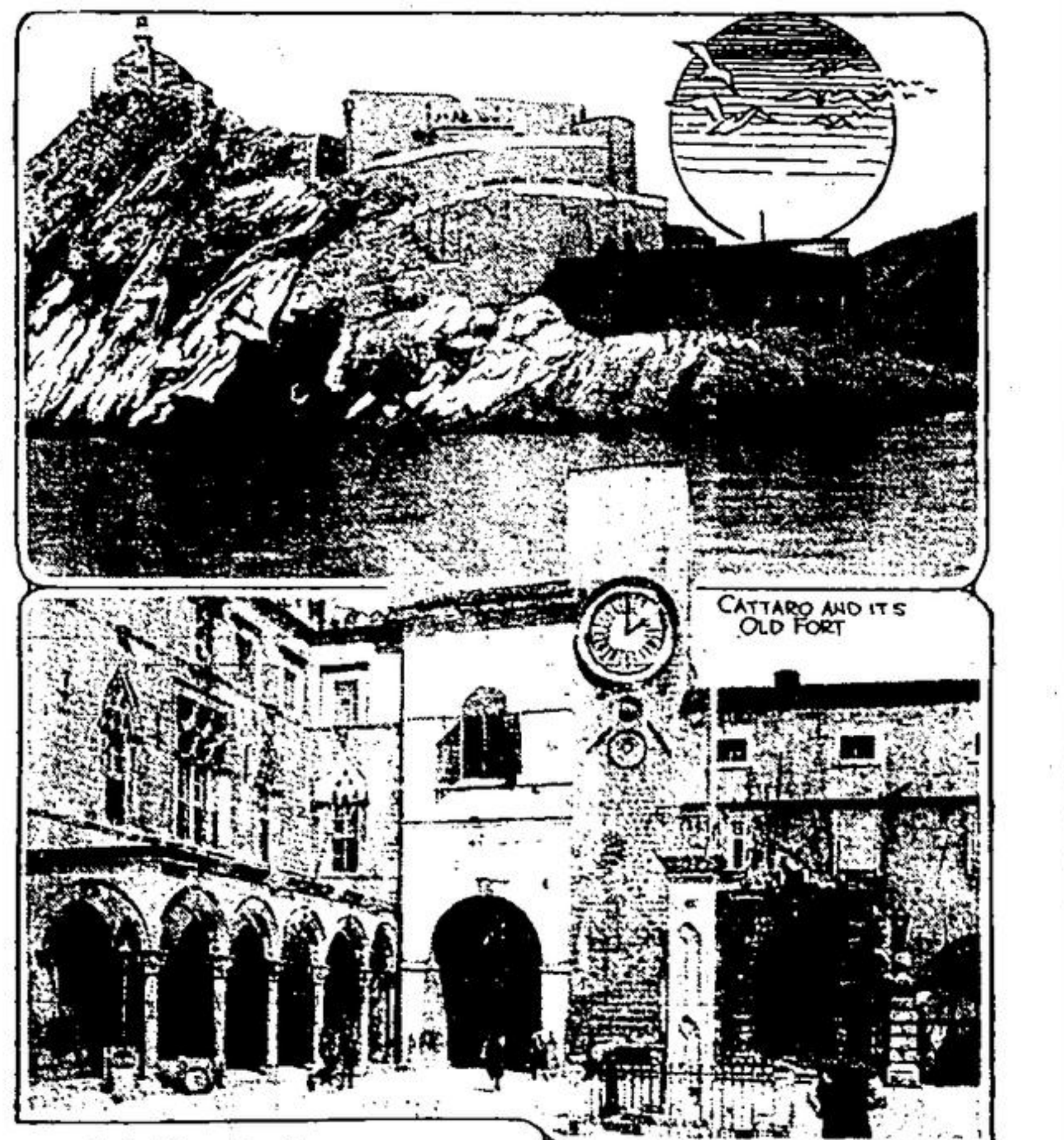
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**Pigeons Were Postmen in Old Ragusa**



Seven hundred years ago, the pigeons of the Free City of Ragusa, in Dalmatia, were postmen. They went across all the seas in boats, travelled with all the caravans, and knew all the routes of the air which brought them back to Ragusa. Like the sailors of Ragusa, they were known in all the ports of the world; as a protection, they were made citizens of the Free City of Ragusa. Any person molesting or insulting a pigeon was therefore guilty of offence against the state and was brought before the tribunal. Homes were built for these pigeons in the city walls, and the streets and roof tops were theirs. Every man who sat under the city gates was obliged to offer as tribute from his native town two pigeons. These lived in wooden cages lashed with the names of their homes, and gossiped with the other pigeons until their turn came to carry out a letter. In this way, Ragusa enlarged its postal system.

But the centuries rolled by, Ragusa lost its freedom. Venice usurped its powers on the sea. Relationships steamed up and down the Adriatic. With the other citizens, the pigeons lost their rights and were forced to associate with the sea gulls from Lacerona, an island to the north, sometimes suffering the indignity of being grain from the birds with whom in the days of their exclusive splendour, they would not associate.

Today, the port of Ragusa, Ragusa's harbor, is crowded with ships bearing the new flag of Jugoslavia. Passengers from the Empress of France, the Canadian Pacific steamship which next year will add Cattaro and Gravosa ports on its annual Mediterranean cruise, will have a chance to scatter crumbs to the thousands of cooing pigeons still crowding Ragusa's streets and adding to its beauty. The white city, Bride of the Sea, some poet has called her, would be less beautiful if the iridescent necks of the pigeons did not make small splashes of color on the spires, smooth flagstones and the gray white buildings.

**HOW ABOUT LEGUMES?**

IMPORTANT TO MAINTAIN NITROGEN IN THE SOIL.  
Alfalfa, Red Clover, Sweet Clover and Soy Beans All Have a High Value — Inoculation Helpful.

As a source of nitrogen the legume crops, alfalfa, red clover, sweet clover and soy beans have a high value. Different crops sown on different soils show some variation in the total nitrogen accumulated and held for return to the soil. A heavy crop of red clover has been estimated to contain 175 pounds of nitrogen per acre. Alfalfa is credited with the high figure of 200 pounds per acre, sweet clover and vetch 175 pounds per acre and down 175 pounds of nitrogen per acre.

To return these quantities to the land it is necessary to plow, in the entire crop, as at seed harvest time there is approximately 15 per cent of the total nitrogen in that part of the plant above ground. The nitrogen value added to the value of peash, phosphorus and humus-making material is a very high value to the legumes when grown as soil improvement crops, so much so that we wonder why their popularity has been so long delayed.

Turned under as green manure the clovers will contribute the largest possible amount of nitrogen for the use of succeeding crops. If clovers are fed to stock on the farm and the manure returned to the soil, there will be much nitrogen for succeeding crops. Cut off and sold, there is likely to be less in nitrogen fertility as the amount left in the roots may not be sufficient to balance the condition of nitrogen deficiency existing before the crop was grown.

The legume plant is the link between nitrogen and the soil. The great difference between legumes and non-legumes is that the legume has the ability to obtain nitrogen from the air. With 5,000,000,000 pounds floating over each acre this should not be difficult, but it is; and the co-partnership of the legume and bacteria are essential for the work of nitrogen extraction. The legume root nodules are essential; it results from the presence of the bacteria. If there are no nodules present then there are no bacteria working, and the legume plant then depends, as any other plant on the nitrogen stored in the soil. The legume plant alone is a nitrogen robber, but give it the bacteria to work on its roots, and it then becomes a great storehouse for nitrogen. In a soil poor in nitrogen, the legume without nodules grows poorly or not at all.

**Natural Inoculation.**  
The presence of nodules forming bacteria in the soil when the young legume plants are starting growth, results in a bacterial invasion of the fine rootlets of the plant. The plant in its effort to repair the lesion produced the nodule formation which is literally a house for the bacteria in which they live while extracting their food from the plant juices. They may their board with big interest for their home and food. They are supplied, by giving it a continuous supply of nitrogen in a form that it can use. This nitrogen comes from the air. When the plant ripens the nodules cease to grow, shrivel and decay. The bacteria are liberated and remain in the soil awaiting fresh root growth when the start their work of continued existence and multiplication over again. Natural or chance inoculation is not always to be recommended, it may be too slow, as it takes time for the bacteria to become distributed through the entire soil of a field, better to add the natural, by applying the nodule bacteria to the seed at time of sowing. The cost is small and the gain usually large. That it is cheap crop insurance is evidenced by the fact that over 4,000 Ontario farmers used the O. A. C. nodule bacteria on their clover, alfalfa and other legume seeds last year.—L. Stevenson, Dept. of Extension, O. A. College.

**The English Walnut Tree.**  
King Solomon planted gardens of nuts. Surely a wise thing to do and another evidence of the wisdom of this anti-suffragette king.

Canada is not a producing country, but not a net consuming country. We import each year from various foreign lands nuts to the value of five million dollars, an amount that more than over balances the value of our apple exports. If we buy more nuts than we are selling apples, there are significant reasons for considering the culture of nuts in our Lake Erie counties. There are about 200 bearing English walnut trees now in Southern Ontario. If 200 trees, which cost 200,000, there is lots of room for them.

In the Innes Valley, France, the home of the best variety of English walnut, there are thousands of walnut trees, but only a few are planted in regular orchard form, most of the trees are scattered along the roads, about the buildings, wherever it could be inconvenient to raise other kinds of crops. Even under these supposedly adverse conditions the hundreds of individual growers annually sell highly profitable crops, which in the aggregate total several thousand tons. The favored Lake Erie counties have many acres suited to the walnut, and every farm could accommodate 50 trees or more, distributed about the dooryard, buildings, along fences or ravines, without reducing the grain producing capacity of the farm by one bushel.

If modern agricultural industry is to make its mark on the future, it must make its mark on the security of its food. The walnut is more hardy than the peach, and the crop will not spoil overnight. When you plant another tree, you plant a hardy, long-lived, English walnut.—L. Stevenson, Director of Extension, O. A. College.

**Notice to Creditors**

In the matter of the Estate of Ephraim Moore, late of the Township of "The County of Haldimand, Farmer, Deceased.

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Statute in that behalf that all persons having claims against the estate of Ephraim Moore, late of the Township of Esquesing, in the County of Haldimand, Farmer, deceased, who died on or about the 14th day of January, 1926, at the said Township of Esquesing, are required to send by post or deliver to the undersigned solicitor for the Executor, on or before the 15th day of April, 1926, their names, and full particulars of their claims, and the usual security, if any, held by them, all duly verified by statutory declaration. After the said date the Executor will proceed to distribute the assets of the said deceased among the parties entitled thereto, having regard only to the claims of which he shall then have notice, and he shall not be liable for the assets or any part of them to any person of whose claim notice shall not have been received by him at the time of such distribution.

Dated at Milton this 20th day of March, 1926.

THOMAS A. H. THOMPSON,  
Milton, Ont.  
Solicitor for the Executor

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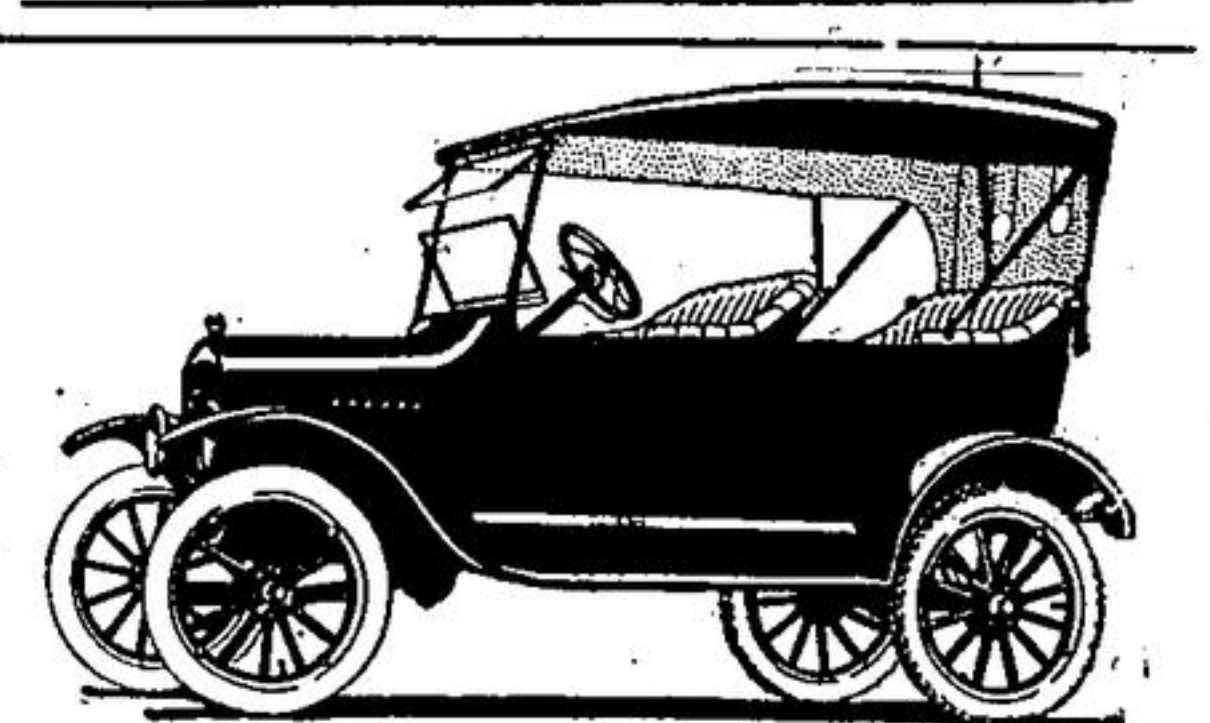
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