

MEANING OF THE REVOLUTION

THE SPIRIT OF DE... IN RUSSIA.

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Farm Crop Queries

Conducted by Professor 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. 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.



Henry G. Bell.

Question—F. P.:—(a) What fertilizer would you suggest for corn in medium soil, and how much? Have no manure. (b) What is the best kind of soil for buckwheat, and when is the best time to sow, and how thickly?

Answer:—(a). For corn on medium soil I would advise from 500 to 500 pounds per acre of fertilizer carrying 1 to 2% ammonia and 8 to 12% available phosphoric acid. If it is possible to obtain 1% potash, the addition will be of advantage to the crop. A satisfactory method of applying this fertilizer to the corn is to drill it in through the fertilizer dropping attachment of the wheat drill. Such a method of application puts the plant food into the soil where the material can dissolve. The available plant food acts on the young crop somewhat the same as whole milk fed to the young calf. It gives it a strong, healthy, vigorous start.

In using fertilizers do not neglect to grow clover or rye on this ground inside the next two years and then turn under a second crop of clover or a fair growth of rye or some other green manure. In using fertilizers you are adding plant food but you are not adding organic matter or humus. Humus is essential to the producing capacity of the soil, hence must not be neglected.

(b) Buckwheat will do well on most any type of soil with the exception of muck. It is successful sown later than the average farm crops, even sown as late as early June. Probably late in May is the best time to seed it, using from 3 to 5 pecks of good seed per acre.

Question—T. L.:—What is the best fertilizer for strawberries, and when should it be used, on the vines that are bearing this year or the vines to be set out this year?

Answer:—In fertilizing strawberries, good results are obtained by using from 400 to 600 pounds per acre of fertilizer analyzing from 2 to 3% ammonia and 8 to 12% available phosphoric acid, and possibly 2 to 3% potash. This is best applied when preparing the bed for the planting of the young vines. When the ground has been thoroughly disked this available plant food should be drilled in through the fertilizer dropping attachment of the wheat drill, or it should be broadcasted over the proposed strawberry bed and thoroughly disked and harrowed in. When the young vines are set they will profit greatly by the added vigor obtained from this available plant food. As a rule, top-dressing growing strawberries has not been the most profitable way to apply.

Question—M. C.:—What is the best way to get rid of wild mustard? Answer:—A practical way to get rid of mustard is to spray the young plants before they come into flower. For this purpose a spray machine such as is used for spraying potatoes might be used. Empty a 100-pound sack of sulphate of iron into a kerosene or vinegar barrel. Fill it up to the chine with water and stir until the sulphate is dissolved. Strain the solution through several thicknesses of cheese-cloth or muslin into the tank of the spray machine. To be most effective, it is well to apply 50 gallons of this material to the acre. The more powerful the spraying machine the better, since the mist is most effective when divided into finest particles. A pressure of 80 to 100 pounds at the nozzle should be maintained. A two-horse spraying machine will spray from 20 to 100 acres of grain in a 10-hour day. In actual practice, which has been carried out, this method of treatment has proven very efficient in killing out this troublesome weed. It does not hurt the grain crop.

and over, until at last the little boy called to his father and mother. "Come quickly, please," he urged, "and come softly, because some one is playing ticktack on my window, and maybe you can catch him!"

Father and mother came quickly and softly and both of them were laughing. They thought that the neighbors' boys were hiding outside the house with a ticktack. Mr. Patterson laughed, because he used to do tricks like that when he was a boy. Mrs. Patterson laughed, because she thought how surprised some one would be when she opened the window wide and said, "Who's there?"

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TRAINING THE PRECOCIOUS CHILD

Great Wisdom is Needed That the Brilliant Child May Be Well-Balanced and Win Success in Later Life.

Whenever we meet an unusually bright or precocious child, there is sure to be some fond and admiring friend or relative hovering near, anxious to "show it off." As a matter of fact, the child of average ability is in much less danger than the backward or precocious one.

The backward child may not be understood or it may not have the most intelligent methods used in its management. For this reason, such a child may fail to achieve as much as he might under favorable circumstances. However, no one expects very much of a deficient youngster, and if he is given helpful surroundings, good care and sympathetic understanding, his handicap may in time be partly overcome.

Very often the child who is exceedingly bright in certain respects, is decidedly average otherwise. If you press a ball in at one point, it will bulge out on the opposite side. The bulging or noticeable characteristics is pretty sure to be balanced by a dent somewhere. This may be the reason that many people who are really brilliant in some directions are not well-balanced or evenly developed all around.

There is also grave danger that precocious children may have too much expected of them and be urged beyond their normal capacity. A little boy who was fond of music and who really did exceptionally well with his violin lessons was urged to long periods of practice and encouraged to take part in many public entertainments. These things were accomplished at the cost of play and sleep. The child developed a nervous trou-

ble and was obliged eventually to give up both school and music. It is frequently remarked that the pupil who is unusually brilliant in school, winning much favor and many honors, is not always a success in later life. There are reasons why this is often so. If book knowledge comes too early through an extra good memory or the ability to see through a problem quickly, little mental training is given, and when that individual goes out into the world, superficial methods and the expectation of getting much and giving little, do not make for success.

The precocious child is in danger of becoming over-confident, egotistical, lacking in thoroughness, and patronizing in manner. Too often such children do not develop the mental and moral fibre which effort and discouragement, more determined effort and final victory bring out. One that he could stay out of school three days, attend one day, and still keep up with his class. It may be the old story of the hare and the tortoise. He is gaining a contempt for educational advantages and is likely to be handicapped for life with the idea that persistence and conscientious effort are not necessary for him. Teachers often remark that they are the best instructors in the subject which were hard for them to learn as pupils. They know where the difficulties lie and how discouraging they are. Great wisdom is needed in handling the precocious child so that it may be well-balanced and kindly, and realize the necessity of achieving its own best.

Your Problems

Conducted by Mrs. Helen Law

Mothers and daughters of all ages are cordially invited to write to this department. Initials only will be published with each question and its answer as a means of identification, but full name and address must be given in each letter. Write on one side of paper only. Answers will be mailed direct if stamped and addressed envelope is enclosed. Address all correspondence for this department to Mrs. Helen Law, 75 Castle Frank Road, Toronto.

M. E. S.:—A child four or five years old should drink at least a glassful of water between five o'clock supper and seven o'clock bedtime. Children should get the habit of drinking water both morning and evening. This will prevent a good deal of sluggish action of the liver, kidneys and bowels, and will obviate the need of laxatives, which are used altogether too freely.

F. H.:—It is misconception to believe a kitchen should be large. It should be small, compact, cheerfully and sanitarily finished, with cross-ventilation, and an abundance of illumination. It should also, of course, be so small as to be cramped, or congested. A long, narrow pantry should be studiously avoided. Built-in cupboards in the kitchen might take the place of a pantry and save steps. Any worker desiring to eliminate waste motion and increase her efficiency 50 per cent, can ask herself these questions: 1. Is my table, stool, board, or working surface at the right height? 2. Are my utensils and materials needed for this task all before me when I begin? 3. Do I have to stoop unnecessarily? Do I take unnecessary steps? 4. Are my utensils arranged with proper regard to each other, and to other tasks? 5. Is my position comfortable? 6. Am I using the best and right tool for the purpose? 7. Is the tool properly adjusted and in good condition before I begin work? 8. Am I making any awkward motions, or ones I could omit?

L. N. T.:—Here is an extract from a book entitled "The Efficient Life," which may suit your case. It is a plan that is decidedly worth trying. A tired and nervous mother will often find fault unnecessarily, and cause friction in the home. Give mind and body a real rest every day, as this message advises: "Many mothers slave for their children so many hours a day that they have but little energy left with

but of free will" (1 Peter 5. 2). 14. This takes up verse 3. Compare the "sea" upon God's "firm foundation" (2 Tim. 2. 19). Mine own know me—Verse 5 is the converse. One recalls the "true Israelite" of John 1. 47 who instinctively recognizes the "King of Israel."

15. This is the note so often struck in John 17: the Lord applies to us a standard actually drawn from his own relations with the Father. It is essentially like Matt. 5. 48 and Eph. 5. 1. For the sheep—in this context the suggestion is that he who rescues sheep at the risk of his own life, "Risk" we may still say for in Gethsemane he showed that he could conceive of God's finding at the last moment some other way of accomplishing his purpose. But here that possibility is barely in sight: He is sure the offered life will be taken, as he is sure that having lost his life he will find it again.

16. This fold—The Chosen People, who thought themselves monopolists of God's mercy. They shall hear, and so prove that they are truly his sheep. They shall become one flock—The margin there shall be is not impossible as a translation of the reading implied in the text: the difference made is slight. One flock—Jerome's extraordinary blunder, one fold, is perhaps the most disastrous translation mistake ever made in history. It was largely responsible for the universal idea that unity consists in external organization instead of the bond of love. In Greek the word flock is derived from the word shepherd: the vital unity of Christendom is in the Shepherd.

17. Perfect sacrifice is the condition of perfect love. It was by carrying his obedience "as far as death" (Phil. 2. 8) that the Son won his exaltation. That I may be like him in Rom. 8. 34. There is an unwillingness even to mention the death alone, lest men should think—as Art has so often perforce taught them—of a Dead Christ as the object of our worship.

18. Took it away (margin)—If this reading is right, it is another link back on his earthly career as closed and lying in the past. Power—Fatherly authority, derived from God. For without a clear call from God no man has the right to give or even risk the life of God for his own purpose. Lay it down—A different tense now is used, which justifies this rendering. "His commandment"—To sacrifice and to resume life alike. Careful study of the Synoptic record of the Passion will show that the Lord was not a sive victim. He chose the time of his death (see Matt. 26. 6) and the charge on which he would lead (Mark 14. 61), when his enemies tried their best to escape both—the former because of the people, the latter because such a charge would not appeal to Pilate, the Roman procurator.

The fibre of the Argentine gusano plant having been found suitable for sheep manufacture, a lace factory will be established in that country. One of the most costly buildings in Benares is a temple for monkeys. The followers of Brahma hold this animal sacred and worship it as a deity.

SCANDINAVIA HARD HIT BY THE WAR

DENMARK, NORWAY AND SWEDEN SUFFER PRIVATIONS.

Dread of War With Germany Has Kept the Scandinavian Alliance Inactive.

For a month, writes a Stockholm correspondent of the New York Herald, the three Scandinavian countries have been cut off from the whole extra-European world. With the Entente countries of West Europe and with America the only direct communication is by cable. Immediately after the German submarine proclamation optimists expected restoration of at least the Bergen-Newcastle traffic, but so far nothing has been done. The great Russian express traffic has ceased, and the express trains to Harparanda, on the Finnish frontier, no longer run. The only direct trade worth mentioning is with Germany. Business men are proclaiming that Scandinavia's one resource for the rest of the war is to tighten the belt and live on half rations in Germany's own way.

What Oppression Means. Consumers who have been grumbling for two years over the minor inconveniences caused by British trade measures are now realizing what really oppressive measures involve. All three Scandinavian countries are threatened with the most serious difficulties. Sweden has not enough grain to last till next harvest, and she is doubtful whether she will ever see the 200,000 tons of flour already ordered in the United States by the State Food Commission. Denmark's case is worse. She is threatened in greater degree than Sweden with the danger of grain, and the suspension of her dairy produce exports to England through a trade blockade. Still worse is Norway's lot. Norway produces a smaller proportion of food than either of her neighbors, and she risks both having no food and having her chief industry, shipping, permanently lamed.

Card System Extended. All three countries are busy with measures, already taken or suggested for meeting the general famine; the card system is to be extended; public buildings, theatres and schools are partly or wholly closed, owing to lack of fuel; railway and local shipping services are being curtailed, and more and more branches of production are being brought under State control. In Stockholm only one street lamp out of four is to be lighted, and in one large suburb domestic electric lighting ceases at 9 a.m. A threatened complete lack of English cloth and other English manufactured goods has led to a run on shops, and citizens are laying in stocks of everything obtainable in preparation for coming drastic State measures of limitation of purchase and sale.

A Fear of Germany. To-day every Scandinavian admits that the much-complained-of British restrictions were trifles. In spite of this admission the Scandinavian States have, as yet, adequately reacted to Germany's latest act of aggression. President Wilson has not gone out of her way to condemn the United States policy. Dread of war with Germany has dominated every other feeling. Every pro-German newspaper, like the Svensk Dagblad, admitted that Germany's submarine campaign, in so far as it infringed Swedish rights, must be protested against; but, on the other hand, the strongest pro-Entente newspapers, such as the Socialdemokrat, were against accepting Mr. Wilson's invitation to break off diplomatic relations, much less to take up arms.

Would Escape Hostilities. In Norway conditions are the same; the press unanimously condemned Germany's action, but it proclaimed that the issue was not worth a war. Denmark, too, is at one in denunciation of the "blockade," but there is the old difference between the conservative opposition's unqualified anti-Germanism and the Radical-Socialist group's dread of giving offence to Berlin. From the first it was inevitable that the Scandinavian countries would not risk a conflict with Germany, but it is mainly the little Sweden that so little was done. The Germanophile Conservative party, which is now in power, never so clearly got its way.

Swedes Are Pro-German. Sweden, as the strongest Scandinavian State, has dominated her neighbors' politics ever since the Christiania agreement that all three should act together. This prevents resolute opposition to German aggression. Even Mr. Hammarskjöld's Cabinet could not resist the need for defending some special Swedish interest or right, but as long as it is in power united Scandinavian action against Germany on general grounds of policy or humanity will be out of the question. It takes more "know how" to farm successfully than to engage in any other trade; but the farmer gets his living as he goes along. Other trades don't.



Bedtime Stories

Mother Robin's April Fool.

Mother Robin played an April-fool joke on little Sammy Patterson: she played a joke and said "April fool!" at the right time, only of course she said it robin fashion. When any robin laughs after sunset and says "cheer up!" it sounds like "April fool!" and Sammy's robin probably knew what she was talking about.

She and Father Robin came back early that year, and built their nest the last week in March. Ever since Sammy was big enough to have a room of his own near his mother's room upstairs, the robins had built in an apple tree just outside his window. This was the first time, though, that they had come in March.

Sammy did his best to help them so long as March lasted. He put string on the fence for Mother Robin. He did everything a country boy could do to help a pair of robins get settled for the season. And they must have been birds of exceptional intelligence for they used the string. And then, the minute April came, Sammy forgot them.

The only reason Sammy forgot the robins for a few hours was because the first day of April was his day to play jokes on the family and then shout "April fool!" He had much fun with everyone that day, and was so tired at bedtime that he was glad to believe what the clock said without asking a question.

and over, until at last the little boy called to his father and mother. "Come quickly, please," he urged, "and come softly, because some one is playing ticktack on my window, and maybe you can catch him!"

Father and mother came quickly and softly and both of them were laughing. They thought that the neighbors' boys were hiding outside the house with a ticktack. Mr. Patterson laughed, because he used to do tricks like that when he was a boy. Mrs. Patterson laughed, because she thought how surprised some one would be when she opened the window wide and said, "Who's there?"

Sammy's pretty mother did open the window and did say, "Who's there?" But she was the one who was straightway surprised, because no one answered but Mother Robin. Mother Robin had laid one blue egg that morning, and she was on the nest keeping the treasure warm. When Mrs. Patterson said, "Who's there?" Mother Robin untucked her head from under her wing and answered, "April fool!" cheerfully.

"Sure enough!" exclaimed Sammy's father. "It was Mother Robin who has been playing ticktack on your window. Look at this, Sammy!"

Sammy looked. What he saw was a long string dangling from the top of Mother Robin's nest. A nail was tied to the end of the string, and it was that nail that made the tap-tap-tapping noise, helped by the April breeze.

How Sammy and his father and his mother laughed when they saw that string that Mother Robin had woven into her nest, nail and all! The robin laughed, too, robin fashion.



Horse Sense

The symptoms of spasmodic colic are: Uneasiness, stamping, pawing, throwing himself down, rolling, getting up, etc. The attacks are spasmodic, and during the intervals patient is normal, may appear to want to urinate. Drench with 1 1/2 oz. each of laudanum, sweet spirits of nitre and tincture of belladonna in a pint of water. Repeat in 2 hours if necessary. The general indifference to horse-feeding at present in some farm sections offers all the more encouragement to those who follow the less popular course and raise horses before they are actually at a premium on the markets.

Brood mares must be properly exercised, preferably with light work but not where there is danger of straining or falling or being crowded between shafts. Watch the mare carefully at foaling. A clean, thoroughly disinfected bright cheerful box stall is the best place to foal a mare, unless the weather is warm and a clean comfortable grass paddock is available. Yearlings and foals well fed and free from vermin will make the greatest and most profitable gains on summer pasture, but if the pasture is short, a grain supplement is a most profitable investment. The secret of thousands of pounds pass almost unnoticed. Animal husbandry has become one of the most important and progressive vocations.



Sheep Notes

Sheep will turn to profitable account more waste products than will any other class of farm animals. A sheep has a low nervous organization, and once neglected gives up with little effort. But kept in thrift with good care it will be as hardy as any other animal. This is the season of the year when sheep need most care and labor. Reasonable attention in the lambing season will save a heavy mortality. A good shepherd will raise a 125% lamb crop. Don't forget the spring dipping. Although other work may demand attention, yet this is the one phase of sheep husbandry that should never be neglected. Shear fairly early, at least before the very warm spring days arrive, and thus save the ewe discomfort and loss in weight. With wool as valuable per pound as butter, the greatest care should be taken to produce the cleanest, best fleece and properly to care for the same after shearing. Co-operative marketing will add from two to eight cents per pound revenue from your wool. Give the lambs an extra good start on grass. A lamb creep in the corner of the pasture and light grain feeding will usually be found most profitable.

Every farmer should develop the muscular system of his children, with good food, exercise and right training. Which shall it be?