

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. 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. C. H.:—What commercial fertilizer would you recommend for strawberries; first, for newly set beds; second, for plants in bearing one or two years old? How about bone meal?

Answer:—For newly set beds an application of from 500 to 500 lbs. per acre of bone meal is good practice. If the soil tends to be light or sandy probably better results can be obtained by the application of the same amount of a complete fertilizer analyzing 3 to 5 per cent. ammonia, 8 to 10 per cent. phosphoric acid and 3 to 4 per cent. potash. This fertilizer should be worked into the seed bed thoroughly before the strawberries are planted. In fact, at planting time it will be found advantageous to scatter a handful of this fertilizer around the space where the plant is to be set and work it into the soil at the time the new plant is set. For growing plants about 500 lbs. per acre of high grade fertilizer such as mentioned above will be found highly profitable. This should be applied in spring just after the mulch has been raked off the strawberries and should be worked into the ground thoroughly by careful cultivation.

H. V.:—(1) How would you prepare a seed-bed for alfalfa? (2) For fall wheat?

Answer:—To prepare a seed-bed for alfalfa if possible choose land that has grown some early cultivated crop such as early potatoes, sweet corn or the like. If this is impossible, as soon as early oats or barley are harvested have the land plowed the same as you would the land following potatoes, and worked into a meadow seedbed. Apply five to ten loads of well-rotted manure per acre after plowing and carefully work this into the soil by disking and harrowing. If the ground tends to be rough follow the disking and harrowing with a rolling and follow the rolling with a light harrowing so a surface mulch will be prepared. So as to insure sweetness of soil, which is essential for alfalfa growing, apply about 1000 lbs. per acre of air-slaked burnt lime to a ton of finely ground limestone. Scatter this evenly on the surface of the worked soil and work it into the soil by disking. Keep up this cultivation until late in July or early in August, then seed alfalfa at the rate of 10 to 20 lbs. per acre, depending upon the quality of seed. The higher the grade seed the less quantity per acre is necessary. Some growers prefer growing the crop without nurse crop, others find it highly advantageous to sow alfalfa with a nurse crop such as fall wheat or rye which they sow at the rate of about a bushel to a quarter per acre. One argument in favor of the nurse crop is that it forms a good top which insures a thorough covering of snow on the young alfalfa the first winter. At the time of seeding it is practically good crop insurance to apply about 250 to 300 lbs. of fertilizer analyzing about 2 to 3 per cent. ammonia, 8 to 10 per cent. phosphoric acid, and 2 to 4 per cent. potash. This gives quickly available plant food which helps the young growing crop, and nearly always procures a good alfalfa stand. This is the practice followed by several large alfalfa growers in Wisconsin and New York where year after year they are putting down 100 to 150 acres of fresh alfalfa.

(2) For fall wheat some farmers prefer summer fallowing, which means that they set apart a piece of land especially for fall wheat, plow it early in spring and disk and harrow it periodically, so as to kill weeds and work it down into a fine surface. Others follow early maturing crops such as early potatoes or early corn and then early oats with fall wheat, plowing the land just as soon as the first crop is taken off, and working it down by disking, harrowing and rolling. The deciding factor of course will be the moisture condition of the soil. If there has been a fairly good supply of rain there will be moisture enough to start the winter wheat crop. If, on the other hand it has been an exceedingly dry summer, fall wheat following an early spring growing crop will suffer on account of lack of moisture. Richness of soil is an important factor in starting fall wheat. There is just enough food in the wheat kernel to start the plant off so that it may form its first roots and send its shoots out of the ground. This must be supplemented with a supply of well-balanced available plant food, if the crop is to proceed to a profitable yield. For this reason thousands of fall wheat growers are finding it highly profitable to drill in from 200 to 400 lbs. per acre of fertilizer analyzing 2 to 3 per cent. ammonia, 8 to 10 per cent. phosphoric acid and 2 to 4 per cent. potash. The one operation of the machinery accomplishes both the drilling of the wheat and the fertilizer, hence the

Correct Forms and Correct Stationery

When it is remembered that a letter will make either a favorable or an unfavorable impression upon the reader, good form in correspondence is worth consideration. As a matter of economy it is well to confine oneself to one style of writing paper, a plain white in smooth or fabric finish being the best choice. By purchasing the paper in packages one is able to replace paper or envelopes as needed, with the satisfaction of knowing that they can be easily matched.

It is well to be supplied with two sizes of paper—the small note size and the letter size. For informal correspondence and short business letters a tablet is both a convenience and an economy. The business size envelopes which come ready stamped and are on sale at all post-offices, are used with the tablet paper; they cost less per package than do ordinary envelopes. Correspondence cards are correct for short notes.

Avoid freakish styles in stationery. Very long and narrow envelopes, or those which are cut nearly square, with the paper cut and folded to fit, are novelties. Good taste takes exception to fancy borders, unless the border is nothing more than a narrow line of color, which is always permissible. The border, however, adds to the expense.

Monogrammed and initialed stationery is attractive, but may be considered a luxury. On the other hand, stationery showing an embossed, printed or die-stamped address is a convenience to the writer, the reader and the postal authorities who come between. Perfumed stationery is an abomination and is always in bad taste. It seems necessary to add that all notes and letters should be written with pen and ink, and that a pen is only allowable for the hastiest and most informal of notes or when pen and ink are not to be had.

Next to writing a letter of condolence, there is nothing quite so difficult to write as the acknowledgment of messages. Few people find themselves in a mood to reply, and yet it seems ungracious to make no response. It may seem rather formal to acknowledge such letters with a card, but the card is sufficient for the time being, and letters written with a fuller expression of feeling can be sent to intimate friends later on. Engaged cards, having spaces to be filled in with the names, can be had for this purpose, and are on sale at most stationers, the plain white cards in either correspondence or calling size being in best taste. In acknowledging letters of condolence on the death of a wife and mother, cards may bear this message:

Mr. John Hamilton and family gratefully acknowledge your expression of sympathy and kindness. When both single and married children write acknowledgments, they may read as follows: Mr. Joseph Rand and Mr. and Mrs. Stanford Burbank acknowledge with grateful appreciation the kind expression of your sympathy. Engraved invitations, having blank spaces to be filled in with names, dates, etc., can be found at the stationers, and are used for formal dinners or large entertainments.

For an informal entertainment, the invitations can be written on small note paper or on correspondence cards. If the latter are used, seals appropriate for the season are sometimes pasted on the upper left-hand corner.

The seals, or "stickers," come in a variety of designs, suited to the various patriotic holidays, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas and numerous others. Calling cards should be engraved upon the best quality of Bristol-board. While round script is never quite out of style for this purpose, Old English in black and shaded styles has lately been very popular.

A smoothly finished paper is used for wedding invitations, or any stationery which is to be engraved. For wedding stationery one can choose between shaded or black Old English, French script or round-hand script for the lettering, but round-hand script is the favored style. The size and shape of the paper and envelopes may vary, and occasionally something new or novel in the wording is introduced; but there is a standard form for wedding invitations and announcements.

The woman of Samaria enjoins the latter upon His disciples. No doubt the hypocrite gets his reward. Men see his public profession they hear his fervent prayers, and they commend his piety. "What a very good man he must be!" they say. But God "which seeth in secret" commands and will recompense the sincere and humble worshipper, who cares nothing for public recognition or praise; but seeks only the satisfying of the hunger of his own soul and the power to be a true helper to others who are in need. John 4: 1-10, 19-24; Heb. 10: 25-26; Golden Text, John 4: 24.

When Thou Prayest, There is no reflection here upon common or public prayer, and no prohibition of the prayer which is offered in the presence of others. Jesus draws a striking contrast, however, between the prayer of ostentatious piety and that of secret and true devotion, and enjoins the latter upon His disciples. No doubt the hypocrite gets his reward. Men see his public profession they hear his fervent prayers, and they commend his piety. "What a very good man he must be!" they say. But God "which seeth in secret" commands and will recompense the sincere and humble worshipper, who cares nothing for public recognition or praise; but seeks only the satisfying of the hunger of his own soul and the power to be a true helper to others who are in need. John 4: 1-10, 19-24. The True Worshipper. The woman of Samaria was interested in the old controversy between Jew and Samaritan as to "the place where men ought to worship." The Jew said it must be in the Temple at Jerusalem, but the Samaritan said in Mount Gerizim. Which was right? She was eager to

YOUR PROBLEMS

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, 27 Woodbine Ave., Toronto.

Defeated

The girl in the blue serge and the carefully mended gloves, in the end of the car, sat looking straight before her, with heavy, swollen eyes. A woman in the seat opposite thought what an unpleasant face it was. But the girl in the blue serge, it happened, was fighting the heaviest battle that had ever come her way. As she left the car and walked slowly up the wide avenue to Miss Davenport's, the battle grew fiercer and fiercer. The day before Miss Davenport had paid her for the embroidery she had been working upon for the past six weeks—exquisite, fairy-like monograms and wreaths that made Miss Davenport's tresses the admiration of all her friends. The bill had been seventy-five dollars, but by a mistake Miss Davenport had paid her eighty-five—Jennie Gow, carrying home a last bit of work that she had overlooked, carried also the extra ten dollars and the burden of her great temptation.

Chairman of Athletics—Please suggest some sports and contests for an Old Settlers' Picnic. Divide the contestants into two parties, "reds" and "blues," or "blues" and "yellows." Decorate with the chosen colors, and encourage the use of flags, pennants and badges. The friends of the contestants will take sides and wear the colors; interest will be stimulated and enthusiasm will run high. Records should be kept of the events, and the "side" or "color" should be the largest number should be proclaimed victor for the day. Follow the same plan at subsequent celebrations, whether indoors or out. It keeps people interested and spurs them on to greater efforts. Start with a "Rooster Fight," each contestant wearing boxing gloves and hopping on one foot. Both feet on the ground eliminates the contestant. The fight continues until both are "trooper" left. The "Centipede Race" is run by four men from each side, straddling a long pole while they run. Returned soldiers or boy scouts will be willing to take part in a "Reveille Race," to be run by the men or boys from each side. The equipment should include one pack, one blanket, complete set of mess gear, belt, canteen and rifle. Contestants must have themselves rolled in the blanket, lying on the ground without hat, blouse, shoes and puttees. At the first note of reveille the contestants start dressing. They must dress fully, make heavy marching order and run 100 yards. For a "Cup Race" arrange tables about fifty yards apart, with a chair midway between. Place at one table as many trays as there are contestants, each tray holding a cup filled to the brim with water. At a signal, the contestants must seize a tray, race with it to the chair, where they must sit down, rise, walk around the chair and sit down again, then race to the table at the other end where the tray must be set down and picked up again. All of this is repeated on the home trip.

Contestants run the "Hopping Race" in couples. One of each pair hops on the right foot, the other on the left. On reaching goal, partners join hands and hop back together. No contestant may leave goal until his partner arrives. A large number of players should take part in this "Potato Race"; it increases the fun. Each player has his right arm tied at the wrist to his left ankle with tape. The tape should be just long enough to allow motion with the body held perfectly upright. When the signal is given, the players match each other in pushing the potatoes over the prescribed course with the toe of the right foot. This causes much merriment, for the restraining

tap acts continually as a hindrance. Lonely Girl—My parents allowed me to accept attention from a man until he asked me to become his wife. Having heard that he is intemperate, they objected to our engagement and do not allow me to see him. What shall I do? Obey your parents, of course. The unhappiness you are now experiencing is as nothing compared with what you might be called upon to endure if your married man of intemperate habits. It was a mistake to allow him the privilege of calling at your home in the first place. If parents were more particular concerning their children's friends, a higher standard of morals would result. Nothing quite equals a change of scene for helping one to forget trouble, whether it be real or imaginary; therefore, a little trip away from home would help you now. You would see new people, get away from the criticism at home, and see your parents' concern for your happiness from a different angle. As for that final interview that you long for, why insist upon it? If you are unjustly accused, he will prove it and show himself worthy of you. If the reports concerning him are true, he is unworthy, and the coveted but forbidden interview would not be worth the strain.

Isabel—Should you thank the young man who asked you to have ice cream after you have finished eating it or when you get home? The whole point, my dear, is that you wish to express your appreciation and there are many ways to convey it besides the formal words "thank you." For instance when you are eating the cream say, "How good, this is! I'm so glad you asked me to have some!" or when the young man first proposes to treat you to some, it is quite enough to thank him then by saying, "Oh, that will be nice, thank you." Try to avoid set expressions. If you use your own informal expressions of gratitude and pleasure and satisfaction, you will be showing just that much more ease and experience in social things. Thank your escort when he takes you home by such words as, "I've had such a good time," or "Thank you so much for a good time." When he asks you to go anywhere say "Thank you; I'd love to go."

Depressed—Some fathers are not sympathetic and liberal about money matters and if I could change things for my girls who write and tell me their troubles along this line, I would do it in a minute. But I can not, and you simply must make the best of it; insist on seeing your father's good points; do not let yourself get embittered; because of this experience you will make things easier for your children. Is your present unhappiness too great a price to pay for their happiness?

hear what this strange prophet would have to say about it. Jesus lifts the whole matter to a higher plane. He will not enter into the old argument. A new age is coming in which men will not think so much of place and time and form; "the true worshipper shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth." In this lesson we do not need to dwell upon the merits of the controversy. The Old Testament history makes it plain that Jerusalem was, from the days of David and Solomon, the head and center of the worship of Jehovah. The law of Deuteronomy (chap. 12) prescribed distinctly and definitely that all worship by sacrifice and offering should be confined to that one place. The altar on Mount Gerizim was built after the final schism between Jews and Samaritans, in the time of Nehemiah, and had no sanction or authority in the ancient Hebrew law or teaching of the prophets. Moreover, it was prophets of Jerusalem and Judah who foretold the coming of the Messiah, and who declared that He would be of David's line (Isa. 11: 1; Micah 5: 2, etc.). The Samaritans had developed a mixed, half-heaven form of worship, involving much superstition and idolatry of a debased sort. See, for the origin of it, II Kings 17: 24-41, and for some of its practices, Isa. 57: 2-14; 65: 1-7; and 66: 1-4. In Isa. 66: 1, there is a probable reference to the building of the Samaritan sanctuary.

The Jews, however, scattered as they now were throughout the world, had established another form of worship—that of the synagogue, in which they read the Scriptures, listened to words of instruction, sang hymns and offered prayers. Their minds were, therefore, prepared for the great dispensation of Jesus, which removed all limitations of place. For, He said to them as to the Samaritan woman, "God is a Spirit." And as His spiritual presence is everywhere, so the temple of His worship is to be found wherever there is a true and loving heart to seek Him. How foolish, therefore, these

then why don't you thank her for it?" commenced intervened. The girl turned about and walked back quickly. Miss Davenport was in the maid said, and after a moment Jennie was summoned upstairs. Miss Davenport, young and beautiful and radiant with her new happiness, met her cordially. "O Miss Gow, you brought me that last sleeve, didn't you? I didn't miss it till the seamstress began to put things together. I'm just wild over your work, and so is everybody who sees it. Oh, and I must show you the strangest coincidence—a blouse I bought at McVeigh's that almost exactly matches it. Isn't that odd?" "It is queer," Jennie answered. Her tongue felt stiff and heavy. She told herself that Miss Davenport did not give her a chance to say anything. Miss Davenport, taking the blouse from a drawer, looked up with laughing eyes. "But you don't know the strangest thing about it yet. It wasn't the blouse I bought. I didn't see any like this. I bought a ten-dollar one—just for traveling, you know—and this is marked fifteen. They must have made a mistake—mixed addresses or something; but if people will make mistakes, they must take the consequences. It wasn't my fault!" "No—I'm very sorry," Jennie stammered. "Thank you for the work, Miss Davenport."

A moment later she was out in the street. Her face was burning—and the ten-dollar bill was still in her pocket. Make the Roadside Sign a Good One. Entertaining Jim Haskins counted his large market sign on standards and painted it attractively. In front of it was a solid bench for the display of produce. On this blackboard, in carefully inscribed script, he named the variety, grade and price of each article for sale. Two miles from his house, north and south, on the main auto road, he placed four business-like "arrow" signs attached to trees. These signs, painted permanently, stated the mileage to Jim's farm, and on the attached blackboard described a special bargain for the day or week. With Jim's auto it took but a few minutes to keep these signs up to date.

These outpost signs gave autoists an opportunity to think the thing over before they reached Haskins'. Thus a good many stopped who would otherwise have passed by. The displayed produce also encouraged them. Before they left the car they had appraised the quality of the apples, cabbage or whatnot. They knew the sale would be completed in a jiffy. In attracting auto trade by signs, it is highly important to state prices, yet in thousands of cases that is not done. Price is the first thing most buyers wish to know. The roadside market man whose signboard tells neither price, kind nor grade, and is unaccompanied by samples, is a poor salesman. What would he think of a clothes whose display window was bare except for a blackboard marked, "Clothes sold here?" If there was all he had to judge that store by, must certainly he would not go in to buy. And if he were a great manufacturer of farm implements, published an advertisement in this paper like this, "E— Tractors for Sale," how many farmers would take the trouble to write for a catalogue? The roadside sign deserves study. Its possibilities are as yet largely unrealized.

There has been more than 8,000,000 cars turned out from Ford factories. The present factory output is in excess of 8,000 per day. The owner of a timber tract may say that it is none of the public's business what he does with his property, but so a matter of fact it is the business of the public to take a watchful interest in forests and lumbering because of the influence which the forest has upon climate, water supply, fuel supply, building operations and upon bird and game life.



INTERNATIONAL LESSON AUGUST 3.

Christianship—Matt. 6: 5, 6; John 4: 1-10, 19-24; Heb. 10: 25-26; Golden Text, John 4: 24.

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