

# 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 stamped and addressed envelope be enclosed with the question, when the answer will be mailed direct.

P. S.—I have a field of sandy loam that was in oats and rye this year. I wish to build up the soil and insure a good catch of clover next spring. Please tell me what commercial fertilizer to use and how much per acre.

Answer:—You do not state the crop to which you intend to seed your field next year, therefore I am not able to advise with certainty the type of fertilizer. If it is to be a grain crop such as wheat, oats or barley, I would advise you to use about 200 to 300 lbs. to the acre of a fertilizer analyzing 2 to 3 per cent. ammonia, 8 per cent. phosphoric acid and 2 to 3 per cent. potash, working this fertilizer thoroughly into the soil at the time of seeding. This should give the small grain a good start and would insure a good catch of clover.

C. Y.—I have a piece of land—a clay soil with some gravel in it—I want to bring into better condition. Have just disced rye into stubble without plowing. What do you advise? 2. How much wheat should I sow per acre? 3. Have a new clover seeding that has not caught well. Would you advise sowing timothy next spring for hay?

Answer:—1. I would advise you to allow the rye to make a growth of about 6 to 8 inches next spring then plow it under so as to increase the humus content of your soil. It may be well for you to grow one crop of grain if it is fairly clean and seed to clover. Two years hence cut the first crop of clover for hay and then turn under the second crop. This again would tend to greatly increase the humus of your soil. When you are seeding down your grain I would advise you to fertilize the field as advised in the answer to the question above. This will give the grain a good start and will insure a fine catch of clover. After the grain is taken off next year it would pay you to top-dress your clover field with bonemeal to still further invigorate the growth of clover. I would advise using from 200 to 300 lbs. to the acre. 2. For a nurse crop

do not use more than a bushel of wheat to the acre. If it is for a grain crop I would advise you to use 1½ bushels to 1¾ bushels per acre. 3. You have reversed the order of seeding. The general practice is to sow timothy in the fall and clover in spring. It is too late to sow timothy now because the young sprouting timothy plants would not be strong enough to stand the cold of fall and winter. The only thing you can do is to sow timothy next spring as soon as the ground is dry enough for you to get upon it. You will not be able to cultivate the timothy seed into the soil but it will have to depend upon the spring rains to wash it in. If your clover shows a fairly strong stand in spring it may be possible for you to harrow it without injury to the crop. If you have a very light harrow or weeder this would be possible. If you have a harrow with adjustable teeth throw the teeth back so that they will not dig into the clover and pull it up. A little additional fertility as advised in the questions above would help strengthen the clover and insure a catch of timothy.

H. J.—I have about seven acres of gravelly sand fairly good. Part of it is hill land. This has been in rye two or three years. I would like to put alfalfa on this piece. Should it be sown with other grasses or a catch crop? Would the inoculation of the seed be enough, or would the land have to be inoculated also?

Answer:—In getting a catch of alfalfa on your gravelly hill land I would strongly advise using a nurse crop of barley or wheat, sowing it thin as advised in answer to C. Y.'s question 2. Relative to inoculation, if carried out according to instructions, the inoculation of the seed is sufficient. When conditions are proper for the growth of the bacteria in the soil they spread very rapidly. For standard alfalfa culture for inoculating the seed apply to the Bacteriology Department of Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, Ontario.

# The Dairy

Some farmers are turning from milk to beef. Instead of producing dairy products they are laying more stress upon breeding, growing, and selling cattle for meat.

Now is just the time when I am going to hold on to dairying as tight as I can. Why? There are those who tell us there is a surplus of milk. Right on top of that the story comes, backed up by good evidence, that there are many little folks, and old ones, too, that never know what it is to have all the milk they ought to have. As long as that is so, I believe in producing all the milk I can.

So I am doing my level best to make my herd better. That has been my job for a good many years, and I have had the joy and the profit of seeing my milk test steadily rise, while the quantity produced is better to-day than ever. I have reached out in various directions to find better sires to head my herd. They have cost me something, but they have given me some good pure-breds and a number of fine grades.

But I do not expect to stop here. There is, somewhere, a better lot of cows than mine. As fast as I can, I shall work to graft some blood from those better cows into my herd. Because, don't you see, when any number of men sell their cows, or change from dairy farming to beef-making, it is a good time for me to hold on and get ready for the high tide in milk-making that is sure to come my way.

# Poultry

Egg eating sometimes becomes a serious vice, fowl becoming very fond of eggs when they have learned to eat them, and it often spreads from one bird to another. It usually begins through accident by eggs being broken or frozen. It is well, therefore, to see that the nests are properly supplied with straw or other nesting material and have them darkened, so that if an egg is accidentally broken the fowl will not be likely to discover it. Supply plenty of lime in the form of oyster shells, bone or similar substances to insure a firm shell. As soon as it is discovered that a fowl has formed the habit the fowl should be removed to the pen to prevent the spread of the vice. Once formed it is difficult to eradicate, and the safest remedy is the death penalty.

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# Bedtime Stories

The Pridful Peacock.  
Once on a high time all the birds  
Decided to choose a king.  
They summoned all the feather folk  
And soon upon the wing  
Came goose and duck and robin red,  
Blue heron, owl and wren,  
The crow and blackbird and the gull,  
The pheasant and the hen.  
More birds than ever I could tell.  
The judges take their stand,  
Old Mr. Owl presides and calls  
The roll in grand manner.  
"In choosing, mark ye well, appearance  
Counts in any king,  
Also the voice," admonished he,  
"And power, strength of wing."  
Outside the gate the peacock stood  
And heard the owl with glee,  
"It's very plain," he murmured, "that  
He means a bird like me."  
"I'll wait until the last bell sounds,  
Then sweep into the hall,  
With regal head and tail outspread,  
And overwhelm them all."  
And so he waited till the last,  
Then strutted through the gate.  
The birds all craned their necks to see  
Who came so proud and late.  
But, oh! just then the gate slammed to,  
His tail was left outside,  
Clipped off neatly and completely,  
So here's what comes of pride.  
Without his tail the peacock is  
A sorry sight to see,  
And while they crowned the eagle king  
He hid behind a tree.  
Remove match scratches on woodwork with a cut lemon.  
Glass dishes will not crack when pouring in a hot liquid if the dish is set on a hot stove. Another prevention is to put a silver spoon into the glass or dish before pouring in the hot liquid.  
Testing milk does little good unless weighing goes with it. Both together will show about what a cow is worth. A high test does not mean a high-grade cow; she must produce a large amount as well as she is to pay. Maybe she tests lower than four per cent, but gives thirty or forty pounds each day. If she does, she may be producing more fat in the long run than some other higher tester.

# YOUR PROBLEMS

BY MRS. HELEN LAW  
Address all correspondence for this department to Mrs. Helen Law, 27 Woodbine Ave., Toronto.

Arabella:—The man is always supposed to write first when he leaves town. Usually he asks permission before he leaves. If he says nothing about it, then you must wait and see if he takes the initiative and of course it is all right for him to write and ask you to correspond with him. These rules are not rigid and inflexible. I am only telling you what is considered proper and refined, always with the idea in mind that I want my girls to be modest and not put themselves in a false light.  
Inquisitive:—Refined people do not use tooth picks in public. They are quite all right used in the privacy of one's room. Dentists tell us to use dental floss as this does not harm the sensitive gums. For enlarged pores wash your face thoroughly once a day, first rubbing in a little cold cream so as to get out every particle of dirt. Wash with hot soft water and some bland soap. Then dash very cold water on your face and if possible rub a piece of ice over your skin. Remember to always rinse in cold water last; never leave the pores open, for that causes them to dilate.  
Soldier's Girl:—Can't you give this soldier look up at the home of a friend? Since you have no home of your own, the next best thing is to go to a friend's house. Be sure to introduce him to this friend and make him feel that you have someone back of you who is interested in your welfare. You are not too young to be a bridesmaid. If you will send me a stamped, addressed envelope, I will write you upon the other matter, as we cannot very well discuss it here.  
Hallowe'en Hostess:—On your invitations you might write this little verse:  
On all Hallowe'en, the witching night,  
Come up High street and turn to the right;  
Turn in where the pumpkin grins at the gate,  
As close as you can to half past eight.  
But before that date a line please send  
And accept or decline.  
Your Friend.

All Hallow's Eve!  
I saw a white ship on the sea,  
A white star opening in the sky  
And in the shadows, mistily,  
My comrades passed me by.  
Pale as white moths before a flame,  
Soft as the first faint steps of dawn,  
Out of the dark of night they came,  
Into the dark have gone.  
I saw a red rose in the sky,  
A red rose fading on the sea;  
When not a rose remained to die  
They came and spoke with me.  
They laid still kisses on my face,  
Their hands upon my hands they set;  
I know that in their dwelling place  
They do not quite forget.  
For balancing a ration there is nothing better than alfalfa hay at this season of the year.  
Ideal shelter for colts is a tightly built shed open to the south where the animals may go in or out at their own pleasure, and where they may have the run of a lot for exercise.

# Hollowe'en Games.

Games for Hallowe'en festivities are as necessary for the full enjoyment of the occasion as roasted apples, jack-o'-lanterns and popped corn. Here are two that are suited to the spirit of the fete and that are sure to make plenty of fun:

Great Spoon Mystery.  
One of the two persons who are to perform the trick goes out of the room. Her partner arranges five spoons in a row on the table, asks the company to select one of them and promises that the "magician" who has withdrawn will pick it out on her return. The performer in the room must, of course, know which spoon is selected. When the second performer returns the first one points at the spoons, one after another, apparently at random. Her partner signifies dissent at each until the proper one is indicated, when, if the trick has been properly done, she will always identify it.  
The solution is simple once you know it. Each performer mentally numbers the spoons from each end—that is, the two outside ones are each both five and one; the two next to them are each both two and four; the middle one, of course, is number three from either end. Each performer must keep account of the number of spoons at which the first performer points. When that number is the same as the number of the spoon in its order on the table, the second performer knows that it is the chosen spoon.  
For example, if the audience chooses the middle one, the inside performer will indicate it the third time she asks the question, "Is it this one?" If the chosen spoon is the second from the right, the performer may point at one other spoon before pointing at it, or she may consider it the fourth from the left and point to three others first, without confusing her partner. In the same way, the spoon on either end may be indicated either the first or the fifth time. The double counting makes it very difficult for the company to guess the solution. The trick requires a little practice, for it is easy to confuse your partner and give her a wrong lead; but it is really very simple if the double count is kept in mind.

Comacy-Come.  
There is a twilight game well suited to Hallowe'en frolics, called by the inexplicable name of comacy-come, with which all households should be familiar. It is played to best advantage round an open fire with the leader in a rocking chair and the other players on hassocks, and it is always started by some one's proposing suddenly, "Let's play comacy-come!"  
The next step is a story, told by the leader, concerning some character or event in history, mythology or legend. For example, "This person's name begins with N," she says—and proceeds to tell about the young man who looked so long at himself in the pool that he finally turned into a flower. If no names are mentioned, of course, since mentioning names would disclose the secret, and no one may speak until, at the end, the leader leans forward and says quickly, with lifted finger, "Comacy-come! Who is it?" Then those who know cry, "Narcissus!" and those who do not know search back and hope for better luck next time.  
The hero of the second story may be Phaethon, the fabled boy who drove his father's fiery steeds and had a runaway; or the boy "beginning with A" who was a king in disguise and burned the peasant's cakes. A certain adventure bearing the initials G. F. will nearly always be recognized as the search for the Golden Fleece; a great historical event, the P. T., and the signing of the Peace Treaty; and J., a hero of the war, who defeated the Germans at the battle of the Marne, as Joffre. Even songs and nursery rhymes can be used.  
A few easy guesses should be scattered through the game to encourage the younger players. Always, of course, the great moment is just the last, when the story stops short with a thrilling, "Comacy-come! Who is it?"  
After a while the children themselves will tell the stories, and the more they tell the more they will read in search of material. Comacy-come offers a fine opportunity for getting acquainted with prominent characters of the past and of the present. The best of it is that the game makes them real flesh-and-blood people.

How to Treat Whooping Cough.  
The hygienic and medical treatment for whooping cough is about as follows: Plenty of fresh air, the patients to be well protected when out-of-doors, Regular bowel movements. The diet should consist of food that is nourishing and easily digested. In many places a prophylactic vaccine may be obtained and used by the physician. If this is not available and the children are otherwise healthy the following prescription may be used for a child seven years of age: Antipyrin, two and a half grains; mixture of belladonna, two drams; syrup of wild cherry, enough to make four fluid ounces. The dose is one teaspoonful three or four times a day. For younger children the dose should be smaller.  
Toasted bread is more digestible than that which is fresh because the starches are more completely changed to "dextrin." The "milk diet" is not a fad but very useful when it agrees with the patient and other foods are contraindicated.

# The Sunday School

INTERNATIONAL LESSON  
OCTOBER 26.

A Lesson in Trust—Matthew 14: 22-33. Golden Text, Mark 9: 24.

"Constrained His disciples." The situation had become tense and dangerous. The sturdy and courageous Galileans would have formed no contemptible army, and Jesus' own disciples would have been eagerly chosen as leaders. The Man who could feed the multitudes with a few loaves and fishes seemed the ideal King, and many were already prepared to accept Him as the long-promised Saviour. Jesus' first step was to get rid of the twelve, and then He sent away the multitudes. He Himself "went up into a mountain apart to pray." Evening came, and night, and "He was there alone."  
"The ship," or rather "boat," containing the disciples was crossing the northern end of the lake toward Bethsaida, or Capernaum, where the disciples intended to await the coming of Jesus. But progress was slow, the wind was contrary and the waves high. "In the fourth watch," that is between three and six o'clock in the morning, Jesus came to them. In the dim light of the stars, He seemed like

a ghostly apparition, and "they cried out for fear." Out of the darkness, over the troubled waters, came the voice of the Master: "Be of good cheer; it is I; be not afraid."  
Only half-believing, still afraid, the disciples looked and waited. Peter, the most daring and impulsive of them all, answered by the request, "Bid me come unto Thee." Jesus said, "Come." But confidence quickly gave way to fear when he found himself sinking, and it took the strong hand of Jesus to bring him back again into the boat. "Of a truth," the disciples said, "Thou art the Son of God."  
These men had come to Jesus as to a great Teacher. They are now learning that He is more than a teacher—that He is divine. In the end He takes for them the place of God; they find God in Him.

The miracle of the sea is more than a miracle. It has the value of a great parable. It conveys one of the profoundest truths of life, the truth that faith has conquest over fear. What ever the doubt, or peril, or darkness, or trouble of life, it is faith in God that gives courage to endure. Faith looks calmly out upon the storm. Faith holds steadfastly onward in the darkness. Faith will not entertain a doubt of God's goodness or of His power to save. Faith triumphs and brings peace.  
The lesson of trust in God was one which Peter could never forget. If his faith was ever afterward obscured, as when he denied his Lord, it flamed up again with renewed strength and brightness. In the midst of the sea of persecution he walked firmly. It was long afterward that he wrote to his fellow-Christians in Asia Minor, saying, "Who is he that shall harm you, if ye be zealous of that which is good. But and if ye should suffer for righteousness sake, blessed are ye; and fear not their fear, neither be troubled." See 1 Peter 3: 13-14.  
Whatever the seeming danger or calamity, we are safe in God's hands. The safe way is the way of duty and of service wherever that way may lead. Those only are in peril who seek selfish ends, and whose eyes are fixed on material gain. In the things of the Spirit, which Jesus has taught us to value supremely, we shall suffer no loss nor shall we lose our way. The heavenward path of love and prayer is always open.

This Hallowe'en.  
The auld gudwife's well-horrid nuts  
Are round and round divided,  
And many lads' and lassies' fates  
Are there that night decided;  
Some kindle, couthe, side by side,  
An' burn together trimly,  
Some start awa' with saucy prids  
And jump out-owre the chimney  
Fu' high that night.  
—Robert Burns.

# Fun for Hallowe'en

May I tell you of a Hallowe'en Party that I gave last year to sixteen boys and girls?  
Two or three days before the party, I begged the help of some of my boy and girl neighbors; they hunted bouquets of autumn color; carved pumpkins into Jack-o'-lantern faces; (and for a surprise at the supper table I made for each place tiny Jack-o'-lanterns out of oranges; the orange pulp I used for a delicious orange sherbet). I gave them patterns to use in cutting out whole brigades of witches and black cats riding tandem on broomsticks.  
When all this was done, in the late afternoon before All Hallow Eve, we decorated the house. I was a bit extravagant with candles that night; all the light in the house was given by candles in Jack-o'-lanterns, in Chinese lanterns.  
When the boys and girls arrived they were sent to the two front rooms upstairs to take off their things, and in each room they found, in a shallow bowl, a pile of sealed envelopes—eight in the boys' room and eight in the girls' room. A little card fastened to the edge of the bowl asked them to choose, each one, an envelope.  
When all my guests were in the big living room, the envelopes were opened and the fun promptly began.  
Each boy discovered the counterpart of his card in the hands of some girl, and the partners, thus decided, fell to studying their cards.  
Cards one and two, for instance, had on one side the words, Candy—in the Kitchen—Table Number One. On the reverse side one was half of a recipe for making a simple candy, the second half of the recipe being on the back of card two.  
When Dick and Mary, who drew these cards, went into the kitchen, they found pans, buttered paper, nuts and other necessities grouped on a small table at one end of the room. Cards three and four said, Sandwiches—Dining Room Table and there, on a tray, were knives, leaves of bread and materials for sandwich filling.  
Cards five and six, and seven and

eight, directed their possessors to find tables two and three in the kitchen and to make the cakes whose recipes were written on the backs of the cards. These recipes were very simple and warranted ignorance-proof; the ingredients, too, were measured out beforehand in exact quantities and placed on the tables.  
Cards nine and ten led the way to the dining room and to a pile of paper napkins to be folded. Bob and Nellie, who drew these cards, were also to help later in serving the refreshments.  
Cards eleven and twelve bore the words, Music—At the Piano; thirteen and fourteen read, Stunts—Near the Fireplace, and fifteen and sixteen, Stories—At the Bookcase.  
I had asked two clever women friends to help a little here with suggestions, and presently the sounds of beating and stirring and popping of omelets that came from the kitchen and dining room were matched by snatches of music and laughter and the buzz of conversation in the living room, where these eight planned a really delightful impromptu program.  
By half-past nine sandwiches were gilled on platters, cake and candy were successfully cooling in the kitchen, and all gathered round the living room fire to take part in stunts and songs and stories.  
Then my friend, Mrs. Howard, told us as only a born story-teller can, some of the traditions and tales that are most sacred to Hallowe'en.  
At the end of the last ghost story I threw open the dining room door and surely I had my reward in the delighted exclamations as they came out. Little candles in orange Jack-o'-lanterns glowed all around the table. Three great pumpkins down the centre were stuck full of lighted candles; other hollowed-out pumpkins held apples and purple and green grapes. At one end of the table was the steaming coffee pot; at the other, a tall jug of sweet cider. The sandwiches and cake and candy were supplemented by a surprise—the orange sherbet that I had just taken from the freezer. This was a surprise and everyone enjoyed it greatly.

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With a checked gingham dress, a huge apron, and a bandana handkerchief over the head, any one will pass for a colored "mammy."  
For a rag doll costume, take two pieces of muslin each about fourteen inches long and eleven wide, and round the corners. Sew up on three sides; paint nose, eyebrows and mouth on it and cut out places for the eyes; slip this over the head. Wear white cotton gloves, and white stockings over your shoes and a cotton dress made with a long skirt. Practice walking in a loose-jointed, floppy way, to carry out the illusion.  
A baby costume is easily fashioned by wearing a rather full petticoat. A wire mask representing a baby face, a white cap and rattle complete the costume.  
As for the boy, a slender lad dressed as a girl is always a success. Jack Canuck, Indians, cowboys and pirates are always popular and are easily copied from pictures.  
For the contests, tables are numbered and placed around the room. Four or more players are placed at each table and each is supplied with a score card.  
Apple Duck (table No. 1): A tub of apples floating in about six or eight inches of water is placed in the centre of the table (for this the kitchen table should be used). Players duck and try to take the apples out with their teeth. Those succeeding score a given number of points, and when a bell rings players move to table No. 2.  
Peanut Toss (table No. 2): Each player has a table knife, a small pile of peanuts and a paper or wooden dish

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