

Farm Crop Queries

CONDUCTED BY PROF. 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. R.—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 opened and that the plants are as soon as they are thoroughly dry. The seed will readily separate from the seed pods.

R. 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 you advise 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 Barend Rock, Leghorn, Orpington, etc. should prove satisfactory. A small house 5 x 7 feet will accommodate this number of chickens. Buying chicks at this time they should be buying 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 millweed on a rich clay loam, and how can it be done with the least amount of labor?

Answer:—Millweed on rich clay loam can be killed out by repeated cutting when in flower, continued from year to year. Apply salt to individual plants after cutting in hot dry weather; deep plowing and thorough cultivation with a short rotation of crops will eradicate it from fields. (G. H. Clark)

D. N.—I wish to find out all I can about a grain drill (with disc), that sows fourteen-inch rows instead of seven or eight. Will they work equally as well as the seven or eight-inch on all kinds of soils? Are they as light draft as the seven-inch in sowing the same width of land?

Answer:—My impression is that the 14-inch disc will draw lighter than the 7-inch or 8-inch. More grain will be sown in the row than in the case of the 7-inch or 8-inch drill, because in order to get the same rate of seeding, double as much grain would have to be put in. I see no reason why the

Secrets of Poultry Feed.

Linseed-Meal: Oil-cake meal is linseed-meal. It is the product of linseed-oil factories. It is rich in albumin. If properly fed it promotes general health and keeps the fowls in first class condition. It is especially beneficial during the molting period. Some writers claim that a teaspoonful of linseed-meal is a good allowance for a hen. I find that five pounds mixed with 100 pounds of ground grain is about the right proportion to feed.

Linseed meal is very fattening, and therefore must not be fed too strongly. Being of a highly nitrogenous order, it should not be fed heavier than at the ratio of about a pound for fifty hens, twice a week. More than that is pretty sure to bring on cases of looseness of the bowels.

Green cut bone, when it can be had fresh, and when fed as soon as cut, is excellent. It is not a stimulant, and consequently there is no unhealthy reaction from its use, but it should be fed judiciously, as too liberal feeding is likely to produce worms in fowls. An ounce per hen, two or three times a week, is sufficient. In fact, that should be the limit. Feed separately in a trough, and not mixed with the mash.

Salt: A proper amount of salt aids digestion. It has a tendency to ward off disease by keeping the fowls strong and vigorous. One authority says that salt is necessary for the purpose of forming gastric juice, but if given to excess will produce inflammation of the mucous membrane. An excess, too, may cause bowel troubles and loss of feathers.

Salt keeps the whole system in good working order. It frees the blood of impurities, and thus prevents colds, canker or roup. Salt also has a tendency to expel those miserable wiry gizzard-worms.

It is generally conceded that an ounce of salt is sufficient for the soft food of 100 fowls. The best way to salt the food is to dissolve thoroughly sufficient salt in the hot water with which the mash is to be moistened. This will more evenly distribute the salt.

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INTERNATIONAL LESSON,
MAY 16.

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

2-4. 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 Abinadab, whose son, Eleazar, was made his priest and still the ark was in 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 guilds, of the prophets, sometimes called "schools of the prophets," which continued down to the end of the Jewish kingdom. They represented a religious and patriotic movement of the greatest importance, and a revival of the national spirit which prepared the way and made possible the overthrow of the Philistine power by the armies of Saul and David. While there was fanaticism and extravagance 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.

5-12. Mispah was probably about six miles north-west of Jerusalem. Here Samuel called together a national assembly, made up of representatives of all the great tribes and families, or clans, of Israel. His purpose was definitely a religious one, to unite all the people in loyal service to Jehovah, their God. That service of Jehovah and their sense of kinship were all that held the tribes together, for otherwise they were jealous of their separateness and independence. They drew water and poured it out. The meaning of this act of worship is not certainly known, but it was probably of the same nature as libations of milk and wine, an offering to the Lord of something precious and good, such as water was always regarded in that country. They fasted also as a sign of penitence.

Samuel judged. So great was the influence which he had acquired and so high was the esteem in which he was held as a true prophet of God, that the Israelite chiefs brought their disputes and quarrels to him for settlement. No judge had hitherto gained or exercised such authority over all Israel. We can imagine that many a feud and many a difference were settled on that auspicious day.

The Philistines heard. The Philistines had strong garrisons at various places by which they held Israel in subjection and exacted tribute. Supposing that this gathering of the men of Israel had some political or warlike purpose they made an attack upon them. Now the Israelites had been beaten so often in their encounters with this dreaded enemy that they were afraid. Moreover they had not come prepared to fight, although they evidently had some weapons with them, and being of different tribes they were not accustomed to fighting together.

Samuel cried unto the Lord. They offered sacrifice, prayed, and prepared to fight—an excellent order of proceeding. The Lord answered their prayer.

Ebenezer means "stone of help." This stone became a memorial, well known in after years, of the help which God had given in a time of great need.

"Who hath not laughter in his soul, A stranger is to light and love." Try this feeding plan: Silage and grain after milking, hay after breakfast, water between nine and ten o'clock, hay at noon, water between two and three o'clock, silage and grain after milking, hay after supper. Feed three pounds of silage for each 100 pounds of live weight of animal.

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, mirrors, mantel-pieces, window-frames, newel posts and banister rails.

All flowers and shrubbery should be gathered the day before and kept overnight in deep pails 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 of lycopodium (ground pine) or small hemlock sprigs is then cut into suitable lengths, 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 shrub 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 aspens, Deutzias, 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, cedars, firs or hemlocks, and 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 evergreens can be arranged with as good effect as when palms, and hothouse 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 flowers that are usually white, although pale tints are sometimes introduced. The loosely arranged spray or shower 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.

The flowers carried by the bridesmaids should be of one color, all pink, lavender, yellow or orange, in shades matching or blending well with the color of their dresses. Sweet peas in their various colors make very dainty bouquets; daisies, too, are very effective. The maid or matron of honor carries flowers of a different color from those carried by the bridesmaids.

Gladioli, dahlias, asters, hydrangeas and chrysanthemums are available for autumn weddings; combined with the highly colored autumn leaves they make very effective decorations. Beautiful bridal bouquets for this season are made of chrysanthemums or dahlias.

While the services of a florist are very desirable, almost any one with a little taste can place sufficient flowers together to form a presentable bouquet. Take twenty-five or thirty flowers and some sprays of green, with stems varying from eight to twelve inches in length. Place the stem ends all together, then gather them in one hand and bind them firmly together with string, running the string not more than three inches up the stems, and your bouquet is made. If the flowers are bound and tied in one at a time, they will form a stiff, compact mass.

To get a shower effect, lay the longest sprays or the flowers with longest stems on the table first; then, keeping the ends of the stems even, place the next size on these, and so on until you reach those having the shortest stems; this leaves all the flowers on the upper side of the bouquet. Tie as suggested for the first bouquet, then place it on a stool or box placed upon a table. Cut a bolt of ribbon of lengths of from eighteen to thirty inches and tie these lengths to the various buds or sprays about two inches from the ends of the ribbons. The ends of ribbon fall in unequal lengths. Make a shower of flowers by attaching single blossoms to the ribbons at varying distances. This is easily done by looping the ribbons around the stems, finishing here and there with a little bow-knot. A fluffy bow of tulle or chiffon ribbon four inches wide, tucked in amongst the flowers, and a bow and streamers of the same ribbon placed where the stems are tied, finishes the bouquet.

The average dining room is too small to allow much decoration, the floral piece in the centre of the table being considered sufficient. A low bowl or pan can be used to hold the flowers. Fit the top of the pan with a piece of wire netting, into which it is possible to thrust the stems of flowers. Fill the pan with water and arrange the flowers, which may be white, or any color that matches the color scheme of the wedding; intersperse the flowers freely with ferns and asparagus-vine and conceal the sides of the pan with more ferns, adding a wreath of the asparagus-vine which will hide the bottom beautifully.

Work Shop Notes.

To remove a nut that has rusted to the bolt, or to move a boxing on a shaft that has become tight, put a few drops of spirits of turpentine on the bolt or shaft and let stand a few minutes; then things will move easily and there should be no skinned knuckles.

To keep tools bright: Always keep a small can of machine oil and a paint brush handy in the work shop and get the habit of "painting" a tool as soon as you are through using it. Even an axe works better for being kept bright.

For leather work the following tools are needed: An awl handle and set of swordblade awls, straight and variously curved; a set of straight and curved needles; three or four sizes of belt punches, for rivets; a set of assorted rivets, iron and copper, with washers; a spoon of heavy linen thread; a cake of wax; and a bottle of black dressing.

Fairy Fancy Work.

Not with needles,
Silk or thread,
But with little
Charms instead,
Fairy fancy work
Is done;
Ah, it must be
Heap of fun!

'Tis the things
The fairies fancy
Makes the world
So bright and dancy!
All the colors
In the leaves,
A fairy, with
Her wishes, weaves.

The moonbeam necklace
Of the ocean
Is another
Fairy notion,
Meadows' broided
All in dew,
Just fairy,
Fancy work for you.

"The darkest moment never comes,
It only looms before;
The loss of hope is what benumbs—
Not trouble at the door."

How Shall We Cure the Destructive Child?

When your Tommy seems to want to destroy everything he can lay his hands on, don't think he is hopeless. Nearly every child, in the course of his development, passes through the stage at which he wants to "bust things up."

Of course, the destructive child is a problem and the matter of handling it is very important.

One mother writes to me:

"Our 3 1/2-year-old son has recently taken on the habit of getting his father's tools, his sister's dolls or whatever he happens to find and literally playing havoc. We tried to let him have a little garden of his own but he was so destructive we had to give it up. We never believed in corporal punishment, but lately in sheer desperation have resorted to it. But the spanking did more harm than good. Will you help us solve this problem?"

It is natural for your boy to get pleasure out of destroying things. And the fact that he gets pleasure out of it is the reason he does it.

As to the solution, the most hopeful fact is that you can teach your boy that there are other ways of getting pleasure out of activity besides destroying things. You can teach him to like the building up as well as the tearing down. But remember he needs to be taught and encouraged.

Do not correct him for destroying a thing regardless of what that thing is. For example, a wood is to be destroyed but a plant raised for food is to be preserved. You see it is logical to put the emphasis upon the thing, making a distinction as to what things it is proper to destroy and what to handle with care rather than to scold and show disapproval of every destructive act.

Supply your boy with harmless and useless things which he can destroy and also with things to do of a constructive nature. Show a friendly spirit of co-operation in this. Tell him he may destroy certain old things which you give him, as well as handle other things in a different manner. Activity is what he wants especially—not merely to be doing what is forbidden. So keep him busy doing permissible things.

In regard to the forbidden things, tell him in a confidential way, early but firmly, that he is to leave them entirely alone. Test him out a little at first. Be near enough and incidentally keep a close watch. When he gets too close or starts to do the forbidden things, remind him gently but firmly.

Remember, he simply loves to handle things and take them apart. Give him very large blocks and modelling clay. See that he has plenty of crude material to work with. Approve him every time he makes any effort to build something, or make something, or put something together. Your son will have turned his present tendency into a most hopeful trait.

You could hardly expect a boy under four not to destroy things in a garden. The better plan would be to set off a plot in feet squares, so he can do absolutely anything he pleases with his garden tools. Let him dig tunnels as deep as he wishes, or make railway lines, or big mountains. Don't insist upon his telling you what he is making. Indeed, he may not know. Much of the time he will be doing what many boys of this age will call, "Just diggin'." He also will love to build a high, narrow mountain and give it the "death-blow"—and then build it up again.

The so-called destructive child is an unusually promising one, if he is managed properly.

A Covered Drain Will Last a Lifetime.

When a field is so situated that there is no natural outlet for 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.

In earlier days the open drainage ditch was the common means employed, but the use of the covered drain possesses so many advantages that it commends itself to all who aim at effective and permanent results.

The open drain needs frequent attention; in a few years the slopes become a breeding place for a rank growth of weeds which distribute their seeds in all directions; it is unsightly; it cuts up the land so that detours are necessary in going from place to place on the farm.

More than all this, however, is the fact that an open ditch renders unproductive a strip of varying width through the field which it traverses, and land of present value for this is an item worthy of serious consideration as an offset to the extra cost involved by the use of the tile.

The permanent covered drain will last indefinitely; once it is placed there is no more attention involved, and the field through which it passes can be cultivated the same as though it were not there.

More and more farmers are improving their fields through the installation of under-surface tiles and drains. They are improvements which pay large dividends, and these dividends are bound to be of a permanent nature year after year.

BRITISH LABOR LEADER ACTION TO BE

Executive of "Triple Alliance" for Round of High Wages a

A despatch from London says:—The continuous demands for higher wages in one trade after another are beginning to alarm the Labor leaders themselves, and they are realizing that they can only lead to disaster.

The Executive of the "Triple Alliance" of miners and transport workers, which is now in session here, though it has before it several demands, has embarked upon a determined effort to break the vicious circle of high wages and the increase in the cost of living.

Another Big Three, the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress, the Labor party and the

EIGHT HISTORIC FIELDS MARKED

Memorials to Canada's Fighting Dead in France and Belgium.

A despatch from Ottawa says:—Memorials to Canada's fighting dead will be erected at eight historic battle fields in France and Flanders if the recommendations of the Special Committee on War Memorials, adopted as submitted to Parliament.

Representatives of Canada's returned soldiers of Canadian colleges and architects' societies and Government officials have completed the investigations and submitted the proposals for war memorials. The proposals are the report of Brig. Gen. H. T. Hughes on military sites and of Professor Percy E. Hobbs, professor of architecture at McGill University, on the proposed memorials in which designs will be invited, from which the prize design will be carried out. The total cost of the work is estimated roughly at \$1,500,000.

The committee has selected eight sites for the memorials. In Belgium sites at St. Julien, Crest Farm, Passchendaele and at Hill 62, Passchendaele Ridge have been accepted as gifts from the Belgium Government.

A site at Bourlon Wood has been accepted as a gift from Comte de Franqueville, Mayor of Bourlon, and four other sites, at Hill 145, Vimy, the cross roads of Dury, at Courcelles and at Hospital Wood between Dury and La Queval have been accepted by the committee at a total cost of \$1,500,000.

EXPECT NO CHANGE IN IRISH POLICE

Sir Hamar Greenwood Sworn in as New Chief Secretary.

A despatch from Dublin says:—Hamar Greenwood, the new Chief Secretary for Ireland, was sworn before the Irish Privy Council in Dublin yesterday and took his oath. The Dublin papers made no comment upon his arrival, except the Irish Times, which said:

"We assume that the new Chief Secretary will take immediate steps for the restoration of law and order. The fact is, however, that Sir Hamar is ignorant of the actual state of affairs in Ireland, however good intentions may be. Dublin general believes that, even if matters do not go too far for any new step to cope with, Sir Hamar cannot until he has learned what he is up against, and that tuition, it is expected will come from the same permanent officials and soldiers who directed Macpherson's course.

Despite Sir Hamar's hopes, none in Dublin expects any drastic or lightened change from the old police.

Denmark Contributes to Rheims Rebuilding

A despatch from Copenhagen says:—More than one million francs collected in Denmark for the rebuilding of the Cathedral of Rheims, have been delivered to M. Claudel, French Minister in Copenhagen. The Minister thanked the Danish people, expressing his admiration of the fine result effected by Denmark ahead of all other countries.

