

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.

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J. S.: On a piece of ground there is some Canada thistles, also a little quack grass. It is light ground but we are manuring it this spring. Would you sow alfalfa? Does it grow good on light soil?

Answer: Alfalfa does well in comparatively light soil. However, I would not advise sowing it on ground where there is much quack grass as this grass tends to kill it out. If you especially wish to put the piece of ground in alfalfa, I would advise you to plow it fairly deeply as soon as it every two weeks until early in June. By this means you will have killed out a large quantity of the thistles and quack grass. Unless you have put manure on the ground already, I would not advise you to manure it this spring until the latter part of May or early in June. Then put on a dressing of well-rotted manure and work it thoroughly into the ground. At the time you are seeding alfalfa, I would suggest drilling in, or broadcasting and harrowing in, about 200 lbs. to the acre of 3-10-2 fertilizer. This will give the young alfalfa a good start.

G. L.: Is hydrated lime worth putting on ground, and how much would you apply per acre to a light soil needing lime?

Answer: Hydrated lime is a comparatively pure form of lime since it is burnt lime slaked with water. To show you how pure hydrated lime is, 1,450 lbs. of hydrated lime is equal to 2,000 lbs. of air slaked burnt lime or a ton of ground limestone. If you are applying it to the ground, I would not advise putting on more than 1,000 lbs. to the acre.

R. H.: What are the various benefits derived from putting wood ashes on the land? (2) Will it be practical to plant soy beans year after year in the same field?

Answer: Wood ashes benefit the land in two ways. They add from 30 to 50 per cent. of their weight of lime. What is to say that the wood ashes carry this much lime. If you collected from the rain, wood ashes carry about 2 to 5 per cent. potash, hence they are valuable as a source of this important plant food.

(2) It is not considered good practice to sow soy beans year after year on the same ground. You would do much better to use them in a system

Spring Wedding Menus

By Hilda Richmond

A worried country lady whose daughter is to be married this spring confided to a close friend that she is "just scared stiff" in regard to serving refreshments at the wedding. She wants to make the great occasion a happy one for her only daughter, but the thought of making ready a wedding feast and successfully serving it keeps her awake nights worrying lest everything go wrong. She doesn't know what to do nor how to do, and though her friend tries to reassure her and help plan her plan, she looks at the whole thing as if it were a mountain she can never remove from her pathway.

Of course, first of all she should think over her resources carefully. If the house is large enough to admit setting tables for all the guests she can have a more elaborate dinner than if her space is limited. Small tables lifted from the town caterer with folding chairs can be in readiness for the dinner or supper, and everything can be arranged quickly and easily. If the house is small and trays must be used where each guest is responsible for his own supper, so to speak, a much simpler and easier menu must be planned.

For the table dinner a good menu would be creamed potato, chicken salad, hot rolls, several spreads, pickles, escalloped oysters and perhaps a water ice for the first course, and cake, ice cream, coffee, salted nuts, candies and crystallized fruits or any other dainty for the second. This could be served from the kitchen and be easily and quickly disposed of.

A more elaborate table dinner could consist of roast chicken or turkey, mashed potato, gravy, scalloped corn, fruit salad, rolls, spreads, pickles and the same second course as above, but the hot plates and hot food are hard to manage unless the number of guests is limited. It is far better to stick to the easier menu and have everything perfect than to struggle with keeping the food hot, carving, dishing and serving all in a kitchen not built for large social affairs.

For the menu served on a tray, hot rolls can be used, and they should be buttered in the kitchen. Two or three

different spreads can be passed, but they should be heavy and rather stiff, rather than soft and capable of mixing with other foods. Chicken potato, or salad, escalloped, or creamed potatoes, scalloped oyster, or shried chicken with mashed potato can be served for the hot dish. Instead of the rolls, sandwiches made of white bread with cheese, brown bread with meat, nut bread with butter or sweet sand-wiches in which jelly is used can be served. For the second course serve cake, ice cream, candies and coffee.

Even a perfectly cold supper can be served if space is limited. For this, sandwiches and salad with pickled fruit, or a gelatine dish or cold chicken can be used. Chicken salad is perhaps the most satisfactory of all the cold foods as it is appetizing and everyone likes it. Of course, cake and ice cream are used for each and every kind of supper, but this is easily ahead of time and the ice cream bought in town.

For the little fancy things, salted nuts, preserved fruits heavy with sugar, bon bons, rich home-made candy loaf in tiny boxes, bits of wedding cake in fancy ribbon-tied boxes, "dream over," tiny fancy cakes in assorted colors, and a number of other trifles can be used. Write to some firm in the nearest large city and ask for prices and descriptions of little fancy novelties, or get some friend in the city to make your selection.

All the things one reads about in papers about miniature brides and groomsmen at each plate, making depend- ing from the ceiling, yards and yards of ribbon strewn over the table and dozens of wax candles need not disturb the country hostess. She can use flowers or a wedding cake or anything she chooses for a simple centre piece and let the "ministry" go by.

A large handsome frosted bride's cake is a beautiful ornament on a bride's table, or a basket filled with roses or other flowers, but ribbon never adds much to the beauty of the occasion. Have your food good, abundant and nicely served and you will not have to worry about what your guests think of it.

Poultry

W. W.: Kindly give us your idea of an outdoor brooder for small chicks, the brooder to be kept warm by a lamp or lantern.

The writer does not wish to advise the use of a home-made brooder that is to be kept warm by a lamp or lantern. So many brooders of that kind produce weak chicks because it is necessary to cut down the ventilation in order to keep up the heat and prevent huddling. There is also a great fire risk in using such brooders.

The cost of a brooder that is properly made is not large compared with the prospective value of the chicks it protects. So it will pay you to study some of the literature put out by the manufacturers of brooders. We have used old brooders but always found them more satisfactory in colony houses, especially on windy or stormy days. The best brooding proposition is the stove brooder which will protect two or three hundred chicks and furnish them plenty of heat and fresh air at the same time.

Canada's Tobacco Crop.

According to returns furnished by the Tobacco Division of the Dominion Experimental Farms, while the quality of the crop, especially in Ontario, grown last year was above the average, the season was not the most profitable to growers. In seven counties of Ontario, namely, Essex, Kent, Elgin, Norfolk, Middlesex, Brant, Lambton, Prince Edward, Welland, Hamilton, and Oxford, and in 34 counties of Quebec tobacco is grown. In the latter province the principal producing counties are Montcalm, L'Assomption and Rouville. The counties

Smoke OLD CHUM

The Tobacco of Quality
1/2 LB. TINS and in pk'gs.

For Home and Country

Blackwell Jr. Institute (Lambton Co.) was organized May 31, 1920, and the secretary. A report of the Janey Canuck Institute of Lennoxville in organizing an Institute in our district. The first year we had a roll of 20 members. This year we have sixteen, as four of our last year members have married and gone away. In our monthly meetings we have had papers on:

1. The Progress of Ontario Institutes.
2. The Rules of the Institute.
3. Institute Work.
4. School Improvement.
5. When a Girl Travels Alone.

The Sunday School Lesson

APRIL 2.

Asa Relies on God, 2 Chron. 14: 1-12. Golden Text — 2 Chron. 14: 11 (Rev. Ver.)

Time—B.C. 914-874. Place—The Kingdom of Judah. Lesson Foreword—Asa, the hero of today's lesson, was the grandson of Rehoboam, and therefore the third king of Judah. Both King and Chronicler credit him with being a reforming ruler, who tried to cleanse the religion of his day of the heathen elements which were creeping into it. (See 1 Kings 15: 9-15.)

1. Asa's Religious Policy, 1-5. V. 1. Abijah was the son of Rehoboam and the father of Asa. The book of Kings accuses him of walking in the sins of his father (1 Kings 15: 2), but the book of Chronicles took a more charitable view of his reign, 2 Chron. ch. 13. Asa's father, Abijah, was a man of God, who was buried in the same tomb as his father.

V. 2. The Chronicler passes judgment on the reign of each king. According to his standard of judgment if a king conformed to the temple religion he was a good king. In the mind of the chronicler Asa was one who was dominated by the temple.

V. 3. Asa's Altars of Strange Gods; dedicated to the worship of foreign gods, not to Asa and his army, but to God alone. Probable a panic seized the Ethiopians, and made the victory over them easy.

V. 4. After ridding the land of its idolatry Asa exhorted the people to unswerving allegiance to Jehovah. Seek the Lord, a common phrase in the Old Testament, its meaning seems to be "to consult God as to his will, or to strive earnestly to lead a religious life."

V. 5. The kingdom was quiet. These twenty years of peace (v. 1) enabled Asa to carry out his reforms and to strengthen his defenses.

V. 6. Asa's Defensive Policy, 6-8. II. Asa's Defensive Policy, 6-8. His cities because he was compelled to fortify his cities because of the prolonged hostilities between the kingdoms of Israel and Judah. Baasha, king of Israel, had fortified his frontier, 1 Kings 15: 18-22.

V. 7. In this verse a short description of a fortified city is given. It had walls of hewn stones, surrounded by watch-towers for observing the enemy, gates leading through the walls, and bars to fasten the gates on the inside.

V. 8. Besides building fortified cities, Asa increased the standing army. This was raised from the tribes—Judah and Benjamin. The tribe of Benjamin lay between the kingdoms of Israel and the kingdom of Judah, and while it seems to have thrown in its lot with the kingdom of Israel at the disruption (1 Kings 12: 20), later it gravitated towards the kingdom of Judah. Targets; a large shield which was carried for defence by the heavy-armed infantry. Spears; were favorite weapons of defence among ancient nations; they consisted of a rule of a wooden staff with a sharp head of flint or metal. Shield; a sharp shield than the target and the chief defensive weapon of the light-armed infantry. Bow; were made of reed wood or horn and fitted with a string composed of gut or hide.

together, and that for me is prayer."

Application. 1. Idolatry, vs. 3-5. Asa's first public service was an attempt to purify worship from idolatry. He took away the altars of the strange gods, cut down the groves and broke down the pillars. The tendency to idolatry is strong in human nature and a frequent recurrence. Christ emphasized the necessity of spiritual worship.

2. Peace and Prosperity, vs. 6, 7. In the ten years after the beginning of Asa's reign the land had rest from war there was opportunity to repair the devastation of past conflict and to inaugurate constructive policies. In the Washington conference upon the limitation of armaments much emphasis is laid upon the possibility of using materials to better advantage in constructing houses, hospitals, schools and machinery in place of battleships and guns. The wealth consumed in the destructive-ness of war, if used constructively, would banish poverty and insure prosperity.

3. Preparedness, vs. 8, 9. As preparation against surrounding tribes to carry out his reforms and to peace but he knew the necessity of being prepared for war. Preparedness is usually associated with military defence but the wisdom of preparation is seen in every department of life. The athlete must be trained for the contest. The teacher must be prepared through study. Dean Brown of Yale University describes the preparation of Christ for his public ministry. "He had used thirty of those thirty-three years in quiet preparations for the great tasks which were to come. No wonder the three years of which we know so much were mighty when we think of the thirty years of preparatory training and discipline for one of devotion for one day of healing, re- demption for one day of silence and prayer before God. One hour of speech in the ears of men."

4. Power from Prayer. Asa had position, prosperity and preparation for prayer. A great scholar wrote these intimate words on prayer: "When things are too much for me, I am down on my knees, and every-thing is dark, I go alone by myself, and I bury my head in my hands, I think hard that God must know it all, and will see how matters really are, and understand me; and in just that way alone, by understanding me, will help me. And I try to get myself together, and that for me is prayer."

PUT UP THE SHADES

When I was a boy I used to pull down the shade on the window of my room and tell myself that I would sleep late. In the morning the sun would appear on schedule time, poke needles of light through the pinholes in the green shade and urge me to get up. If father's voice did not join in the urge, I stayed where I was until the very act of resting became tiresome, or until hunger drove me from my bed.

With a nice slice of the day wasted, I would finally crawl out and send the shade whirring to the top. In would rush the sunlight, and instantly the stimulating freshness of the new day would hurry me into my clothes and outdoors at high speed. As for that stuffy old bed, I would wonder how I ever had endured it, and as for a drawn shade, that was unthinkable, at least until the following morning!

There are always a certain number of farmers who keep the shades down in the morning. They find satisfaction in old methods and old ideas that have outlived their usefulness. They will not admit the light of a new day, and for a long time get it only as it percolates through the pinholes of their mental shades. After a while, when a lot of good time has been wasted, they try the new method, and the new idea that others have been using dawns upon them. They shoot up the shades, in rushes the light, and then, no more darkened rooms for them, no more stuffy beds—at least not until the following morning!

In the locality where I lived some of the "early risers" discovered that flax was a profitable crop. A few of the neighbors had their shades down. "What is all right," they said, "and has been all right for fifteen years; no flax for us!" After a few years, when the others had nice chunks of flax money in the banks, these men started to raise flax. They did not raise the shades in time, however, and half the morning was lost. After they got outside they wondered how they had ever endured the mattress until such an hour. But I have heard that on other such mornings the same men "slept in!"

And another example: Small grain, not corn, has long been king in the valley where I live. Farmers with the shades up have long been questioning the divine right of this king. At the present time there are several contenders for the throne. While many think that corn is the real heir apparent, yet many other claim that the dairy cow is the nearest of kin to the present ruler, hence his natural successor. His Pignip is also making claims. It may be that a sort of triumvirate will be formed (if the word is correct when one member is a lady), for it is known that the three work nicely together. Every farmer who is an "early riser" is following and boasting one or all of these contenders for the throne. But how about the fellow with the shade down? What is he doing? As usual, he is in bed with the quilts over his head. "The old king is good enough for me," he says, "no dairy cow, no corn, no hog in mine! Darn the pinholes in that window-shade, they interfere with my sleep!"—R. J. W.

FROM THE GIRLS' PROGRAMS. Ledwith (Huron Co.) Girls' Institute. March—How to plan our work so that it will not be necessary to keep on a kitchen dress after dinner.

April—Canadian Literature and Writers. June—Joint meetings with Senior Institute and Junior Farmers.

Lansdowne (Leeds Co.) Girls' Institute. March—"Do unto others as ye would that they should do unto you." Roll Call. Biscuit Recipes. Paper and Discussion: Flowers and shrubs that are easy to grow. Music.

April—"Pack your troubles in as little compass as you can." Roll Call. Remedy for a cold, burn, or poison. Debate: A good housekeeper is more to be desired than a good housekeeper.

The Shortage of Seed Oats.

It may not be generally known that the best information obtainable points to this spring's seedling. Reports reaching the Seed Commissioner at Ottawa through inspectors of the Seed Branch distributed over the country, as well as from soldier settlers through the Soldier Settlement Board, confirm this view. The Seed Purchasing Commission of the Seed Branch, because of the condition of last year's crop, anticipated this shortage and reserved in storage in government elevators in 600 bushels of No. 1 seed oats. Early in March a large proportion of this seed was already disposed of and shipped out, shipments reaching as far east as the Maritime Provinces. This seed is disposed of by the Commission only in car loads and at the cost of the re-cleaned seed.

Conditions in the seed trade show clearly that seed merchants throughout the country have been cautious in their purchases of seed. Experiments have proved time and time again that the early sown seed after proper conditions of planting arrive, bring much larger returns than that which goes into the ground at a later date. It is equally important that the seed be of good variety and of prime quality. Both from the standpoint of the individual and of the country a maximum crop is needed. It is therefore clear that delays in securing adequate supplies of seed may result in disappointment and loss.

Feeding standards should be used as guides in formulating rations. Produce your own tankage in the legume fields. Spraying is the bridge over which many a fruit grower has passed to the shore of success.

The name "London" is a combination of two Celtic words, "Lyn," meaning "lake," and "dun," a fort.

Shining Yellow Sun Fairies.

The shining, yellow sun fairies were dancing. "Merrily they skipped and danced over the green grass. On and on they went, now this way, now that way. And then suddenly they stopped. They had come to a big, roly-poly, smooth white thing. It was strange and unknown. All the shining, yellow sun fairies were curious and wondered what this roly-poly thing was. They pranced around it and climbed up its smooth white sides, but still they could not discover what it was. Then all the shining, yellow sun fairies danced in a circle around the roly-poly thing and sang as they danced:

"Oh, tell us what you are, oh tell us what you are, Before we skip and dance away so far; Oh, tell us what you are, oh tell us what you are, Before we skip and dance away so far."

Then they all grew very, very quiet, for they heard a little "Squeak, Squeak" coming from the roly-poly thing. A little, fuzzy head poked his way out and nodded brightly at all the curious, shining, yellow sun fairies.

"I am very wonderful," squeaked the little fuzzy head. "Everything inside of me is very, very good. I bring good health to little children and I make them become big and strong and healthy. And I taste so delicious. Oh, I am so wonderful. I am an Egg."

And then the little fuzzy head nodded brightly at all the shining, yellow sun fairies and disappeared in the white shell.

The shining, yellow sun fairies danced thrice around the roly-poly egg and then they danced all over the world to tell the children about the wonders of the roly-poly Egg.

There are now machines which can show emotion, and can show a person under examination is telling the truth or not.

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Canada
The total value
production by pro-
1920 was as follow-
000; Ontario, \$113,
wick, \$11,000,000;
\$27,231,000. Queb-
1,000,000 tons of
production, Ontario
\$54,400, while Brit-
duction was 218,000
The salmon indus-
year, however, Ont-
most newspaper, on
compared with Que-
British Columbia
Quebec's capacity
duction has been in-
tario and is being
crossed through the
new International
mill at Three Rivers
The salmon indus-
Jumbia representa-
ment of \$16,000,000,
the producers of the
close to \$4,000,000
plyees are paid an-
nually, and the num-
played in the indus-
Over \$300,000 is in
local merchants for
and groceries, and the
and the cost \$2,000,
Vancouver Island
116,730, which is 239
than the population,
1911, according to fig-
the basis of the cen-
nounced by the Dom-
Statistics recently. The
Greater Victoria, in-
adjuvant municipali-
ing districts, is approx-
although details are
the district municipali-
Over 19,870 crew of
by commercial fisher-
Manitoba during 1921
gregate value of \$125
quantity 15,260 cwt., va-
were caught during 2
cwt., worth \$9,255, dur-
the remainder of the
er's permits. In the
were engaged in fish-
gill nets. Among the
whitefish, pickerel, blue
suckers, ling sturgeon,
Farmers of Saskatchewan
approximately \$6,000,000
ers in 1920, no less than
being sold to purchase
year at a cost averaging
The total value of all
in Canada, British Col-
end of December, 1921, and
\$5,711,752. The total and
interest on the public debt
compared with \$19,942,244
ten months of 1920-21.
Of the \$16,900 horses pro-
duced by the pulp and paper
Canada in 1920, no less than
horse-power was developed
hydraulic turbines, or by en-
gines, leaving only 160,000 h.p.
developed by steam, gas and
engines.
A party of over three hun-
dian school teachers will be
during the coming summer,
to Major Fred Ney, founder
organizer of the Overseas
League. A similar his-
expedition was made last
The party will sail from Mo-
Harve, France, on July 1, and
will be joined by teachers in
Zealand and Australia, August
25.
"I've used kerosene to burn
kitchen fire nearly every week
"I'll keep chopping till the
pins to fall."
"This is all foolishness about
to use a staff to lead a bull,
I've always used my own
"I just can't do any more
on this car till I light my pipe
"Oh, I'll get across the tra-
heated the train gets here,
never starts."
"I'll stop here under this big
the thunder-storm passes."
"I don't very often get in
the cutter-lan when the moun-
gear, but this team is gentle."
"What in the world did I do
a danger sign on this hill?
Why, I crossed it with my
less than a week ago."