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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T. M.: Can you tell us the best and surest method of getting a good catch of clover on ground sowed in wheat last fall, on land in southern Ontario that is a sandy loam?

Answer: The best suggestion I can offer to assist you in getting a good catch of clover is to seed your fall wheat ground with clover applied at the rate of about 10 to 15 lbs. per acre, and at the same time give it a top dressing of fertilizer analyzing about 3 per cent. ammonia, 8 per cent. phosphoric acid, and 3 per cent. potash, applied at the rate of 200 lbs. per acre. If you have a light harrow it would be good practice to harrow the field after the seed and fertilizer has been applied, being careful to harrow with the rows and not across them. This available plantfood will greatly assist your grain crop and will form exceedingly good material for the young clover to feed on.

H. W.: Is it safe to roll the wheat or rye in the spring with a cultipacker, and what good or harm will it do?

Answer: I consider it good practice to roll wheat or rye in the spring with a cultipacker if the ground is not a heavy clay soil. This roller will tend to break up the soil and produce a mulch which should save considerable moisture for your wheat.

R. H.: I am thinking of building a silo this summer. I have a quantity of balsam trees which I could have cut in 2x6 boards, planed on both sides and tongued and grooved. I would like to know if this would make a good silo. I also have white pine that I could make up in the same manner.

Answer: I would prefer the white pine lumber to the balsam, largely on account of its greater durability and its closer structure. Prepared the way you describe, it should make a satisfactory silo.

W. W.: Have a piece of well-drained gravelly soil where strawberries were turned under after fruiting in the summer of 1920; part was sown to rye in the fall of that year; rye was cut the following summer for hay; oats sown and clover sown, which came but was burned out during drouth; the ground was plowed and sown to rye in the fall of 1921. Oats were turned under. What is the best way of treating this land to shape it for strawberries or for any paying crop?

Answer: To prepare the land for strawberries I would advise early disking of the land after you have applied about five loads of manure per acre, if you can conveniently spare this amount of plantfood. When the ground has been disked, drill in about 500 lbs. per acre of a fertilizer analyzing 3 to 4 per cent. ammonia, 8 per cent. phosphoric acid, and 3 to 5 per cent. potash. This additional available plantfood will give your strawberry plants a vigorous start which will count not only in the growth of the vine, but in the fruiting.

J. D. P. D.: Can you tell me:

1. When to sow alsike and how much to sow? If it is good to sow it on fall wheat?

2. Will sweet clover come second year?

3. I have six acres of alfalfa sowed last spring and should I put the cattle on it in the spring and when should I cut it? I never grew it before.

4. I have twelve acres of sweet clover and when should I cut it for hay? I would like to make summer fallow out of it.

5. After taking a crop off a field in which clover has been sown, in case the clover is a foot or over in height should it be cut or not?

6. Does it generally pay to disinfect wheat before sowing?

Answer: 1. In sowing alsike about 8 to 10 lbs. per acre of first class seed is sufficient. This seed may be sown on fall wheat, provided that it is done sufficiently early. When the wheat is not more than 2 to 3 inches high, harrow it with the rows, setting the teeth of the harrows back so that they will not cut or drag out the wheat.

2. White or yellow sweet clover of ordinary type is a biennial, that is, it produces seed every second year. There is an annual white clover which has been developed at Iowa Experiment Station, Ames, which completes its cycle of growth in one year. In warmer climates such as Central Illinois and Indiana, this clover drops seed sufficiently early so that it perpetuates itself this way. It is hardly likely that this would happen in Ontario on account of the relative shortness of our growing season.

3. If your ground is at all of a clay type I would not advise pasturing the young alfalfa. If it is a gravelly loam type and the alfalfa has become well established you might turn the stock on it for a few hours a day, but do not allow them to pasture it down too close. The first crop of alfalfa should be cut just before bloom begins to show. If you examine the lower branches of the plant you will find fresh green leaflets starting out from these branches about this time.

4. About the same advice applies to sweet clover as given in answer to question No. 3. However, sweet clover may show a little bloom before it is cut. I can see no reason for you summer-falling a good stand of clover. The clover is putting humus, or organic matter into your soil and is also increasing the nitrogen in the soil. To summer-fallow it would destroy both of these valuable functions. It might be good business, however, after the second cutting of clover to allow it to produce a third fairly good top and then plow it under.

5. I presume you refer to harvesting a grain crop in which clover has been sown. Do not follow the harvesting of the grain immediately by cutting the clover. If it is fairly early in the summer and the clover has made an exceedingly good growth, by early fall it might be advisable to give it one cutting, setting the knives of the mower quite high so that there will be considerable lower branch left. However, do not take chandes on ruining a good stand of clover by cutting it too early. A little top covering to protect the roots during the winter pays for itself in the following crop.

6. I do not know exactly which treatment you refer to in your question. No disinfectant method which you might carry on would have any effect on the Hessian fly, for instance. A treatment to destroy smut in wheat is considered good practice. This treatment consists in sprinkling the wheat with a mixture of one pint of formalin to 30 gallons of water. Throw bags over the pile of wheat so as to keep the gas amongst the wheat as much as possible. This gas kills the fungus spores of bunt or stinking smut.

Bedtime Stories

Which Loved Best?

"I love you, mother," said little John.
Then, forgetting his work, his cap went on,
And he was off to the garden swing
And left her the water and wood to bring.

"I love you, mother," said rosy Nell;
"I love you better than tongue can tell."
Then she teased and pouted full half the day,
Till her mother was glad when she went to play.

"I love you, mother," said little Fan;
"To-day I will help you all I can.
How glad I am there's no school to-day!"
So she rocked the babe till asleep it lay.

Then, stepping softly, she fetched the broom;
She swept the floor and tidied the room.
Busy and happy all day was she;
Helpful and happy as child could be.

"I love you, mother," again they said,
Three little children going to bed.
How do you think that mother guessed
Which of them really loved her best?

Do It Now.

Once a boy was walking along the seashore when he saw a very beautiful shell. But he had his hands full just then, and he said: "I'll pick that up when I come back."

But when he came back after a while he could not find it. The waves had washed it out into the sea.

Sometimes a boy or girl says: "I'll not do this kind act to-day; I'll leave it until to-morrow."

Could Do Her Part.

"Alice," said the mistress, reprovingly, "this is absolutely the worst pie I ever tried to eat. You told me that you could make as good pies as any cook in the city."

The new kitchen girl placed her arms akimbo and faced her mistress with defiance.

"So I can, mum," she said. "So I can. But all the leddies I iver wurrked for mixed the pies thimselves befure I baked 'em, mum."

Canada's Contribution—The McIntosh Apple.

McIntosh is one of the most popular apples in Canada. The original tree was a chance seedling on the McIntosh homestead, Dundas county, Ontario, where Allen McIntosh began to grow this variety in his nursery about 1870.

This variety has meant millions of dollars to Eastern fruit growers. In 1912 a monument was erected near the spot where the original tree stood. On the stone is a tablet bearing these words:

"The original McIntosh Red apple tree stood about twenty rods north of this spot. It was one of a number of seedlings taken from the border of the clearings and transplanted by John McIntosh in the year 1796. (Erected by popular subscription 1912)."

McIntosh is also known as McIntosh Red. It belongs in the Fameuse group, along with Fameuse or Snow. It is thought to be a seedling of Fameuse.

Treat Potato Seed.

The careful farmer will treat his potato seed for scab. This trouble can be greatly reduced by disinfecting the seed before cutting and planting. The easiest treatment consists in putting the potatoes in sacks and soaking them not more than two hours in a solution consisting of thirty gallons of water in which has been mixed a pint of formalin.

Don't feed chicks until they're from forty-eight to seventy-two hours old.

Alsike for Sour Soils.

Alsike clover is most at home in northern latitudes or at high altitudes. It thrives best in a cool, moist climate.

Alsike will grow on "sour" land on which red clover will not thrive. Where it is not possible to apply lime and so insure a stand of red clover, alsike clover can be used. Mixed with red clover on uplands, alsike clover insures a stand on spots where red clover does not catch.

Alsike clover is used mostly in mixtures with timothy or other grasses. In such mixtures it improves the hay and increases the yield. The grasses serve to support the clover and make it easier to cut and cure.

Alsike clover will endure overflow that would kill most crops. It has been known to grow a year in water-soaked and water-covered soil and make a heavy growth. It is a good pasture plant, often remaining in a permanent pasture for many years. It is a good clover to seed in swales or on wet natural meadows. It volunteers readily and will spread in such places.

To kill sorrel: About the simplest way of killing sorrel, if you do not want to cultivate the land, is to spray it with a solution of copperas (sulphate of iron), made by dissolving two pounds of copperas to each gallon of water. Repeat the spraying as often as the sorrel begins to make growth. You can also kill this weed by shaking quicklime in water and sprinkling the water and lime over the plants, repeating as often as necessary.

The Sunday School Lesson

MAY 7

Isaiah's Ideal for a World at Strife, Isa. 2: 2-4; 11: 1-9. Golden Text—Come ye, and let us walk in the way of the Lord.—Isa. 2: 5.

Lesson Foreword—A specimen of Isaiah's prophetic teaching is given in this lesson. The passages selected form a part of what is known as the Messianic hope. From now on this hope occupies the heart of Israel. Even in the darkest periods of her history Israel believed that God had a great purpose for her in the world and that her ultimate future would be full of glory. There were two main elements in this hope,—the nation wholly redeemed and secure from all its foes and the glorious King, who would rule in that age. In this lesson, Isaiah emphasizes both the City and the King.

I. War No More, ch. 2: 2-4.

V. 2. **In the last days.** This phrase does not mean, as with us, the end of the world, but rather the close of the period which lies within the scope of the prophet's view. It is a frequent phrase in the Old Testament, Gen. 49: 1; Hosea 3: 5; Jeremiah, 23: 20, etc. **The mountain of the Lord's house.** Jerusalem with its temple stood on Mount Zion, but it was overtopped by higher mountains in Palestine. Isaiah looked for a time when the world would be so refashioned, whether physically or metaphorically, that Jerusalem would stand high above all the other eminences of the world. Jerusalem is to be elevated to world-wide prominence and influence.

V. 3. **Let us go up, etc.** Jerusalem had been the religious centre of Israel, to which the tribes went up to offer sacrifices and to celebrate their religious feasts. (See Ps. 122: 4.) But Isaiah foresaw the time when all the nations of the world would turn to Jerusalem for their spiritual instruction and inspiration. The Gentiles will yet recognize that Israel possesses the only true religion and they will come up to Jerusalem to learn it. **His ways;** not God's ways with men in providence but God's ideal of the human conduct. **Out of Zion will go forth the law.** "The Law" here means practically the whole religion of Jehovah as revealed to Israel. The inhabitants of Jerusalem will become the world's teachers in the moral requirements which God has laid down for men.

V. 4. **He shall judge, etc.** "If all the nations practice the moral requirements of the religion of Jehovah they will naturally refer their disputes to Him, He alone being God and King" (Gray). **They shall beat, etc.** Since all disputes are to be settled by God and not by the arbitrament of war, there will be no further need of the weapons of war. **Swords;** were straight and short weapons, from two and a half to three feet in length, having apparently a double edge and tapering to a sharp point. They were generally of iron or bronze and were worn in a sheath suspended from the girdle. **Plowshares;** a pointed metal sheath capable of turning the soil to a depth of about five or six inches. It was attached through a hole in it to the wooden plow and the whole plow was so light that a man could carry it on his shoulder. **Spears;** consisted generally of a long wooden staff with a sharp metal head. **Pruninghooks;** presumably these were shaped like our sickle and were used for cutting the grapes off the vines and for trimming the vines and trees. **Neither shall they learn, etc.** Isaiah's prediction of a universal peace is most unusual when we consider the age in which it was made. Then the normal condition among the nations was war and not peace.

II. The True King, 11: 1-5.

V. 1. **A rod out of the stem of Jesse.** The house of David, the son of Jesse, is compared to a tree which has been cut down: only a stump remains, but thos stump, declares the prophet, will send forth a fresh shoot. It is evident that this prophecy was made at a time when the Davidic dynasty was not as glorious as it once was. Nevertheless in Messianic times it will be restored to more than its former grandeur. The ideal king is to be of the house of David. (See 2 Sam. 7: 14-27.)

V. 2. In other passages,—ch. 7: 14, 9: 6, 7—Isaiah describes the ideal king. Here he describes his equipment for office. **The Spirit of the Lord.** God's Spirit is conceived as the projection of his power into human life. It seizes certain men such as warriors, craftsmen, prophets and kings, and enables them to do superhuman or at least unusual deeds. Here the effect of the Spirit on the king is, in general, enlightenment and insight. **Wisdom and understanding;** a sharp and mature mind for discerning between right and wrong. **Counsel and might;** the ability to execute the right when it is perceived. **The Spirit of knowledge and . . fear of the Lord;** "careful for the will of God and a true worshiper of Jehovah" (Gray). The coming king will be a man whose character is so rooted in piety that he will be a wise, strong ruler.

V. 3. The king's endowment of God's Spirit enables him to give strong and true government. Under him civic virtues abound and crime and violence are abolished. **He shall not judge, etc.** "He will be able, like God, to probe things to the bottom, not being misled by deceitful appearances or lying words, but reading men's hearts" (Gray).

V. 4. **With righteousness shall he judge, etc.** Eastern courts of justice are notoriously corrupt. Bribes are accepted from the rich, and the poor are generally pushed to the wall with no redress. **Rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips;** both mean "his speech." The king will merely utter his voice and evil-doers will be quelled.

V. 5. **The Girdle;** is a sash or belt, used to gather up and tie the loose-flowing garments when work is to be undertaken. The figure here suggests that the love of righteousness and faithfulness will prompt and uphold the king in all his undertakings.

III. Universal Peace, 6-9.

Isaiah sees the security and peace of man in Messianic times extended to the brute creation; nature as well as man will be redeemed. G. A. Smith says: "We who live in the countries from which wild beasts have been exterminated cannot understand the insecurity and terror that they cause in regions where they abound."

Application.

The late Henry Richard, Secretary of the Peace Society, said, "Give me the money which has been spent in war and I will purchase every foot of land on the globe. I will clothe every man, woman and child, in attire of which kings and queens would be proud; I will build a schoolhouse on every hillside and in every valley over the whole earth. . . . I will crown every hill with a place of worship consecrated to the promulgation of the gospel of peace. I will support in every pulpit an able teacher of righteousness."

If ever a man could exuit in a great victory we should have thought that man would have been the Duke of Wellington after the Battle of Waterloo. Yet this is what Wellington wrote the morning after his greatest victory: "My heart is broken by the terrible loss I have sustained in my old friends and companions, and my poor soldiers. Believe me, nothing except a battle lost can be half so melancholy as a battle won."

Many of the shells used on the battlefields of South Africa were later taken to England and made into church bells. The instruments of destruction were converted into instruments of construction. The promise of to-day's lesson is not that men shall allow their swords to rust and their spears to become useless, but that they shall convert them into serviceable things. The day will come when the passion and enthusiasm now shown in war, will be turned to the upbuilding of righteous causes, and the fulfilment of lofty ideals.

For Home and Country

Erindale to be a Bird Sanctuary

As fresh, bright, and full of promise as the day itself was the spring meeting of the Erindale Institute, Peel County. $30.00 was voted as the Branch share of the support of the second School nurse secured by the co-operation of the trustees, Institute, and Department of Education. But besides their interest in health and school welfare, better home-making and local improvement, the members promote a more scientific agriculture by a study of birds, and are undertaking the unique mission of making Erindale a Bird Sanctuary by the simple method of each member seeing that her own home farm is a safe harbor for birds. Unnecessary cats and guns are accordingly unpopular.

Colored bird charts were exhibited and home-made bird houses. A joint meeting will be held later with the young people and the school boys and girls, who may learn how to make bird houses for their own homes, lanes and gardens.

A Departmental lecturer in a closely followed address on "The Silver Past and the Golden Future," sketching the achievements of a quarter century in Ontario Institutes said: "Twenty-five years ago there was nowhere a girl could turn to secure scientific training if her sweet girlhood dreams ended in her choosing the career of wife and mother. To-day Macdonald Institute, Toronto University, the Institutes Branch with its lecture staff and Travelling Short Courses, and the Departments of Health and Education were all serving the home with yearly increasing efficiency. A State Department of Home-making, then a dream of the imagination, was to-day a reality. But this was a mere beginning. It might naturally be supposed," said the speaker, "that women to whom had been committed the trust of giving the race its life, would know at least as much of the machinery, working, and care of the human body as they did of their sewing machine or motor car, but they did not.

"That was the great study of the immediate future, and by the co-operation of the Home-makers, the college, and the government, the Institutes thought they saw how ignorance, disease, and poverty could be replaced by enlightenment, health, and abundance for all. This was the dream of the Silver Anniversary which it was hoped would be the reality of the Golden in 1947."

What Father Ontario Will Do for Home-Makers.

Inquiries on Foods, House Planning, Re-modelling of Houses, Water Supply, Sewage disposal, Recreation, Physical exercise, Amateur Plays, Study Courses, should be addressed to the Library, Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph. The college library has a collection of literature (special articles, bulletins, reports, standard works) bearing upon a variety of subjects of interest to women. The following is a general classification of this material:—

The Family, the House, the Garden, the Farm, the School, Country life, Roads, Electricity, Water Supply, the Community, Literary Societies, Debates, Books and Reading, Entertainment, Games and Recreation, Education, Holidays, Citizenship, Immigration, Rural Credits, Government, Social Service, Travel, Women, Fairs, Birds.

Help in Getting Up Papers.

Individual members may secure packets bearing upon the lines indicated by writing to Packet Loan Department, O.A.C., Guelph. The packet [illegible] be returned to the college in good condition at the end of two weeks.

The Bairns' Bonnets

BY MRS. D. A. CAMPBELL.

It is easier to pray for blessings on the heads of our children than to pay for bonnets to put on them. Invention, sent by her gray haired mother, that dear old soul, Necessity, usually has to help us through the emergencies caused by the change of weather that puts a cap or hat at one blow out of season and out of the question. The following is a testimonial to her timely aid.

Seven or eight years ago knitted mufflers of fibre silk were in vogue. They have been replaced by the warmer and more sensible woollen scarfs. On examining my faded blue silk relic of the silk scarf fashion, I found it to be double—that is to say, tubular, like circular pillow casing. After a dip in fast navy dye, this scarf was shorn of its fringed ends, cut in halves across, each half gathered at one end, and rolled at the other in a wide hem, with long loose stitches to allow stretching. Behold a tricolette toque each for the twins! Bonnie's is finished with a black silk tassel swinging demurely, and Laddie's with a poppy-scarlet pom-pom. (You remember Grandmother's method of making pom-poms by winding yarn around a circular piece of cardboard with a hole in the middle? It became very useful at our house last winter in finishing our knitted caps and scarfs.) The finished toques looked smart and were found useful for spring and fall, when the woollen caps would be oppressive and summer hats would look silly. Sometimes one finds an old woollen scarf knit in this circular style, that can be made into two or even three warm toques. Woollen materials dye such delightfully rich colors.

I have just taken apart a jaunty little cap I had and find its construction amazing in its simplicity. It is a rectangular piece of coating material (reversible), eleven and a half inches by eighteen inches. It is folded to half the longer edge and the ends sewed up, the seam to the outside. A two-inch strip of light stiffening canvas is sewn along the lower edge on the outside and then about two and a half inches of the lower edge turned up all around. On my cap this had a narrow edging of fur but a plain hem would do, especially if your material is one of the pretty plaid-lined coatings. The upstanding corners of the cap are then pulled down and tacked underneath the band, or outside the band with a self-covered button on each. To make a "Kiltie" cap of this, use black velvet and face the band with plaid to match your kilts—I mean your little son's kilts, of course. Then, with two short straps of gold braid across the band on the left side, and a smart little black quill thrust through them, you have Sandy McNab for sure. Where you get that quill may remain a secret between you and Chanticleer.

Finding I had enough cloth over my small son's spring suit to make a hat, I borrowed a worn-out ready-made tweed hat and took it apart for a pattern. Another dollar or more saved! I am glad to find that most of the fashion sheets the pattern makers send us, show patterns for hats of several styles, which may be made at home without misgiving, embroidered or plain, and which may be worn with just pride. You know Ruskin says a girl cannot truthfully say she can dress well unless she makes her own clothes. From where I sit at church, I can count in winter about twenty home-made tams and woollen caps on youthful heads, and I glory in their good appearance as well as in the hopeful sign of thrift in the rising generation. Needless to say this warm and pleasing headgear is accompanied by warm and ample knitted scarfs in happy colors; yes, and sweaters to boot. May I digress long enough to say that fifteen years ago in a small town, unhappy was the high school girl who had not a wide winter hat much laden with fuss and feathers, a fur scarf that lay flat on her shoulders with no shelter for her red ears between that wide brim and that flat fur? A cap, wool scarf or sweater for Sunday wear would have been an object of ridicule.

But we were talking only of children's hats, were we not? I have in mind two bonnets for a little girl made on the same lines and both of her mother's old hats. One was a beaver for winter—that always reminded me of Maggie Tulliver's beaver bonnet—the other a panama for summer. These were made by cutting away the brim from the crown, leaving a large scoop in the front to fold back like Dutch pictures and Billy Burkes and dust-caps and nurses' caps. Oh, you know what I mean! The crown of the hat makes the whole bonnet fitting right in to the baby neck. If it doesn't fit put little darts in it, and bind all the edges, then camouflage the darts under a pleated ribbon trimming. The panama—any pretty braid hat would do, stiffened and restored by one of the new hat paints or dyes—was renewed by a coating of panama hat finish, was embroidered with navy blue rope silk lazy daisies and had navy ribbon ties. The beaver was itself dark blue and had the same ribbon ties with pretty rosettes.

The crochet baby bonnets are pretty, are they not? I shall be glad to send a cutting showing the pineapple pattern, but I crocheted it more loosely than others I have seen, with a fluffy little crocheted frill. Another cute crochet cap I made by joining the ends, and then the points to a centre, of a piece of lace with deep points that had served to adorn a little shelf in a little log house before I was born. Some of my unused doylies are in danger of the ecru dye-pot from which they may emerge to be edged with a deep frill of ribbon—preferably Dresden, the outer edge of the frill drawn into submission by elastic, and presto, motor caps for everybody from Dimple-cheek to Grizzled-face! Then if we can't afford to motor, all undaunted we'll wear them for boudoir-caps. Then if we have no time to sit about our boudoirs, they will keep our hair from tangling as good old-fashioned nightcaps!—"The Woman in the Wee Hoose."

Never buy a broom unless it will stand alone. A broom that tips to one side will wear to one side.

Apply nitrates to the orchard just as growth starts and before any pink of the blossom can be seen; that's the best time.

These Farmers Advocate the Repair Shop

I am convinced that money invested in a repair shop is well spent. I have a farm of 110 acres and would not be without my repair shop. The average farmer does not need a very expensive outfit. A building 12x16 makes a fair sized shop. I would suggest the following list of tools: Forge, anvil, vise, post drill and die plate. The average farmer can repair singletrees, doubletrees, neck yokes, wagon tongues, sharpen bean shears, cultivator shovels, harrow teeth, and do his own horseshoeing and other repairs after he has had some experience. Of course, we know that all farmers are not handy with tools, but the average farmer with a repair shop fitted out with a reasonable supply of tools could save for himself a lot of expense by doing the great majority of his repair work on rainy days when he would not be otherwise employed.—G.J.H.

Many men have very little mechanical ability. I would not advise such men to build and equip a complete work shop. I have such a shop and could hardly farm without it. A man who takes to mechanical tools, or who has a boy growing up with a leaning in this direction, by all means should secure all the tools that he can make good use of.

I have worked at the machinist trade about half of my life. My adopted boy and myself do about all of our own cement work, carpentering, blacksmithing, horse shoeing, soldering, roofing, etc. If a man can use carpenters' tools, he ought to buy some. They will save lots of time. But if he cannot saw a board square if properly marked, he had better save his money for some other purpose. It is folly to buy tools that you cannot use.

If you have a boy who likes to build things, by all means secure tools for him and teach him to keep them in order. A neighbor's boy comes over to my shop and does lots of work. He now has a forge, vice and hammer and tongs of his own. He can dress a cold chisel and do many things out of the ordinary. I delight to show him how to temper and do jobs he never undertook before. My own boy can design rafters for a gambrel roof and with a little advice can put up a very good looking building.

I would advise farmers to stock up with bolts of various lengths. They can buy job lots of mixed bolts at small cost. A box of mixed nails are also very handy for repair work, but no good for new work. Mixed washers also come handy.—D.C.W.

On my farm I have a repair shop 18x16 feet in size. This shop is equipped with a forge, a large vise, a carpenters' bench, tools, a horizontal bench drill and two screw plates, one for small bolts and the other for large ones. I also have equipment for shoeing horses, so that I can set a shoe at any time. This shop has been on my farm for about ten years and I would not be without it for the small amount that the tools cost. It has saved me a good many extra trips to town. My farm consists of eighty acres.—A.L.

Asparagus.

How about that asparagus bed? Are you still putting off planting it? Of course, that is an easy way out of the difficulty, but not a very productive way. Yes, certainly. If you do not like that delicious vegetable there is no use wasting good ground by planting it to such a weed. But are you perfectly square with yourself when you say that you don't like it?

If there was a patch of nice green succulent asparagus in our garden would we pass it by? Wouldn't we sneak out a few stalks and ask the "Queen of the Kitchen" to cream them for supper, or give us a few on toast to eke out that otherwise tasteless breakfast? You bet we would.

'Fess up, now, and then order at least two dozen roots. Better get a hundred, they come cheaper that way and you can always sell your surplus at a good profit. You'll want plenty for canning, too, it's fine in the winter.

Pick out a nice sheltered place where the plants will peep out at the first signs of spring, and after plowing in a heavy dressing of manure, open up a six-inch furrow and let the sun warm it up in readiness for those plants that will arrive in a few days. They can be planted any time after the ground thaws out.

Or, better still, if you wish to give them an extra kindly reception, you dig a trench about eighteen inches deep; fill it half full of manure; cover it to within six inches of the top of the trench and set the plants about two feet apart in the row. Cover with enough dirt to fill the trench rounding full.

I have tried many ways of unrolling barbed wire from a spool, but have found nothing so easy and effectual as the following: Place the spool on end with a round bar through it, driven into the ground a foot or more. Secure the top of the bar to a post with a piece of wire, then hitch a horse and wagon to the wire on the spool and drive away. The wire will be pretty well stretched and there will be no kinks or twisted wire.—R. D.