

Farm Crop Queries

UNIQUE 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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G. R. What is the difference between hydrated lime and the ground limestone applied to lands? Where land required two tons per acre of the ground stone how much of the hydrated lime would be equal to the stone?

Answer: Ground limestone is the carbonate of calcium and magnesium. Burnt lime is the carbonate with the gas carbon dioxide driven off by burning or heating; that is, burnt lime is the oxide of calcium. Now, if the oxide or burnt lime is slaked with steam or water it forms hydrated lime or calcium hydrate. 56 lbs. pure burnt lime is equal to 74 lbs. hydrated lime or 100 lbs. of ground limestone.

H. M. I am feeding my four month old pigs skim milk and middlings. Now I have rye, oats and corn which I could grind and feed with the middlings and milk. Will you please give me a ration from the above?

Answer: Four month old pigs should be about 100 lbs. liveweight. They should get daily about 35 lbs. dry matter per 1,000 lbs. of hogs, 4.8 lbs. protein, 22.5 lbs. carbohydrates, and 0.7 lbs. of fat. This could be ap-

proximated by feeding 2 to 3 lbs. skim milk per day along with as much grain as the hogs will take. One successful farmer made up a successful ration out of 1 part oats and 1 part peas or barley finely ground. In winter it is customary to feed grain twice daily with mangels at midday. In your case a mixture of rye and corn will about substitute for peas and barley.

S. H. I would like a ration for my milk cows. As roughage I will have timothy hay and shredded corn fodder. As grain I will have corn, oats, rye, cull beans, and bran. This will be for winter feed; will also have mangels.

Answer: Henry's Feeds and Feeding gives a daily ration for 1,000 lbs. cows as follows: 10 lbs. clover hay, 20 lbs. corn stover, 8 lbs. corn meal, 3 lbs. corn and cob meal, 1 lb. bran, 8 lbs. roots. Your substitutes may be worked in about as follows: 12 to 15 lbs. timothy hay, 20 lbs. shredded corn, 8 lbs. corn meal, 3 lbs. oats and rye meal (equal parts), 1 lb. bran and 8 lbs. mangels. I would not feed cull bean meal to dairy cows.

Poultry

When a hen stands around on one foot in out-of-the-way corners, not mingling with the other fowls, refusing food, although aimlessly pecking at nothing, she is evidently infested with the large white lice that burrow into the skin at the root of the feathers. They seem to embed themselves around the ears, gills and throat before they attack the other parts of the body. The hen mopes around for a week or two, then a slight diarrhoea sets in and the fowl dies in a short time, supposedly from cholera.

I have saved fowls in the latter stage by the following method: Mix pulverized camphor and grease to form a soft paste. Carefully work this with a stick or end of a match well into the skin around the ears and every part of the head and throat. With the fingers work the paste down the back of the neck, across the back and underneath the wings. In a short time the hen will begin to eat and drink, and will entirely recover.

Egg production is the final answer regarding profit on the poultry farm, and eggs are seldom obtained from a flock infested with parasites or in which disease is rampant. The common poultry parasites are lice and mites, which attack the outside of a bird's body, the internal parasites are intestinal worms and tapeworms.

The egg-eating habit may be cured with quinine. Break an egg into a small dish, and into it stir a generous amount of quinine. Also put some around the inside of the shell. I put this mixture before the hens and they at once began to eat, but not for long. Soon they were shaking their heads as if disgusted with the meal, and that cured them of the habit.

In saving meat for the hens, from animals that have died on the farm, it is highly essential that we be sure no disease caused death. The meat ought to be dried and put away so that it will keep well. Decayed meat is not a bit better for hens than it is for people.

New Varieties of Grain

Since the inception of the Dominion Experimental Farms up to 1922 there have been originated by the Cereal Division seventy-four new varieties and selections of grain, including 29 varieties of spring wheat, 9 varieties of oats, 14 of barley, 7 of peas, one each of spring rye, winter rye, emmer and sunflowers, 6 of beans, and 5 of flax. The principal variety of all is the Marquis wheat, which has won prizes wherever shown and has brought millions of dollars to Canada. Although the farms came into life in 1886 this great work has mainly been done in the present century, first under the direction of the late Dr. William Saunders, who was Director of the Farms up to 1902, and then under Dr. Charles E. Saunders, who became Dominion Cerealist in 1903 and in the winter of that year and 1904 gave the country the famous Marquis, which was obtained from a mixed variety called Marckham which was in turn secured from a cross made in 1892 between Hard Red Calcutta and Red Fife.

Let's not forget that the finest looking hen is usually the poorest worker.

The Chinese made agriculture a part of their school courses over 4,000 years ago.

Cattle were the first money. The Roman word for money, pecunia, is derived from pecus, meaning cattle.

Finish the Cattle.

Every farmer desires to get the best market price for his cattle. Top price is the result, in the first place, of breeding right, in the second place, of proper feeding and care, and, in the third, of sending the beasts to market sufficiently finished. Important in this connection is the winter feeding. The Animal Husbandman in connection with the Dominion Experimental Farms, dealing with "Feeds for wintering and winter fattening of cattle in Eastern Canada" (vide Exhibition Circular 108) summarizes the conditions thus: That a relatively small number of animals as marketed are sufficiently finished to command the top price; that a small percentage of finished animals are marketed between December and April; that prices for finished animals are highest during those months and that a relatively small percentage of steers classed as export steers are sufficiently well finished for the trade, hence proper winter feeding is desirable. These statements are illustrated in the fact that in Toronto last March the top price received for prime steers was \$11, while the average for good and common steers combined was only \$6.92. In like manner the top price paid for calves was \$14 and for the average \$5, and for lambs the top was \$16 and the average \$11.33.

The Dairy

T. B. Kindly tell us just how to feed and handle calves, to be raised on separator milk. We would like to raise eight or ten that way.

Raising calves is both a science and an art. One should know what the calf requires, but it is an art to give these requirements in the best and most practical manner.

Allow the calf to nurse its dam at least four times. This gives the calf the first milk of the cow, which is necessary to start the bowels in a normal condition.

Teach the calf to drink, however, before he has formed too strong a habit of nursing. Give him whole milk from his dam for the first week. Then use one-half new milk for one week. Then gradually increase the skim-milk and decrease the new milk, so at three weeks of age the calf is getting all skim-milk.

Do not feed too much milk; five pounds at a feed is sufficient. Have the milk always at the same temperature when fed.

As the calf grows larger and older and requires more food, begin giving ground oats, wheat middlings, corn meal for grain, and also give clover hay, ensilage or any roughage food you have. This will make a better calf than to feed large quantities of skim-milk.

Bedtime Stories

The Children's Dream.
Come, my children, fly with me!
In our imagination
We'll build an aeroplane and see
The wonders of a fairy nation.

The propeller whirrs—
Away we fly!
We'll cut a window in the sky,
And then
With caution peeping through
We'll see just what the angels do.

They're forming halos made of light
For mothers when they sleep at night;
They tie each rindrop to a string
To drop it on the flowers in spring;
They're bending rainbows bit by bit,
So careful lest they should not fit,
So when you see a rainbow fair,
Hush!

Don't you tell who placed it there,
But keep our secret! Hug it tight,
And only think of it at night.

So now hush! hush! away for home,
The counterpane's our aeroplane,
A pillow for each curly head,
Nurse finds us fast asleep in bed.
—Jas. Howcroft.

To remove old wallpaper, apply hot water containing saltpeter. Use one heaping teaspoonful of saltpeter to a gallon of water. Apply with a brush. After a few applications, the paper will peel off.

Ten Thousand Pound Dairy Cows.

Five years ago at a dinner of cattle breeders the late Dr. C. C. James, then Dominion Commissioner of Agriculture, said "We need more ten thousand pound cows." Judging from the fourteenth report of the Canadian Record of Performance for Pure-bred Dairy Cows, published by the Dominion Live Stock Branch, Canada is in a fair way of having her wants fulfilled. The number of cows that have qualified in the Record of Performance with records of 10,000 lbs. milk or over, is shown to have been 3,227 up to April 1, 1922. Given by breeds the figures are as follows: Holstein-Friesian, 2,368; Ayrshire, 504; Jersey, 150; Shorthorn, 90; Guernsey, 16; French Canadian, 9. Total, 3,227.

Why Hogs Root.

Why do hogs root? Experts say rooting is just one of the natural proclivities of swine. While it probably does help make muscle, it is otherwise of no special benefit, and has no particular significance. The fact that hogs show a strong tendency to plow up fields is no indication that they are not getting proper feed; rooting does not result from lack of mineral or protein in the ration. Hogs root for worms, roots, and other food, but they seem to thrive just as well when a check is placed on the extensive use of their snouts. They also root to make a cool bed on a hot day. Experts advise ringing where hogs do material damage by rooting.

Cold Storage and the Farmer

By Hugh J. Hughes

John Elkins, who lives across the road from me, is a likeable sort of chap, but he has one pet antipathy, and that happens to be cold storage. He thinks, and honestly so, that "them cold storage fellers is hookin' their claws onto the earth." He has it figured out that nearly everything from sunburn to taxes is in some way caused by our great refrigeration plants. And John is not alone in his way of thinking. But I doubt if even we, who take a little more moderate position, often stop to figure where we would be without cold storage, and just what it does for us as well as to us. Let's make a list of the industries that exist on their modern scale through the existence of a system of cold storage. The list will include:

The whole milk business—another branch of farming.
The egg business—still another branch of farming.
The fruit business—more farming.
The poultry business—still more farming.
The livestock business—the biggest branch of farming.

Wipe out our refrigerators, our refrigerator cars, our cooling plants, our cold storage plants, and these lines of business, every one of them, would decay and disappear from the earth in their present form. They are built up, and they exist on cold storage, just as much as they exist because of meadows or pastures or rail roads or people to consume food.

Take fruit. It is a seasonal crop, highly perishable. It can not stand heat nor handling, but because of cold storage one can eat apples twelve months in the year, and oranges, and bananas.

When cold storage came into being in a large way, less than a generation ago, it made what had been the luxuries of the rich the common market possibilities of the average consumer. Suppose we trace its effect upon, let us say, eggs.

Eggs Five Cents a Dozen.
Eggs used to be pretty much a store-trading proposition. Their production and their marketing alike were neglected. They were plentiful, and about five cents a dozen in the spring. In the winter we counted them a luxury, and a new-laid egg next to a miracle.

Year Round Market for Eggs Now.
Note just what happens: In the spring, when eggs were rolling in fast, all the farmers had a market, and something like a fair price for their eggs. And this market continues all the season because, and only because, the consumer in the city is sure that he can satisfy his taste for eggs whenever he wants to do so. Put into other words, the egg appetite of the average consumer has been trained to ask for eggs any time in the year. The eating season has widened from a few weeks to twelve months, and the farmer is the gainer, as he secures a steady outlet.

But you tell that to John Elkins and he'll say: "Yes, but look at how then cold storage aigs fell down the price in the winter!" Well, you can't have your cake and eat it too. Can't have plenty of eggs and famine prices. Can't have a leveling up of prices in the summer and no leveling down of prices in the winter. Fifty years ago it was low prices and a short market season; now it is reasonably fair prices and a market all the year 'round. Which is the better?

But while I insist that the effect of the coming of the cold storage plant as a part of our marketing system has been to lengthen the consuming season, increase the demand for perishable farm products, and increase the income of the farmer, I am just as ready to agree with you that the farmer has not received his full share of the benefits.

In other words, there is too wide a spread between what the farmer gets for his spring eggs, and what the consumer pays for those spring eggs six months later. And so on for the rest of the list.

No Cold Storage Trust.
Now let me check a pet superstition of the horns. The "cold storage men" are not an organized,

The Sunday School Lesson

OCTOBER 22.

Jesus Tempted, Luke 4: 1-13. Golden Text—In that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted, Heb. 2: 18.

Time and Place—A.D. 27; The Wilderness of Judea.

Lesson Setting—Our lesson this week deals with the Temptation of Jesus. This event is connected vitally with His baptism. His baptism by John was a gracious recognition to the ministry and person of John and an identification of Himself with that movement, although baptism was in the case of Jesus the symbol of cleansing from sin, yet rather He identified Himself with humanity in its true attitude to God. Moreover it marked His entrance into a new life of public ministry and was confirmed by the approving words of God and the full gift of the Holy Spirit for that task. In a word, the baptism was a recognition, an identification, a beginning, and an endowment. It was a great experience in the life of Jesus.

I. The Temptation to an Easy Messiahship, 1-4.

V. 1. And, Mark says "straightway," after the baptism. Full of the Holy Ghost; dedicated to His great task and endowed with the full gift of God's spirit for it. Led . . . into the wilderness; in the neighborhood of the Dead Sea. Experiences must not only be experienced. Jesus needs retirement for thought and contemplation. Being forty days tempted, Jesus' thought would be about His Messiahship, its nature, method and end. He found Himself being tested and tried regarding all these. Temptation for the strong means a revealing of strength. For the weak it means a revelation of weakness, but for strong and weak alike the test is real and the writer of Hebrews emphasizes the reality of Christ's temptation and the sympathy which such temptation created in Christ for the weak who are tempted.

V. 2. Did eat nothing . . . he afterward hungered. In the intensity of His wilderness experience, His bodily needs were forgotten for a time, but they asserted themselves later and this time of physical reaction and bodily exhaustion is seized by the tempter for his culminating effort.

V. 3. Command . . . that it be made bread. Seemingly, a natural thing, for hunger is meant to be appeased—a reasonable thing, for Christ must live to do His work, an easy thing for a word will do it. A useful thing for it would demonstrate His divine sonship and power.

V. 4. Not . . . by bread alone . . . by every word of God. Jesus uses the scripture (Deut. 8: 3) for His shield. Hunger is not his temptation. His human nature notwithstanding, this temptation in the wilderness was no doubt externalized in the telling somewhat after the fashion of Pilgrim's Progress. Nobody ever knew of ever seeing this inward and outward eye. If we could so see him it would be an easy feat to say, "Get thee behind me Satan." It suits the devil's strategic purpose to fling in his suggestions with a hidden hand and no doubt after this inward and spiritual manner, our Lord was tempted.

As we go through the wilderness of this world, shall we breast our temptations alone, or shall we go along with that Greatheart of the human race, who has overcome all temptation and will one day put all things under His feet? If we do, God will make us more than conquerors through Him that loved us. We may be sure of this, that we must either overcome our temptations or be overthrown by them.

V. 5. An high mountain . . . all the kingdoms of the world. Satan has been told in the test of self-satisfaction. But if Jesus will not choose the easy way for Himself, perhaps He will choose the easy way for His kingdom.

V. 6. All His power I will give thee. If Thou wilt worship me. The Jews looked for a kingdom of earthly power and glory. The Roman world would bow before such a kingdom. Why not compromise, earthly power for spiritual ends? Why not bow before the world as a king instead of a carpenter? Why not choose a throne instead of a cross? Why not

plethoric "plunderbund." They do not buy up and hold off the market, immense quantities of food in order to gyp the farmer on prices coming and the consumer on prices going. They do not "corner" food supplies. They simply can't. Not even when they appear to.

Maybe some of them try to. I have a recollection of something of that sort in eggs, but it simply isn't done. Why? Best reason in the world—too many in on the same deal. A cold storage plant is merely a place for rent to buy and all come. And they come by the scores and by the hundreds—literally. There are egg men galore, all buying eggs when eggs are cheap—and as cheap as they can. Buying eggs on the market, buying eggs from the country stores, buying eggs from the farmers direct—all planning on buying cheap and selling dear.

Then comes the selling. Along in October the cautious ones begin to let go whenever they can make a profit, and the plungers ride for a "big stake."

Farmers Can Use Cold Storage.
But this suggests how, in the case of eggs, and perhaps some other things, the farmer who is not getting a fair price for his produce on the home market can take things somewhat into his own hands.

Any farmer can buy space in a cold storage warehouse as easily as he can rent a room in a hotel when he goes to the city. Upon request, the warehouseman will quote him rates for storage so much for the first month, and so much per month thereafter. As I recall the rate of one warehouse, it amounts to fifty cents a crate of thirty dozen for the first month, and twenty-five cents a crate each month thereafter. Suppose you placed eggs in storage in April—the best time to store them, as in late spring and summer they become more watery and not of good quality—from April to

December is nine months inclusive: total per crate, \$2.50. Add freight and price at time of storing, then add a profit and enough in addition to cover your possible losses through some going bad—and you have the price at which you can sell and break even.

If you follow the market you will be apt to find that, taking one year with another, you can get fair prices for your eggs by selling them as cold storage, and in the way I have described.

Sell on a Rising Market.
I'm not insisting on holding until December, or until any other set time. The thing the man who holds should do, whether he holds eggs, or wool, or wheat, is to sell when the market is rising, and when he can see a clear profit. The man who does that will not go broke even though he seldom gets the extreme top price. And, as regularly as the seasons come and go, eggs, butter, poultry, fruit, are low when the crop is on, and high the balance of the year.

So I'm not advising that you gamble, but rather that you meet a well-known, orderly recurrence of price changes with intelligent action. Sell on the spot when there is a profit in doing so, but when prices are below the cost of production, do a little cold storing yourself, and then sell the market shows you a net profit.

Sometimes this can be done by the individual. Sometimes it is too big a job for the individual, and belongs to the farmers' "Co-op." But, one way or the other, here is a practically untouched field in marketing, where the farmer can help to narrow the gap that exists between the consumer and himself, and in such fashion as to make the year's books show a better balance for the farm and its boss.

The principles of feeding should be practiced on the farm table as well as in the barn.

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The Country Church Choir.

Choir.

"He hears his daughter's voice Singing in the village choir, And it makes his heart rejoice." —Longfellow.

Once each week, usually on Friday evenings, in hundred of rural communities throughout Canada little bands of enthusiastic and devoted men and women meet to practice the music to be sung in church the following Sunday. The anthem and a solo or two are usually the items upon which most time is spent, but the hymns are not neglected, and in some churches the chants and others the psalms, set in poetical form, have to be studied.

Each denomination has selected and adapted the music that best suits its needs, and church choirs do a great deal to keep the spirit of music alive and vigorous in the Dominion.

In rural communities one frequently finds men and women of exceptional natural talent, good soprano, alto, tenors and basses, who have had no more training than the local choir is able to give. In some places, also, it is found that an enthusiastic music teacher has done wonderful work in training voices and accompanists. No matter how good a voice may be by nature, it is always improved and brought nearer to perfection by training, for there are right and wrong ways of singing.

It is quite possible that as the use and desire for music increase in Canada teachers will be trained specially to work in rural communities. Such teachers should make a specialty of singing and of one instrument, preferably the piano or organ, and, if possible, to have a teaching knowledge of other instruments, so much the better. Such a teacher would bear the same relationship to the specialist in one instrument as the doctor doing general practice in the country does to the specialist in the city.

Such teachers could be of inestimable benefit in a community in teaching the art of music, in training choirs, in organizing concerts and in discovering and developing the young who have natural talent. They would add immeasurably to the enjoyment of life and would brighten the lives of people whose everyday life leads them to toil and struggle with nature for such harvests as the earth affords.

The more general use and practice of music in the country would do much to make life more attractive and desirable. As a wholesome and brightening influence its value cannot be overestimated.

Application.
The temptation of our Lord was no drama. He took to Him a true body and a reasonable soul and was tempted as well as we are. He was plunged into no river Styx to make Him invulnerable. Otherwise His temptation would have no value for us. He triumphed, His human nature notwithstanding.

This temptation in the wilderness was no doubt externalized in the telling somewhat after the fashion of Pilgrim's Progress. Nobody ever knew of ever seeing this inward and outward eye. If we could so see him it would be an easy feat to say, "Get thee behind me Satan." It suits the devil's strategic purpose to fling in his suggestions with a hidden hand and no doubt after this inward and spiritual manner, our Lord was tempted.

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PLANTS ORDER PATIENCE WORK

Worked W Life, Pro Potatoes

While I was opportunity bank, save

There isn't intelligence plants, and variety of soil in history, and a century ago he evolved a had a greater ply than any Horticulture have been centuries. In more success cause taken other way of

Patience and ally patients factors to his he has thought

Deciding to create, revere vegetable world ing specially, ing them to go treatment with the conditions of ishment. The periments are the desired re-

Far be it from fame of Luther to dispel the any supernatural magic" on his this really great interesting than about him. The of the greatest kind. We had more for a film stars, the wealth of the we cannot say

Only he is agent, so that about him and I returned to how he had pro- cactus. For the this arrangement say that the more than Burbank and

"How did you I simply was needs until I had replied, usually work. I took to how many exp- cactus—and that "And that we —to produce her not only striv- ers and favor- supply for the My new school first prize in the what is the wit- out and a low- arison of the

"Just now I am time to new me- nance. You know plans it was the California, and on the way to skin of the

I also do not out any public of the trees, I shells back and you will want to one of the time- duced.

He led me to which, by the ally large and house no target- sevations and ardent ambition- he pointed out "I grow that it is in June fifty year old is a cross bet- English school ten times an ordinary man- means a fortune worth a fortune As we walk to me what you under way

And as we talk to his wife, I even more than wonders he had. Lather's sim- ple

"There is as for as there is "Life is full of certain definite mechanical or es- sential got away letor."