

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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L. G. H.—Every summer, our granary is infested very badly with a small worm that gets into the grain which, I think, is called the weevil. We cannot keep any grain through the summer without it gets wormy. Can you inform me if there is any method of getting rid of the worms? If there is any medicine for that purpose, please inform me where it can be obtained.

Answer—The insect that you find in your granary is undoubtedly the grain weevil. The treatment is comparatively simple and effective. Purchase from a drug store a pint or a pound of carbon-bisulphide. This is a very inflammable liquid, hence you will have to be careful not to light any matches or to have any fire whatsoever about you when handling this material. Place a flat dish on top of the pile of grain in the bin and empty the carbon-bisulphide into this dish. (Avoid using a metal dish—stone or china is preferred.) The liquid will quickly evaporate, and since the gas coming from it is heavier than air, it will quickly sink down through the pile of grain, killing the insects in the grain. After you have set the liquid out to be sure to close all doors and windows tightly so as to keep the gas among the grain. When the liquid has fully evaporated, possibly in a couple of days, throw open the doors and windows of the granary and the offensive odor will very quickly be lost. This treatment does not injure the grain either for seed or feed but does quickly kill the insects.

F. C.—We seeded a small field of alfalfa the latter part of August, and there are places where it does not grow well. Would it injure the alfalfa to mix ground limestone with manure and spread it on after the ground freezes? There were 550 pounds of hydrated lime applied to the acre about three or four weeks before seeding. Will soy-beans take the place of bran or middlings as a ration for pigs or cows? What is the method of inoculating them?

Answer—I would advise you to apply the lime and manure separately. If the ground is not covered by snow, scatter lime in any form over the bare spaces. In the spring, just before the snow is gone, scatter manure over these spaces also and sow more alfalfa seed. As the frost goes out of the ground the seed will work into the cracks left by the frost and a good stand of alfalfa should result. Of course, if the patches where the alfalfa does not grow well are in areas of your field where there is poor drainage the only cure will be to put in tile drainage, but I am assuming that the cause of the failure has been sourness of soil.

Soy beans are rich in protein, hence will to a large extent take the place of bran or middlings in a ration for hogs. I do not believe middlings can be so successfully used for cows. In order to inoculate soy beans purchase from the O.A.C. (Bacteriological Department) a bottle of culture for soy beans. Follow the instructions closely and you should have no trouble getting

My Ten-Dollar Junk Heap

Some years ago I attended a farmer's auction. This farmer, a friend of mine, had inherited his farm, together with some money and property. After farming some six years, he sold out because, as he put it, "there isn't anything in farming."

After the stock, machinery and other items of value had been sold at auction, the auctioneer called our attention to a pile of junk near the barn. No one seemed interested—finally some fellow offered \$2 for the lot.

At the time I was dismantling a manufacturing plant nearby and was shipping some scrap-iron. I could see that this junk heap had in it two tons or so of iron, so I bid \$10. The auctioneer smiled, everybody else laughed and even my farmer friend told me there wasn't anything in the lot worth taking away. However, the stuff was mine for \$10.

The following day I had it taken to the plant where I was working, and in looking it over found the following: One lawn-mower, badly rusted, dull, but otherwise all right. It showed very little wear. This mower had cost about \$18. I oiled and sharpened it, and am still using it.

A mowing-machine—poor broken, knife-bar spoiled from rust and neglect. The gears and working parts of this machine were worn very slightly. I put in a pole and new knives, thinking it would do to mow some rough ground, I had, thereby saving a new machine I had recently purchased. It worked so well that I sold the new machine. This old machine

is still giving good service.

Among the lot was a binder, rusty, loose and shaky; but after looking over the working parts, I knew I could have repaired it for a small sum. It wasn't worn out—just in a dilapidated condition from neglect. Having no use for a binder, I threw it in the scrap-iron pile.

A deep-well pump I gave to a man who, at a cost of less than \$2, made a first class pump of it. It saved him at least \$20.

The lot included numerous hoes, rakes and forks with broken handles; broken neck-yokes and whiffletrees with good irons; discs that needed only sharpening; chains minus a hook at one or both ends and, in fact, any number of articles that were not worn out.

In talking about this deal with a farm-machinery agent, he said: "Come to think of it, I don't believe I have ever seen a binder that was actually worn out." After studying a little, he said: "You have spent most of your life around factories. When a nut is loose it gets attention at once. Bearings are kept oiled and re-habbited when necessary. Shafts and gears are kept in line. Consequently, you run machines day after day for ten or perhaps twenty years, unless some new invention renders them useless. A farm binder is a different problem. The average farmer cuts, say, thirty acres with his binder each year. That means about four whole days' work a year. The average binder sold is turned over to the scrap heap in ten years,

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HELP, DO NOT HINDER

Said the boy, "I wish I could have some chickens to raise, so I could earn a little money." Said the father, "Oh, it would be too much bother and you wouldn't make anything out of it anyhow."

The Dad was wrong. If should have said, "That's the stuff. Go right ahead. I'll give you a couple of hens and a rooster, so you can have some hatching eggs next spring. You keep a record of what feed you use and you can pay me for it after you get started."

Encouragement is one of the greatest factors in the proper development of youth. To discourage any laudable ambition of the young is to place a handicap on them which is more lasting in effect than we realize.

How often we old folks have wanted to do things, constructive things, which we did not do because we lacked the confidence and had the fear to try. We can help to overcome this same fear in our children by giving them as free a reign with their constructive desires as we possibly can. Some of these urgings of youth seem a little foolish to us and may prove their foolishness to the youth after a trial, but the mere trying will add to the boy's confidence to do things.

Hundreds of boys and girls have been given years of advancement through life by following their urge through the guidance of the boys' and girls' clubs. Many in their teens are well on the way to success in farming, their life's occupation, because their desire to do things was helped and guided by good leaders.

The Cold Heart.

Selfishness is a primal instinct which most of us very rarely get entirely rid of. With all its cuteness, the baby is the most selfish individual. Unselfishness or consideration of others, comes as a result of our contact with other people. Education and civilization should make us less selfish, and it undoubtedly does, but it also adds a multiplicity of duties and activities in which we become so engrossed so that we often forget our social relationship in the broader sense of the word.

A noted educator has said that "the cold hearts and indifference of so-called civilized people are more menacing than the bochevists and wavers of red flags. Cold hearts and cold feet are national perils."

The bochevist, or red, is rampant, noisy and noticeable. We know he is our problem because he advertises himself as such. But indifference is quiet, spreading no propaganda, and therefore is not recognized as a problem. It is, however, insidious in its effect on our body politic and our social organization. Perhaps the reason most of us do not notice it is because most of us can be accused of being afflicted with some degree of indifference. The trouble is with us, and therefore we can not see it.

Radicalism thrives on public indifference and grumbling. But it would not have a ghost of a show if each of us would encourage loyalty to governmental institutions and quit grumbling until we were sure we had done cause for complaint. And then instead of grumbling we should become factors of construction instead of destruction if we would do our little part in helping to overcome the difficulty.

The Dairy

Returns get our attention. Possibly for this reason the heifer calves are unduly neglected. But this stock should be kept growing normally. With silage and clover or alfalfa hay, one should feed each heifer from two to five pounds of farm-grown grains per day. If no silage is available, feed two pounds of corn daily with all the clover or alfalfa hay the heifers will consume. With silage and no legume hay, a good ration consists of a portion of silage and fodder or mixed hay with a grain mixture consisting of equal parts of corn and linseed meal.

No man trusts a tiger until it is dead. A bull, although he uses an entirely different method, can do just as much damage as any animal in the zoo or in the jungle. He is more vicious and treacherous than most of them, and with such a reputation no man should trust him for a minute, no matter what his record for good behavior has been. "Mesa" bulls perhaps have killed fewer men than those considered safe.

A bull led on a staff attached to the ring in his nose may save a tragedy. Better still, keep him in a pen so arranged that handling would not be necessary at all. Every farmer who owns a bull would do well to put up this warning in his barn: "Watch the Bull."

To burn dead rathpenny canes may help control anthracnose next year.

Six square feet is the minimum convenient area for a kitchen work table, according to kitchen acre cards adopted by a number of housewives.

Do the children look as well as they did when they started back to school this fall? Maybe they miss that warm dish at noon. Why not a warm lunch served at school? It can be done.

Hospital for Sick Children

COLLEGE ST., TORONTO.

Dear Mr. Editor,—Realizing that the trend of public opinion is swinging more and more towards the equalization of the burdens which each citizen of Canada must bear, that the helping of those who are unable to help themselves occupies a much larger place in our minds, may I draw your attention to the fact that this Hospital is accomplishing great things in a field that is untouched by any other organization.

Little children from all parts of the Province, irrespective of class or creed, children who are sickly and maimed, come here and are made strong and healthy. Is not this itself a wonderful work?

The service and the duty of the Hospital is far-reaching. As well as personal attention, both surgical and medical, for all the tiny patients, doctors and nurses are also trained to extend the mission of healing to the uttermost parts of the Province.

The entire function of the Hospital must commend itself to you and your readers. It is a CHILD WELFARE work well deserving of the support of your subscribers. Our chief objective for this year is to purchase and select some new books for our public library. For a beginning we donated some of our funds realized from a refreshment booth on School Fair Day.

This winter we plan having debates, discussions and programs with the Junior Farmers' Association.

Doings of Komoha Junior Institute, 1921-22.

Education—Our Club holds its meeting twice a month, on the first and third Tuesdays. At each meeting we have a topic, usually taken by one of the members. Our topics cover a fairly wide range of study. They are chosen by a committee every three months. Some of the things we had papers on are: "A Course in First Aid," "A Woman's Education," "Milk and Its Care and Uses," "The Merchant of Venice," "Social Responsibilities," "Canadian Authors." We try to make our programs interesting to all the members.

We have also a "Club Paper" containing choice poetry, cooking hints, current events, local news, and sense and nonsense. One girl acts as editor-in-chief for three months and different members look after the departments of the paper.

At our meetings we have music (vocal and instrumental) and readings. Social and Recreation—During the fall and winter we had two community gatherings. One took the form of a Halloween Party and the other consisted of a debate and program of music. At the latter a collection was taken up.

During the summer we held a "Lawn Fete." There was a program consisting of music and readings. A booth was on the grounds at which the girls sold ice cream and home baking. This proved a financial success, as we took in fifty dollars, some of which had to be paid out as expenses.

As an outcome of the Club we have a baseball team who are kept busy during the summer playing with other teams.

In August the Women's Institute and the Junior Institute enjoyed a picnic together at Springbank.

Relief Work—At each meeting a collection of one cent a meeting is taken up in aid of the Sick Children's Hospital in London. We also donated some prize money to the local School Fair.

The membership of the Almonte Institute has decreased during the last year. At present we have fourteen members. Two of our girls have gone to other districts to reside and three of our girls were married during the year. To each we gave a little remembrance that in after years will call

For Home and Country

From the Junior Institutes' "Round Robin" Letter

The Ripley Junior Institute was organized the last week of January, 1922, at close of the Short Courses held here in agriculture, domestic science and sewing. These courses were well attended and in every way were most profitable and enjoyable. We had various joint meetings where we held debates and discussions with the Junior Farmers' Association. Also community singing, violin and orchestra music were practiced. These courses closed with a banquet held in our Township Hall, which was crowded for the occasion. This, being the first function of its kind in this community, proved very educational, besides being enjoyable and successful.

At a Valentine Tea at a home here on February 10th, the Juniors assisted the Seniors in the musical program and also served the lunch.

At a joint meeting of Juniors and Seniors in April, the Juniors assisted the Seniors in the program by giving sketches of Canadian authors. Our chief objective for this year is to purchase and select some new books for our public library. For a beginning we donated some of our funds realized from a refreshment booth on School Fair Day.

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Poultry

The pullets should be put into their winter quarters early in order that they may have time to settle down before they begin to lay. Before putting them in, make sure that the houses have been thoroughly cleaned and disinfected and that all necessary repairs to roofs, side walls and broken windows have been carefully made.

As the birds have been accustomed to open air conditions, it is essential that proper ventilation be given and care should be taken to keep the front of the house opened up. It is also important that the supply of green feed should be in no way restricted; green feed is of great importance at any time of the year, but at this period it is absolutely necessary.

The birds have just come in from the range where the supply of green feed has been plentiful and varied, an endeavor should be made to give them a variety, such as chopped clover, sprouted oats, mangels, or other forms of tender succulent feed. Grain should not be fed too heavily at the start and the pullets should be made to scratch for the grain feed given them as the exercise is necessary to retain good health. They should be watched closely and if any signs of sluggishness are seen a little Epsom salts should be given, either in their drinking water or in their wet mash.

If the chickens have been hen-hatched it will be absolutely necessary to treat them for lice, in fact it is advisable to do this whether they are hen-hatched or not.

As soon as the birds have quieted down and become accustomed to their new quarters the regular routine of winter feeding should be commenced. Each individual feeder has his own ideas as to the best methods of feeding, but the following system is recommended: In the morning a light feed of scratch grain scattered in the litter may be given. Fresh water is also given at this time, and, where possible, milk. At noon a light moist mash of table scraps dried off with the dry mash mixture, or the dry mash mixture moistened with milk, may be given. This is also a good time to give the green feed such as sprouted oats, mangels, cabbage, etc.

The more of this green feed that the birds can be induced to eat the better, so that if a variety can be given it is advisable to do so. In the evening a full feed of grain is scattered in the litter early enough so that the birds may be able to get a full feed before time for roosting. In addition to this a hopper of dry mash should be kept before the birds at all times. Grit, shell, charcoal and beef scraps should also be constantly before them. The necessity for a liberal supply of green feed in some form, and also the supply of animal feed, which may be conveniently given in the form of milk or beef scrap, cannot be emphasized too strongly.

If the flock begins egg-eating or feather-pulling, the fault usually lies more with the feeder than with the flock. It is much easier to prevent these troubles by careful feeding than to cure them after they have started. If the pullets are from bred-to-lay strains, early hatched, well-grown, comfortably housed and fed as suggested, the question, "Does it pay to keep hens," is not likely to arise.