

COLD
WATERED

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. All questions 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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W. E. H.:—I have three acres of Grimm alfalfa seeded two years ago this coming spring on a light clay loam, which I manured the winter preceding sowing of seed. As I would like to take a first cutting of hay and a crop of seed off this ground this coming season, can you advise me on a good analysis of fertilizer which I could profitably apply to this crop early this spring (say when I could apply it with a fertilizer drill, as I have one of these implements)?

Answer:—Alfalfa is a great lover of lime, therefore if you have not limed your soil recently I would advise you to apply this lime at any time, even before the snow has entirely gone off. Take your fertilizer drill, leaving the discs or holes suspended, and opening it wide open. Put the lime through the fertilizer box. As spring opens and the frost goes out the lime will work into the soil and correct any sourness which may be there.

As soon as the soil is dry enough in the spring to go over with a team, apply about 250 pounds per acre of a fertilizer analyzing 2 to 3 per cent. nitrogen, 10 to 12 per cent. phosphoric acid and 2 to 4 per cent. potash. If the ground is very closely packed, set the discs of the fertilizer drill to cut out shallow, at the same time applying fertilizer in the usual way. This will help the growth of alfalfa materially. In order to see just how much it helps I would advise you to leave a drill row unfertilized over an average part of the field.

A. E. S.:—Which do you think is most profitable to feed dairy cows in winter, swede turnips or sugar beets? Which will give the biggest yield in tons per acre? Can you recommend some good keepers?

I have about a dozen headstall plants growing in my garden. I have tried to get rid of them by digging them out but the more I dig the thicker they get. Can you tell me of anything I can put on them to stop their growth?

Answer:—With reference to swede turnips and sugar beets for cows the following is the analysis given by a representative chemist:

Sugar beets: water, 83.6; protein, 1.6; carbohydrates, 13.6; fat 0.1.
Swede turnips: water, 89.1; protein, 1.2; carbohydrates, 8.7; fat, 0.3.

The figures speak for themselves. In practice, however, it is not looked upon as a good procedure to feed turnips to dairy cattle on account of tainting their milk.

Relative to yields in tests reported by Dr. Zavitz, O.A.C., as an average of six years from the best yielding sugar beet he got 29.91 tons per acre; from the best turnip he got 21.01 tons per acre. Of sugar beets he mentions among the leaders, Giant White Feeding, Royal Giant and New Danish Improved. Among the turnips he mentions Garton's Superlative, Steel Bragg's Durham Swede, Darsh and Hunter's Canadian Gem.

Relative to the killing of the horse-radish plant I would advise you as soon as they show in the spring to

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For Home and Country

The Silver Anniversary a Gratifying Year in the Women's Institutes.

BY G. A. PUTNAM, SUPERINTENDENT.
The strength of the Women's Institutes, which were first established twenty-five years ago, lies in the fact that localities desiring service in the way of lectures, literature, and demonstrations, are advised to form organizations and are required to hold meetings, utilizing local talent. While the service rendered by the Institutes Branch has been of real value and much appreciated, the activities of the women and girls in the local organizations has resulted in gaining much knowledge of practical value in the housing, clothing and feeding of the family, the introduction of health and strength making body and mind, ability to grapple with social, educational and economic problems through the co-operation of the whole people in the best interests of the community.

It has been demonstrated in the work of the Women's Institutes of Province for the past twenty years, that the value of the service rendered is dependent to a very large extent upon the degree to which the people directly concerned can be induced to put forth effort on their own behalf. For the Government or any organization outside of the community to undertake to perform service for the people without requiring activity and the shouldering of responsibility on their part, is not conducive to the best development of the people concerned, and does not result in a service of lasting worth.

We have in the Institutes of Ontario a form of organization and method of work which are a very forcible factor in making towards efficiency, prosperity and contentment in the rural districts. The Institutes Branch, which has developed into a "Department of Home-Making and Community Building," is not only rendering a valuable service in literature, lectures and short courses, but is a medium through which the local organizations are linked up with the services available through other Departments of the Government and voluntary organizations. The women of Ontario have come to realize that they have a power for service of real worth in community and nation buildings, and are intelligently co-operating with more in bringing about many needed improvements and advantages which have been wanting in most rural districts. The past year has been one of steady growth and marked progress.

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Northern Ontario was successful in renovating an old cheese factory to meet all the necessary requirements. It is also of interest that the Institute at Spry, in the Bruce Peninsula, twenty miles from a railway, has secured a ninety-nine year lease of the Orange Hall, and rebuilt it to make it a comfortable gathering place. Where the Institutes have not contributed to the actual building of the hall, they have, in a great many communities, loaned such accessories as a piano or kitchen equipment. In many places the Institute is represented on the Board in supervision of the type of recreation carried on after the hall is established. One Institute in Simcoe County has been given sole charge of the program of entertaining, with the responsibility of seeing that all young people's gatherings are properly chaperoned.

Other community enterprises common to Institute work are the establishing of memorial parks and athletic grounds, tennis courts for the young people in rural districts, and rest rooms in country towns, for the use of women coming in from the country to do their shopping. The Institutes also bring valuable entertainment and education to the community in the way of concerts by local talent, and outside speakers and entertainers. University Extension courses are becoming very popular. A few Institutes have brought in Chautauque courses, and the number of requests for speakers furnished by the Department shows a marked increase this year. Several Institutes have purchased moving picture machines on the plan of instalment payments arranged by the Government and are making use of Government films. Other community ventures sponsored by the Institutes are the inauguration of a "clean-up week," a county campaign for home beautification, an appeal to the council to have certain public nuisances or dangers removed, such as in one case, the draining of a ditch which was breeding mosquitoes to the great annoyance of the congregation of a neighboring church.

A hot brick in a padded box often will help bring through young pigs born in extremely cold weather.

Obviously one of the important features of these varied projects for school improvement is their influence to arouse in the whole community a sense of responsibility in the school.

Community Halls and Recreation. Since the passing of the Community Halls Act, the Women's Institutes have been active in raising money to build community halls or to renovate old halls to meet the standards required by the Act. One Institute in

love and trust. Into thy hands I commend my spirit; again the words of serene and quiet confidence. If Jesus died of a broken heart, he did not die with a broken heart. He gave up the ghost. The expression is rather—"He rendered his spirit." None of the Evangelists say simply that he died. It is as if they wished to imply that Jesus gave himself to death as he gave himself to life, with deliberateness and willingness. He crowned in death what he did in life.

Application. The crucifixion made very different impressions upon those who witnessed it. On the soldiers, who actually did the deed, it seemed to have made little or no impression; they were abashedly blind to the wonder and glory of the scene in which they were taking part. Dr. Alexander McLaren suggests that they were foreigners and probably they could not speak a word to any in the crowd. The act of crucifixion would not be anything out of the ordinary for them, for it was part of their ordinary work in troublous times. Upon the members of the Sanhedrin and those who thought with them it had an extraordinary effect; the perfect revelation of goodness and spirituality would not be anything out of the ordinary for them, for it was part of their ordinary work in troublous times. Upon the members of the Sanhedrin and those who thought with them it had an extraordinary effect; the perfect revelation of goodness and spirituality would not be anything out of the ordinary for them, for it was part of their ordinary work in troublous times.

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Safe Investments for Farmers' Savings

Have farmers any money to loan? Yes, they certainly have, in spite of all calamity howlers and people who try to make you believe farming has gone to the dogs. There are conservative, hard working, thrifty farmers in every community who have saved money and are anxious to place it where it will bring a good rate of interest and be safe, since it represents days of toil and the best thought and management they could bring to their tasks.

Of course, everybody knows that government bonds are safe, and many country people have invested their savings in them; but, unfortunately, the country is filled with glib talkers who argue with conservative investors that it is worse than foolish to get 3 or 4 per cent. from a bond, when there are other, far better, securities paying at least twice that much interest. These investments range from oil stock likely to pay 15 to 20 per cent. in the very near future, to stock in some mysterious loan company that charges the borrower only 7 per cent. on a first-class, perfectly safe mortgage, and yet is able to give investors at least 8 per cent. yearly on their investment, or 4 per cent. each half-year, after paying the officers of the company for their services and taking care of all other expenses.

Here Are Two Safe Investments. It is time for hard-working farmers to understand that there are two safe investments for the man with money to loan, and those are government bonds and first mortgages on good real estate. Any scheme advertised as perfectly safe that can pay investors from 8 to 12 per cent., and still give the sellers of stock a commission of from 15 to 30 per cent., is pretty sure to be a swindle. Men who have always passed for shrewd farmers and good business men have trustfully handed over their hard-earned cash to a "perfectly safe mortgage loan company," and received several gilt-edged dividends, only to find that they could not get their money back at the end of several years, and that all dividends ceased. Now it stands to reason that if the Government can guarantee only a small, safe interest on its paper, a little company without the resources of our great country back of it, is likely to slip, when it guarantees from 10 to 12 per cent. interest. The fact that some glib-tongued individual explains and illustrates with rows of figures how they are able to pay the high rate by "turning their money over," does not make the concern safe; and to talk about "our thousands of satisfied investors" does not convince the man who stops and thinks even a little below the surface. It is better to be safe than to be sorry, as many farmers have discovered too late.

Even a first mortgage on real estate needs close scrutiny. Do not loan where you are likely to be involved in litigation, as where a large number of heirs are involved in the ownership of a farm. Do not loan more than 40 per cent. of a farm's conservative value. Do not loan where the title is clouded. Do not loan to a man or woman in such health that the property is likely to change hands in a few months. Do not loan to a couple likely to apply for a divorce and involve the farm in a forced sale. In short, "hand-pick" your investment, as you can these days, and then pay your tax on it like a patriotic citizen of the best country the sun ever shone upon. The next time a well-dressed, prosperous-looking man comes to tell you of a perfectly safe investment that will pay him off the farm quickly, for he represents a fraud as sure as you live.

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POULTRY

In different colony houses, at the same time, I have given one hatch of chicks nothing but sour milk; another, sour milk and water; and the next one, only water. I have concluded that it pays to use both sour milk and water. There is no doubt in my mind as to the influence of sour milk on rapid growth and quick feathering. The chicks with sour milk to drink have always developed better than those without the milk. But I also find that the chicks with both sour milk and water have done better than those which had only sour milk. I find that brooder chicks in a colony house near a coal-burning brooder stove become very thirsty and the milk does not entirely satisfy their thirst. They seem more contented when they can drink water too. I have never known the chicks to drink too much water if it is before them at all times.

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