Farm Notes

Crown Gall

Crown gall is often very severe on stone fruits, raspberries and blackberries. It attacks apple trees, but not as a rule in a serious way. It is particularly severe in root-grafter nursery stock on account of the fact that galls are very commonly associated with the callus formations which result from root grafting. It is generally manifest as swellings or tumor-like galls on the crown and underground parts of the plant, although aerial galls are ot uncommon. At times it manifests itself as hairy root. As to its control, the following recommondations are made in a circular on "Crown Gall of Fruit Trees and small Fruits," distributed by the Publications Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa. In the first place nursery stock of any kind that shows the presence of crown gall should never be used. Injuries to root and crown must be avoided as it is mainly through wounds that the causal organisms gain an entrance to the plant. Trees, unhealthy because of crown gall, should be recover. When the soil has become infested with crown gall bacteria it should be cropped for at least three years to corn, oats, wheat, etc., which are not susceptible to the disease.

Liming Soils With Marl

Increased attention is being directed to the marl deposits sdattered here and there throughout the country, says the Dominion Chemist in his latest report. Marl consists of carbonate of lime mixed with carying amounts of clay, sand or other inert material. Some marls are almost pure carbonate of lime, and when there is 80 to 90 per cent. of that ingradient it may be considered of good average quality.

Marl may be used in both heavy clay and light sandy loams and is especially valuble on the former. As a supplier of lime it corrects acidity or sourness, furnishes an element for plant nutrition and promotes nitrification thus making available the soil's store of inert nitrogen. Full advantage should be taken of this cheap and satisfactory source of lime, especially where the desopits occur in the neighborhood of the farm. Good quality marl may be recognized by the fact that it gives a brisk effervescence on the addition of a few drops of strong vinegar or weak acid.

Composting Peat and Muck

Peat and muck properly composted with barnyard manure make valuable dressing for both clay loams and sandy loams, and furnish an increased bulk of good manure which is greatly to be desired on farms of low utility and on which the supply of manure is usually limited. The Dominion Chemist, in discussing in his latest report the composition and fertilizing properties of these materials, gives instructions for composting them with manure. Sufficient manure to set up active fermentation in the peak and muck should be used to bring about the decomposition of the latter. One method of constructing a compost heap is to spread the peat on muck on the ground to a depth of 1 to 1½ feet, making the width of the heap about 8 to 10 feet and the length according to the size desired. Cover this with a layer of manure from 8 to 12 inches thick, and continue with alternate layers of peat or muck and manure until the heap is from 4 to 5 feet high. The heap should be kept moist with liquid manure or water but not saturated, and after a few weeks should be forked over, repeating the operation about once a month for three or four months when the compost should be in excellent condition for application to the soil.

Instead of using raw peat or muck for composting the material should be dug in the fall, piled, and allowed to remain exposed to the action of the air and frost throughout the winter, if possible.

Fertilizing Strawberries

Experiments in fertilizing strawberries, made in recent years at the Central Farm, at Ottawa, and reported in the nnual report of the Dominion Horticulturist, show that when the fertilizer was applied about the middle of September, the yield of the crop th following year was 25 per cent. greater than when the fertilizer was applied earlier in the season. Strawberry growers are advised to apply about 250 pounds per acre of nitrate of soda or ammonium sulphate about September 15, and, if the soil is lacking in nitrogen, about half that quantity might also be applied just before blooming time.

Influence of Feeding Methods on Type in Hogs

An experiment was recently undertaken at the Fredericton, New Brunswick, Exprimental Station with the object of securing data on the influence of feeding methods on type in hogs. The pigs used in the experiment were divided into three lots. One lot was hopper-fed with access to all the feed they could consume, another lot was pail-fed, lightly, receiving a daily ration, about one-half that of the hopper-fed group, until the finishing period when they were put on a full ration. The results of the experiment tend to show that the self-feeder or hopper method of feeding from weaning to slaughter is not a practical method where the production of select bacon hogs is the objective. If used, the self-feeder or hopper should be confined to the short finishing period. It was also shown that a too scant ration in the early stages, up to four and a half months, tends to stunt development. Extremes in feeding, either very havy or vry light feeding, during the first four or five months, are undesirable.

Making Fruit Jam

For home-make fruit jam it is always best to select fresh, slightly under-ripe fruit. At least one half of the quantityt should be slightly under ripe in order to insure a sufficient amount of pectin to give a jelly-like consistency to the finished product. A new bulletin of the Dominion Department of Agriculture, on Preserving Fruits and Vegetables in the Home gives full instructions for making all kinds of jams. It is pointed out that cooking in small quantities is always advisable, as the fruit is cooked more rapidly and thus retain its color and flavor. Jam should always be cooked in a porcelain-lined vessel and stirred constantly with a wooden spoon or paddle to prevent scorching. A pound of sugar to a pound of fruit is the handy proportion long used, but very good results are obtained from using three-fourths of a pound of sugar to each pound of fruit. The bulletin contains recipes, not only for fruit jams, but for jellies, marmalades, fruit peel, pickles, etc.

Expert Agricultural Information

Lord Bacon is recorded as saying that reading maketh a full man. "That being so, the farmers of Canada have every opportunity to become such. Every provincial government and every agricultural college issues its quota of publication annually in addition to the large number published from the Department at Ottawa. During the past year the Experimental farm system alone was responsible for thirteen bulletins, seven pamphlets, seven circulars and four special publications, making a total of 31. The bulletins referred to the cultivation of tobacco, to the raising of sheep and swine in Central Alberta, to the prevalence of plant diseases, to crop rotation and soil management in Eastern Canada, to wintering bees, to preserving fruit and vegetables in the house, the genera of seed potatoes, the cultivation of the strawberry, to Garnet wheat, and gave standard descriptions of beets nd carrots. The pamphlets deals with fall litters, raspberry diseases, fleshy annual pastures, breeding and feeding the market hog, producing clean milk, legume inoculation and apple scab. The circulars referred to household preservation of eggs, mushroom culture, feeding dairy cattle, white pine blister rust, tobacco varieties suitable to Quebec, the field carrot in Quebec, and growing alfalfa on range land in Saskatchewan and Alberta. The special publictions, which like all the others can be had free on application to the Publication Branch, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, were a guide to the projects of the Dominion Departmental farms, the story of the experimental farms, a treatise on mushrooms and toadstools, and why alfalfa should be grown and how to grow it. To all these were added reports for the year from every one of the thirty branch farms, stations and substations, and of course from the Division of the Farms system.

Dates of Digging Potatoes for Seed

An interesting experiment with the object of determining if the stage of maturity of potatoes when dug has an influence on the yielding ability of the seed has been made on the Fredericton, New Brunswick, Experimntal Station. Green Mountain potatoes planted on May 16, 1925, were dug on August 17, and on September 30. In 1926 the seed dug early produced at the rate of 313 bushels of marketable potatos per acre and that dug late 270 bushels per acre. In a similar experiment in the previous year the Green Mountains dug early also produced a better crop than those dug late but the difference was only about 15 bushels per acre.

Baked Pears Throughout the Year

When canning pears for the winter try this plan. Pick out firm pears that are small enough to go into the jars without being cut. These pears should not be peeled. Boil them till they can easily be pierced with a silver fork, but do not break the skin any more than can be helped. When done place the pears in jars and seal. When opened for use drain them in a sieve. While they drain add to the juice half a cupful of sugar and boil for a few minutes. Put the pears in a baking dish and pour the hot syrup over them. Set in the oven and bake till they are slightly brown. Serve with whipped cream. They are delicious. Quinces can be prepared in the same way.

A SMARTLY SIMPLE FROCK.

Charmingly youthful is the chic frock shown here. The flared skirt is joined to the scalloped bodice having short kimono sleeves, or long sleeves gathered to wristbands, a convertible collar, and tie slipped through slots at front. No. 1629 is for Misses and Small Women and is in sizes 16, 18 and 20 years. View A, size 18 (36 bust) requires 3⅛ yards 39-inch striped material, and 1½ yards 39-inch plain. Price 20c the pattern.

Our Fashion Book, illustrating the newest and most practical styles, will be of interest to every home dressmaker. Price of the book 10 cents the copy.

HOW TO ORDER PATTERNS.

Write your name and address plainly, giving number and size of such patterns as you want. Enclose 20c in stamps or coin (coin preferred; wrap it carefully) for each number and address your order to Pattern Dept., Wilson Publishing Co., 73 West Adelaide St., Toronto. Patterns sent by return mail.

A town in Minnesota held a lawn-mowing contest. Should similar contests prove popular many suburbanites may be glad to furnish contestants with mowers and grounds for stiff workouts preceding championships.

Sunday School Lesson

September 4. Lesson X—Solomon's Wise Choice—1 Kings 3: 4-15. Golden Text—Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding,—Prov. 3: 13.

ANALYSIS.

I. THE WISE CHOICE, 4-9.

II. THE GIFTS OF GOD, 10-15.

INTRODUCTION—It is quite possible that Solomon received a better and more careful education and training than the older sons of David. Their early life was spent in the period of David's wars, and their education may have been largely that of the camp and the battlefield. Solomon's youth belonged to the later years of comparative peace and prosperity. His mother was the king's favorite wife, and she received his promise that her son should succeed him upon the throne. The fulfilment of this promise she claimed when two of David's oldest and most faithful friends, Joab and Abiathar, conspired to have another and older son proclaimed king. This other son, Adonijah, had indulged his ambition in an affectation of royal state, for which he had not been rebuked by his father, 1:5-6. "He was also a very goodly man," the historian says, and probably very much more of a soldier than was Solomon. For that reason, it may be, Joab favored him.

David's last charge to Solomon contained some wise counsels: Be thou strong—and show thyself a man, and keep the charge of the Lord thy God, to walk in his ways. Had Solomon taken these counsels to heart and preserved the high motives and purposes of his earlier years, the story of his reign might have been very different.

I. THE WISE CHOICE, 4-9.

Gibeon was a small town situated on a terraced rocky hill about six miles northwest of Jerusalem, and not far from Gibeah, Saul's early home. It was a little to the north of Mizpeh and west of Ramah, both places famous in early Israelite history. "For that," says the historian, "was the great high place." He has just explained, in vs. 2, that "the people sacrificed in high places, because there was no house built unto the name of the Lord until those days." The high places were the ancient sanctuaries, used by the Israelites since the days of Joshua, of which some had been Canaanite places of worship. These had been consecrated to the worship of Jehovah, and the free use of them was permitted by the oldest laws and customs, see Exod. 20:24. They were all done away with by Josiah in the seventh century, B. C., in accordance with the law in Deuteronomy (chap. 12), and because of the corruption of many of them by idolatrous practices. The writer, or editor, of this part of the history, who lived as late as the time of Josiah, finds it necessary, therefore, to apologize for King Solomon's visit to this important high place, and to show that it was in harmony with the practice of those early days.

There at Gibeon, Solomon celebrated his accession to the throne of his father by a great religious ceremony. The place was to him and to his people peculiarly sacred because, so the writer of the books of Chronicles tells us, "there was the tent of meeting of God, which Moses the servant of the Lord had made in the wilderness." There also was the altar of brass which had been made for the wilderness sanctuary, see 2 Chron. 1:1-6, and Exod. 27:1-2.

God spoke to Solomon in a dream. Not infrequently in the Old Testament story did God thus reveal himself, as, for example, to Jacob (Gen. 31:11), and to Pharaoh, through Joseph's interpretation (Gen. 41:28). See also Num. 12:6; Job 4:12-13 and 33:14-15.

The words great mercy (v. 6) should be rendered "great-kindness," as in the latter part of the verse. Compare David's recognition of God's goodness to him in 2 Sam. 22:17-28. See also Psalm 15:2. Solomon's deep sincerity is evident in his acknowledgement of need. "I am but a little child," he says. He feels the responsibility which rests now upon him in the position to which God has called him, and he asks, not for wealth, nor for power, but for an understanding heart, or, as in Chronicles, "wisdom and knowledge, that I may go out and come in before this people."

For such a task, the task of ruling and exercising judgment, the highest wisdom is needed, the wisdom to discern between good and bad. The ideal for a self-governing people is that all should posses this wisdom, and this should, therefore, be the aim and end of all rightly directed education.

II. THE GIFTS OF GOD, 10-15.

To the young king who asked for wisdom God promises in his dream a wise and understanding heart, and also that for which he did not ask, but no doubt greatly desired, both riches and honor. Such gifts, it is true, do not always follow the wise choice. The writer of Ecclesiastes tells us of a poor wise man who by his wisdom delivered his city from a great danger; "yet no man remembered that same poor man." In Psalm 73 is presented the case of a good man sorely tempted, because, he says, "all the day long have I been plagued, and chastened every morning." Yet this good man discovered that he had a greater possession by far than the rich whom he had envied, vs. 23-26. In the highest and truest sense, God's best gifts come to the man who makes the wise choice. Compare the words of Jesus in Matthew 6:33.

Solomon's ambition, therefore, at the beginning of his reign, was that he might have wisdom to rule his people well. That is the meaning of the words in v. 11, understanding to discern judgment. The king's chief function in those days was the administration of justice, according to the established laws and usages. The story that follows our lesson, in this chapter, shows how, on occasion, he was able to solve a difficult problem of justice, by the application of shrewd common sense, and a knowledge of human nature.

Useful Scrap

One day last summer (it was an overcast day after haying had been completed), I stopped at a farm to call upon an old friend I had not seen for several years. "You will find him out back of the barn," said Mrs. W—, in answer to my inquiry. I went out back and found Bill hard at work up on an old mower. This is what he was doing: I thought it good enough to write down for the benefit of readers. He was scrapping the machine, which had passed its day of usefulness, and saving all parts that might come in handy at some future time. Finally, he took me to a near-by shed and showed me his useful scrap heap.

It seems that any machine that had been worn out on the farm was immediately dismantled, and everything that might be useful was saved. There were momer parts, horse rake teeth, parts of wagons, and even a good many parts of an old Ford car. All the parts were neatly piled, sorted as to size, and the bolts, rivets and screws placed in boxes. Even some of the wood parts of the wagons had been saved. He confessed that he often visited auctions and purchased old machines, just for the chance of dismantling them. Old harnesses were there, also, the strap and parts carefully separated, oiled and hung up.

"What use do you find for all of this junk?" I asked. "Well, there is scarcely a day but I find something useful, and the neighbors come to me, too," he replied. "I often sell a part for what it costs me to buy the whole machine at auction. All the scrap iron is sold to the junk man, anyway."

Here is an idea that many farmers could follow with profit. Too often the old machine is allowed to sit out under a tree until it is completely ruined. It is true that many parts are worth saving.

Use for Small Discarded Table

A small but strong table or a stand, perhaps formerly a bedside table or used for holding a baby's basket, but no longer needed, may be put to other good use.

Saw off enough of the lower part to make the top the right height for a dressing table seat or for use as a low stool. If there happens to be a drawer directly under the top, that really will add to its usefulness. The top may be left plain or it may be padded with cotton and covered with cretonne tacked down over it. If repainting or re-staining is necessary, it should be made to match or harmonize with the other furniture in the room.

The news that American motorists pay about $1,000,000 a day in gasoline taxes alone moves one to wonder what all this money would be used for were there no automobiles.

Fall-Set Strawberry Plants

For a number of years I have set all my plants in the fall, and find the results far superior to spring setting, taking everything into consideration. I wish to add, however, that I am speaking of a family berry patch, and not a commercial one. I think it would be too big a job to set a commercial patch in fall.

As soon as the picking season is over, I thoroughly cultivate and hoe around the plants in the part of the patch from which I wish to take the plants for setting a new bed. This is done to stimulate the new plants for re-setting. I also prepare the new place so as to have it in good cultural condition and well fertilized, by the middle of August. This new place may have been where I had early crops, such as peas and potatoes.

If the weather is fit I take up all the plants I need about the middle of August and sort out the best rooted ones. I trim off the surplus leaves and runners, and also clip the roots to an even length so that they will not double back when planting. Plants are packed reasonably close together in a shallow box having a few inches of moist ground in the bottom. This is set in the shade and kept moist and ready. In a few days little white roots begin to appear.

The ground must be moist when planting. At least moist enough so that the earth does not crumble and fill up the hole. Therefore, I like to wait until we have had a good rain. If the ground is moist at the time the plants are dug, it is not necessary to set them aside in the box.

When planting I set two rows ten inches apart, and the third sixteen inches apart, so that there is a wide space of sixteen inches between every two rows. The plants are set four to five inches apart in the row. I use this method of setting because the fall-set plants do not make runners, but use their strength to develop fruiting crowns, and the wide space in every two rows gives me a chance to pick them.

For planting I use a common cone puncher covered with a steel overcone. In the care of my strawberries I use three tools—a garden cultivator for the sixteen-inch space, a potato hook for the ten-inch space, and a small single hook with a long handle for hoeing between plants.

I find that fall-set plants are easier to handle, produce larger bearings which ripen a little earlier than those on spring-set plants, and they are less infested with insects and diseases because they were put on newly-prepared ground. Also, one can get a spring crop off the ground before setting the plants..

Creole Omelette

Peel and chop 6 ripe tomatoes (or canned ones), adding some of the juice. Add two small chopped onions, 1 garlic clove, scraped, 1 level tablespoonfuls of bread crumbs, salt, pepper, one level teaspoonful of sugar. Let all simmer until thick. When nearly done, beat 6 eggs, yolks and whites separately. Add 5 tablespoonfuls of water, half a slice of bread soaked to a pulp in water, salt and pepper. Fry the egg mixture on one side only. When it sets, pour the hot tomato sauce over it, fold the omelet, and cook three minutes longer. Roll out onto a hot platter and serve very hot. The recipe serves 6 persons, and makes an especially nice supper dish.

No Strings To It.

"You're giving me this banjo for keeps, aren't you?"

"Of course. Why do you ask?"

"I see there's no strings to it."

"Mother Knows Best," is the title o fa new novel by a famous authoress. Father thinks—but that is another story.

Children's Reading

So much depends on what is read in the formative years that it is impossible to give too much care and thought to the influences to which the child is subjected in literature. But for the maximum of good to result from the oversight of parents and teachers in this respect it is important not to forget that a book which interests a child at one point of his reading career may fail to grip him at another.

A definite succession of clearly marked stages may be traced in connection with the reading interests of the child. Before the age of five the infant does not normally read for himself but he loves to listen to nursery rhymes, and simple fairy and nature stories. He likes to attribute human significance to the doings of living creatures on land and in water and to project himself into imaginary conversations between the various objects in his natural surroundings.

During the next two years the first attempts at actual reading take place. He still enjoys fairy stories, but he now likes his nature stories to include accounts of actual adventures of familiar animals and pets. By the ge of eight he combines a more intense fondness of the fanciful element, and a keener interst in tales of the actual habits and doings of animals with a desire to read about other children and other lands.

A long step forward takes place between eight and ten. The child now begins to read longer books, to becom absorbd in them, and to elevate reading to the level of a prime intrst. The books in demand will now include stories of historical characters. Differences begin to manifest themselves between the reading tastes of boys and girls. Girls tend to preserve to a later stage the liking for fairy stories, while boys begin to choose adventure stories.

By the age of eleven, with its wider outlook and greater experience, the child becomes a reader, and tackles all kinds of literature within his limits of difficulty. Interest in nature stories loses its keenness, while books dealing with travel and invention become popular. Childrn begin now to want their own books. They take a pride in their possession, and will lend and borrow. Between the ages of 11 and 13 occur the reading years when almost everything is fish that comes to the net. At this age reading becomes with many children a predominant interest. They especially like books of mystery, invention, school stories, heroic adventures and the weird. Girls like at this age what are described as boys' books, but they show a marked tendency, too, to read sentimental stories.

This stage is followed, at 14, by an interest in periodicals and in literature dealing with hobbies and nterests. The desire for fiction loses some of its intensity. For the boy books and articles which help him to make things, or to keep pets become popular. Girls are absorbed in sentimental literature, and an interest in poetry develops at this age.

Parents are often perplexed by an unaccountabl dropping off of interest in reading on the part of their children between the ages of 14 and 16. But this is a normal stage and one which is explained by the enlargement of the scope of activity and interest which taks place at that age. They become occupied with the world around them, the higher stages of school life, the initial stages of industry, sports, juvenile clubs, companions and current events. In their preoccupation with the world of reality they lose interest in the world of books. Many young folk drop their reading at this age for the want of tactful guidance on the part of someone who understands their needs. If, however, the love of reading survives this stage, it becomes firmly fixed and remains a source of stimulus, delight and solace.

The aim of the parent and teacher at every stage should be not to thwart th natural interests which the child displays, but to make use of them and guide them aright. At the stage when adventure is the child's ruling interest and he is in danger of becoming addicted to the trashy and cheap periodicals which are published to supply this want, he should be introduced to Ballantyne, Marryat and R. L. Stevenson. Similarly with every stage through which he passes. If the best of each type of literature be put in his way, he will be more likely to levate his taste while satisfying his desire. Even the child who seems to prfer outdoor life, nature study, or other active occupations need not be allowed to escape from the influence of literature. His understanding and enjoyment of nature will be enhanced by Gilbert White; and for very activity into which he may enter is a library of books to which he may profitably be introduced.

The difficulty of tha undesirable book is one that is best met by the supply of literature of the better kind. The good will drive out the bad—provided it is there in plenty and at the right moment.—Christian Science Monitor.

When one recalls the headlines in many newspapers regarding the recent alleged "failure" at Geneva, it is illuminating to read the comment of Sir Laming Worthington-Evans, British Secretary of War, just made in regard to the results of the conference. Far from being a failure, he said, the Geneva Conference may prove to be the next step toward a final agreement.

MUTT AND JEFF—By Bud Fisher. **Jeff's Twin Brother, Julius, Drops Into Town for a Visit.**

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