

Farming and Agriculture :: Special Features :: Interesting Observations

NEWSY FARM NOTES

By Agricola

HYGIENIC CONDITIONS

A phrase used frequently by Dr. Lionel Stevenson in his splendid address before the assembled Farmers in the Prince of Wales College, was "See that the hygienic conditions are right, and you will have no trouble from parasites." Sanitation, the cleanliness of the stabling and pens, is truly a great factor in the successful rearing of all kinds of live stock from the humble hen to the lordly horse.

In the Middle Ages towns had no drainage: all refuse was cast into the narrow streets and tramped to a condition of indescribable foulness and from the poached filth that floods the middle street arose all those pestilences that devastated the countries in Europe and Asia. When, from bitter experience, the people learned the value of sanitary conditions and acted accordingly, then, and then only, the plague was stayed.

But, as Dr. Stevenson says, we all have a lazy streak in us—it is easier to sit by the fire and smoke, than to go out and clean up the hen-house. We could not, and would not, expect to be healthy if we subjected ourselves to the same conditions, as we expect our stock to thrive under. Yet how often do we neglect to clean out the hen-house, till the winter's accumulation of manure forces us to. Is there a dropping board? Dr. Stevenson says it is exceptional to find one. Do you put in fresh straw often? Are the nests frequently renewed? If you look after all these things, you are a careful farmer and if you do not command success you deserve it.

He was even more insistent upon cleanliness in the farrowing pen or the loose box. A floor contaminated by the droppings of an adult animal with thousands of microscopic worm eggs, is a menace to the young (and consequently more receptive and weaker) animal. The tests get foul and the sucking animal gets the eggs into its mouth: the worms pursue their life-cycle, but the young animal usually dies, or, if strong enough to resist the drain, lives but is stunted.

LIVE HOGS

We are taking live hogs daily, excepting Saturday, paying highest market prices.

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What They Are Doing in Other Places

THE FARMER GOES TO MARKET.

During the sessions of the Vegetable Growers in Toronto recently an invitation was received from the East York market. Everyone was asked to come out and visit and have a cup of coffee. Quite a number accepted the invitation and journeyed out along Bloor Street and Danforth Avenue, past the city limits and there they found the market that is the pride and joy of the East York gardeners and farmers. Started as a mere shelter with earth floor, it has grown and expanded and now boasts a weather-proof building with a good floor and a growing clientele among the city folks, many of whom take the street cars for miles in order to do their buying among those who produced the goods. Though it was a stormy night and many of the counters were empty, there were customers coming and going all the time and one got some idea of the success of this venture into direct marketing.

The most interesting feature of the visit was the eagerness of growers from other places to hear all about it. S. Lock, superintendent of the market, told the story. Here on Wednesdays and Saturdays from early morning till ten at night, the market is a busy hive of buying and selling. It is a producer's market. No one is allowed to buy produce and resell it on the market. Hucksters get in occasionally, but are soon spotted and told that for them there is no welcome on the mat. Producers rent their counter space at 25 cents for the foot. The units are four foot spaces, but many take as much as

tried—even though they failed—to gain the reward of success. The impulse will go down to the generations to come, so much are we the debtors of the past. Why does the Briton forced as he is, to seek his fortune in strange climes, always look back to his ancestral home with pride and longing? It is because, whether he lived in cottage or hall, his surroundings were as beautiful as loving care could make them. We in this favored land have much beautiful scenery as a natural setting for our homes, and when, in the course of time, we shall supplement it by the happy disposition of trees and flowers, whitewash our buildings, and paint our houses, this island will not only be attractive to our visitors but will keep our sons and daughters more at home. I have no personal knowledge of his Honor: he does not know me: hence I may say without flattery, that he impresses me as the ideal Governor, every ready to promote the welfare of his 'subjects' in every practical and practicable way, and with a spirit of humor which appeals to the hearts of his hearers.

HIS HONOR'S PRIZES.

I had the good fortune to be present at the Farmers' meeting when His Honor, Lieutenant Governor Hearze, presented the three cups which he had donated as trophies for the owners of the three best kept farms. His Honor has done many fine and generous things for this province but this particular action is entitled to the reward which comes to him 'who loves his fellow men.' The impulse which he has given to an appreciation of the beautiful in our surroundings will unconsciously mould the character of all who

Providing Plant Food

In considering the nature of the fertilizer to be applied to the garden the first question is what part of the plant is used for food. There are three principal fertilizing factors in plant growth which effect different portions of the plant. Nitrogen is the principal one and promotes the growth of leaves.

Phosphorus in the form of phosphates encourages the growth of stalk and stem and salts of potassium or, as it is generally known in commerce, potash, encourages the development of fruit and root growth, particularly of bulbous roots.

Aside from stable manure which furnishes all of the fertilizing factors in well balanced proportion, the chief sources of nitrogen for garden are nitrate of soda and sulphate of ammonia. The latter is coming into frequent use as a lawn fertilizer not only for its fertilizing value but because it has proved a great discourager to dandelions, plantains and other broad leaved weeds while encouraging the growth of grass. It has an acid reaction.

Acid phosphate, or as it is now quite well known by its English term, super phosphate of lime, is the common phosphorus fertilizer

and is used frequently in flower gardens. Murate of potash was formerly the commonest form of potash fertilizer imported from Germany and a supply is once more available at reasonable price. It is useful on dahlias in mid summer in combination with bone meal, using one part of the murate to four parts of bone meal. It is also a valuable dressing for fall bulbs just after the bulbs have been put in the ground.

For general purposes these three fertilizing elements are furnished in sufficient quantity in the so-called balanced fertilizers which are sold with a formula attached consisting of three figures, the first telling the proportion of nitrogen, the second the phosphates and the third the potash. The selection of a balanced fertilizer should be governed by the proportion of the plant it is desired to encourage. A larger proportion of potash would be needed for root crops.

ANOMALY

A hen is not supposed to have Much common sense or tact Yet every time she lays an egg She cackles forth the fact. A rooster hasn't got a lot Of intelligence to show, But none the less most roosters have Enough good sense to crow. The mule, the most despised of beasts Has a persistent way Of letting folks know when he's around. By his insistent bray. But man, the greatest masterpiece That nature could devise, Will often stop and hesitate. Before he'll advertise.

weather exceptionally well. The objection was made that the paper would shed the rain. It carries it to the cracks and holes in the paper where the plants are growing and seeps into the soil so that the plants get more benefit than if the soil were exposed. The paper mulch checks evaporation and keeps the soil moist. Sweet corn, cucumbers and melons have shown to be greatly benefited by this treatment.

While the method may be expensive for large plantings it is ideal for small gardens. The heavy paper lasts two or three seasons. Tar paper cannot be used as the tar washes out and is poisonous to plants.

Veterinarians give hypodermic treatment with arsenic, picrocarpin, or some other alkaloidal drug to relieve choke, in addition to local treatment of a valuable animal. If it is found severely bloated on his arrival his first act will be to draw off the gas by tapping the paunch with a trocar and anula. When that is done the lodged object sometimes passes downward into the stomach. It should always be done before giving other treatment, when the distension is severe and the animal is evidently threatened with suffocation.

While a hen's egg, which sometimes causes choke, may sometimes be crushed in the gullet, it is cruel and dangerous to attempt crushing of a root by placing a piece of board on each side of the gullet, at the place where the object has lodged, and then striking a hard blow with an axe or sledge hammer. The object may be crushed by such brutal means but the gullet will also be crushed with the result that fatal gangrene will ensue. When the medical and local treatment fails and it is not desired to slaughter the animal for meat, the veterinarian can remove the lodged object by an opening into the gullet. The earlier that operation is performed the safer it will prove. (Maritime Farmer)

Direct selling is the ideal way of merchandising. For a brief period we have swung into other ways, especially buying by mail, but it has been an interlude soon ended. The motor and the telephone and all the modern inventions that carried us from old ways have taken us around the circle and back to where we started from. Once more we have farmers selling their own produce on the market, we have a succession of wayside shops along all the highways and the great merchants, after a period of selling at long distance, are now taking their goods to the people, by establishing many shops in many places.

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When The Cow Chokes

It sometimes happens that piece of root, or mass of dry feed lodges in a cow's gullet, quickly causes bloating of the paunch, high up in the left flank, discharge from the nostrils, return of feed and water by that route, and weakness and absorption of poisonous elements. If not relieved, such choking soon proves fatal and the assistance should be prompt and intelligent.

One veterinarian has suggested a novel plan of relief, especially for the horse, in which animal it is not safe to use a probang to force the lodged object downward. He fills two 1 ounce gelatine capsules with bicarbonate of soda (baking soda) slits the side of each capsule and then thrusts the two into the gullet by way of the mouth. Doing so, he says, causes generating of gas, which distends the gullet so that the blocking substance passed downward. The treatment would also seem worth trying in choke in cattle.

Administration of small doses of raw linseed oil, cottonseed oil, or slippery elm bark decoction, at intervals of an hour, lubricate the gullet, soften the lodged mass, and help it to pass downward. Such treatment always should be given before starting to massage a lodged mass of dry feed and trying to work it upward or downward. Doing so will also facilitate removal of a root by way of the mouth. It must also be done before running a probang, oiled rubber tube, or greased, smooth hempen rope down the gullet and by its means helping to force the lodged object downward. Such an operation must be gently and judiciously done, as there is a great danger of badly injuring or even rupturing the gullet by rough use of such an instrument or buggy whip or flexible stick. Gangrene of the gullet usually follows injury by the improv-

A New Idea: Paper Your Garden!

Gardening without weeds, the necessity of hoeing, a millennial condition that seems too good to be possible, seems close to realization in the new system of paper mulch gardening. This consists of covering the soil with a specially prepared heavy asphalt paper with the plants in the cracks between the lengths of the paper or planted in holes or slits cut in the paper. Of course with the paper covering the soil no weeds can grow and there is no soil uncovered to be hoed. The paper also is strong enough so that it can be walked upon.

The system was discovered by Charles F. Eckart, an Hawaiian pineapple grower. It proved so surprisingly successful with pineapples, although in violation of many long held notions of gardening, that the Department of Agriculture at Washington began experiments with paper mulching under the direction of Doctor Flint and the reports have been so favorable based on thousands of tests that it now seems likely that before long it will be generally accepted.

This paper comes in 18 or 30-inch strips and is now commercially available. There are two grades, A and B, light and heavy grade. The latter is more practical and durable as shown by experiments. The use of the paper was objected to on the ground that the soil must be exposed to the sun and air so that it could "breathe." The paper mulch has stimulated growth of plants, produced earlier and more abundant crops and greatly improved gardens. It has proved especially valuable for orchard and shrubbery, small fruits, vegetables and flowering plants. Plants under paper survive dry

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