

EFFICIENT FARMING

Planning For Big Corn Yields.

Next autumn's corn yields will depend very largely on the thoroughness of the job of fitting the land, planting, and cultivating the crop. Under present conditions, corn growers will make the most profit who can produce at the least cost per bushel. Extra thorough cultivation, in fitting the seed bed and during the early days of the growth of the corn plant, is effective in cutting the total cost of cultivation. The proper use of the disk, spike-tooth, and spring-tooth harrow in fitting the seed bed, controls weeds much more cheaply than cultivating between the rows with the corn cultivator after the crop is planted.

The ideal soils for corn are fertile, well drained loams, silt loams, and clay loams, which are well supplied with organic matter. There is great advantage in planting fairly early in the season. Early May plantings in southern Ontario, and mid-May plantings farther north, should be the rule. While occasionally early plantings may be caught by a late spring frost, replantings can be made, but late-planted crops are almost sure to be caught by early frost in the fall before they fully mature.

An ideal seed bed for corn can best be prepared on sod land, which has been manured, and fall-plowed to a good depth of seven or nine inches, or manured and plowed in early spring to a depth of seven inches. Where plowing for corn is done at a late date, particular attention is necessary in properly fitting the land. It is not enough to merely plow, harrow the land, and plant, but late plowing should be followed by thoroughly compacting with the roller or cultipacker, and frequent harrowings with spring-tooth or spike-tooth harrow.

Seed corn starts best on seed beds which are well packed at the bottom of the furrow slice, with the surface worked into a condition of good tilth. Fall-plowed land can be best fitted for corn by disking in early spring and harrowing at intervals of a week or ten days until planting time. Fall-plowed land carries a higher percentage of moisture and available nutrients, which start the seed off more vigorously, and opportunity is offered for a thorough fitting and earlier planting.

Acid phosphate gives a paying return with the corn crop, by increasing the weight of yield and hastening the maturity of the crop. The use of from two hundred to three hundred pounds of sixteen per cent. acid phosphate gives distinctly noticeable results on nearly all Ontario corn soils. A more fully matured, and a heavier yielding crop almost invariably results. Should a short season follow, an application of phosphate is effective in bringing through a well-ripened crop of corn.

Phosphate, to the amount of from two hundred to three hundred pounds, may be applied at the time of fitting the seed bed by fertilizer drill or rotary grain drill or it may be broadcasted by shoveling from a wagon bed. Not more than one hundred pounds per acre should be applied at time of planting corn through fertilizer attachment, since a too large application in the row tends to cause a concentration of root-growth, while broadcasted applications encourage the roots to forage widely and enable the corn crop to better withstand summer drought. Manure and phosphate are a great team to hitch to the corn crop.

A good stand of corn is necessary for good yields. The practice of cultivating empty hills in the row is costly and greatly lessens profit. In addition to planting corn of high germination, it is necessary that the planter should be uniform, and hence seed corn should be carefully graded to a uniform size, and the planter plates carefully adjusted to the size of kernel, so as to give a high percentage of uniform area.

The grain purposes from four to five bushels per acre is sufficient and for silage from four to eight quarts are used. The depth of planting varies with the soil. On well-drained loams from one and a half to two and a half inches is the proper depth, though on heavy clay loams, one to two inches is sufficient. It is an excellent practice to harrow immediately after planting, with a spike-tooth harrow with teeth set slanting slightly backward. The harrow may be employed until the corn plants are above the ground, when cultivation with cultivator should begin.

It is particularly important that silage corn be planted as early in the season as possible for heaviest tonnage of the most nutritious feed. Varieties which reach the dent and glazed stage of maturity are conceded by most feeders to make the best silage and give the most feed per acre. At this time when crop varieties are apparently turning toward a pre-war basis, corn may be considered as one of the most dependable crops to grow, because of the many purposes for which it is used. It is essential that the most effective methods of produc-

tion be practiced in order to lessen the production cost per bushel.

Keeping Your Chickens Healthy.

Preventing poultry diseases is much more satisfactory than trying to cure them. This prevention is accomplished by keeping the poultry house clean and feeding balanced rations to keep the hens vigorous. Breeding from strong thrifty birds help to produce vigorous chicks that are less susceptible to disease.

If the poultry house is free from draughts and dampness it will be a great help in keeping chickens healthy. When a bird is sick it should be isolated at once to prevent the infection of other members of the flock. A small brood coop is handy as an isolation hospital.

Plenty of grit is a help in keeping birds healthy. It must be supplied in hoppers during the winter when the hens cannot find their own grit on the range. Grit grinds the food and without it a hen is rather helpless, like a dog without teeth. Charcoal is a help in preventing digestive troubles. Plenty of exercise scratching in a straw litter helps to keep hens healthy. In the winter the birds will be chilled and dumphy if they eat all their grain without scratching and then hump up in the corners of the house. When they scratch for their grain they will sing and make the straw fly and it will help them to lay eggs.

Colds show their presence when the birds have watery eyes. Colds lead to roup and that is difficult to cure. So isolate the bird with a cold. Rub the head with camphorated vaseline or dip the head in a solution of one of the coal-tar disinfectants. Color the drinking water deep red with permanganate of potassium to prevent the colds from spreading through the flock. Birds that are kept in the house on raw windy days and fed a balanced ration are apt to have little trouble with colds.

Digestive troubles cause many losses, but they can largely be prevented by feeding clean healthy food. Wash the drinking dishes, and sour milk crocks occasionally with boiling water. Corn cobs are fine for scrubbing brushes for the poultry dishes. They will loosen and help remove all the gummy accumulations. Fresh clean water is a help in preventing digestive troubles. Keep the water dishes clean, even if hens do sometimes seem to like dirty water.

Plenty of green feed at all seasons is a tonic for the birds. In the winter it must be furnished to them. The rest of the year they will gather green feed themselves if given plenty of range. Shade on the range is a factor in keeping hens healthy. This can be provided by placing the house in an orchard or near an evergreen wind-break. Raspberries form a dense growth of canes which will furnish shade. Sunflowers and corn fields make a shady range. Exposure to the hot sun without protection helps to reduce the vigor of the hens and make them more susceptible to many diseases.

Spraying for Cabbage Worm.

The quickest and most practical method of getting rid of cabbage worms and protecting the crop from further attack is to spray the plants with a poison solution. Make a fairly strong soapuds and add one tablespoonful of powdered arsenate of lead, or two tablespoonfuls if the paste form is used, to each gallon of water. Mix the solution thoroughly and apply it with a sprayer. A whisk broom or a wisp of grass may be used for applying the liquid if a spraying is not at hand. On a large-scale production, however, a sprayer should be used. Water tends to run off the cabbage leaves, but the soapuds make the solution stick to the foliage. In rainy seasons the application should be repeated to maintain a thin, whitish coat of poison on the leaves. Spray both the top and the bottom sides of the leaves if possible.

If arsenate of lead is not available, paris green can be used, with a handful of slaked lime added to each gallon of poison solution to counteract burning.

Ventilate the Hay Mow.

A great majority of the fires that destroy barns each year are started from combustion in the hay-mow. It has long been known that when hay is put into a tight mow, especially if it goes through a heating process—gases will be formed and sufficient heat generated to cause combustion and start a fire.

It is a simple matter to ventilate a hay-mow. Well designed cupolas will draw the warm air up as does a chimney. These cupolas also add to the appearance of the building and certainly are of sufficient value as insurance against fire to justify their cost.

That Boy of Mine

Guiding Him Safely by the Crossroads of Youth.
By BEATRICE BRACE.

Our farm papers tell us how to raise more corn, to feed more hogs, to eradicate rabies, how to feed cheaply, how to produce more milk, raise better poultry, how to keep our land producing up to its highest capacity, how to operate and increase the fullness of the automobile; but back of all of this is the biggest thing on the farm—the human product, and of the human product "that boy" forms one of the chiefest assets.

The late Henry Wallace said: "Do you know that the biggest thing in life, whether in the city or country, is to be just a fine human being, interested in all things that interest or should interest all human beings?" Next to the girl, "that boy" is the most precious possession we have, and it pays to put our best into the human product and, second best, if need be, into the live stock and soil.

Don't think because the boy has quit school that the end has come. Many great men have had little or no education, and all life is a school. And don't think that feeding the slot machine and games of chance are sure roads to the devil. Rather refuse to believe there is a devil or to yield those boys to his influence.

We can't mold everyone in the same cast, not even if they are brothers and sisters, and if you have found it impossible to interest your boy on the farm, then let him try something else. But before you give up the idea of interesting him in the farm, see if you are going about it in the right way. Many a boy who rebels against the drudgery of weeding and plowing and planting and digging will do twice as much with good grace if his father makes him a partner in the farm firm. The boy must be given an opportunity to try out his pet schemes, too, even when sometimes the ripper experience of his father tells him that he is making a mistake. Work right with your boy, not over him, if you want him to stay on the farm.

The Boy's Viewpoint.

If you can't get him to see things from your point of view, then you see it from his, and don't arouse a spirit of antagonism. One day when our youngest boy was seventeen years old and in his third year of high school, he came home and, throwing himself down in a chair, said, with a force and finality I knew was useless to argue against: "Mother, I'm not going to school any more. I'm going to see a little of the world before I die."

I had seen it coming for a long time, but seemed powerless to prevent it, so I just said: "Well, if that is the way you feel, you might as well not go; but I'm afraid you'll be sorry, Little Boy." So he went to work in a store in the near-by town, and it really proved a blessing in disguise, for a financial crisis came up, and instead of "seeing the world," he helped tide us through. A year later he went back to high school, taking six subjects in order to make up the lost time, and was graduated that year.

Unusual boy? Indeed, no! When he was about fourteen it so happened that the school that he attended was in session only half a day for the whole term, and he was in the habit of getting home about one o'clock. For several days he hadn't come until three or four, and I mistrusted he was spending his time and the small allowance we gave him in a pool hall. So one day I dressed and went downtown, intending to find out. I knew there was a pool hall where many high-school boys were in the habit of congregating, many of them, in fact most of them, from the best families in town. But mark this: It was on Main Street—the doors were wide open and drinking and gambling were not allowed. I knew this, but still it seemed a terrible thing for my boy to be playing pool.

Well, when I finally stopped in front of the pool hall my heart sank, but I took a deep breath, mustered up all the courage I possessed, and went in. I asked the man in front if — was there. He said, "Yes, I believe he is." I stepped up to the wide-curtained doorway and looked in. There he was with several other boys so deeply engrossed in knocking those innocent-looking balls about that he never once looked up.

My heart stopped beating! The end of the world had come! My boy was on the road to the devil. But the thought with all its sickening despair no sooner came than I knew I would never yield him to that influence. With an inward prayer that I might be "wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove" I drew aside the curtain and walked up to him and stood at his side before he ever saw me.

When he did, his face went white, half with anger and half with mortification, and he stood looking down at me. But he was game, and taking me by the arm marched out with me with head high. Not a word was spoken, but as soon as we were outside he swiftly turned and left me to a most sickening tumult of doubts and fears as to whether my course had been a wise one. He was sensitive, high-strung, inordinately proud, and more than a little self-willed. Had I been "wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove?" I didn't know.

Breathing another prayer for guidance, I hurried home, not knowing

what mood I would find him in, and not knowing what to say to him when I arrived there.

Influence Counted.
I found him lying on the lounge in the living-room. He glared at me when I went in, but not a word was spoken until several days after, when we had a quiet talk and I told him I would repeat it if it occurred again, but I knew that my influence in the future, as in the past, lay in meeting him on his own ground. So I instinctively and gradually took to teaching right because it was right; that society was based on the morality of its people; that we surely reap, even in this life, what we sow. Even so he admired a certain "sportiness" in dress and appearance, and I met him on that score; things that he was interested in I was interested in. Then when it came to things that were really vital my influence counted.

One evening when he was nineteen, the year he was graduated from high school, he had gone into town to a picture show and, as was my usual custom, I was sitting up until he came home. I had always done this, and some of our chummiest times had been when he had been to some gathering and came home and told me all about it; I enjoyed it as much as he did.

But this night he didn't come. Eleven o'clock came and he didn't come. Twelve o'clock came—where could he be? It wasn't like him, for usually if he made some other plan he called up and told me so, for he knew I would be waiting for him.

The hands of the clock slowly dragged round to one-thirty when his quick step finally sounded on the walk outside.

I just looked up at him mutely when he opened the door and came in. My heart was far too full for words just then. He gathered me up in his arms and gave me one or two quick kisses and went to his room.

The next day when we were quietly talking it over he said: "No matter where I go or what I do, Mother mine, way back in my subconscious mind I am thinking of you, and something keeps me from going very far wrong."

He is Making Good.
The final outcome? "Did he go to the dogs?" No. That fall he went to college, and two years later he was graduated from a university course, and soon after he accepted a hundred-dollar-a-month position with chance of steady advancement, and he is making good.

He has fixed ideals and the firm belief that he can attain them; that every earnest hope and longing is possible of fulfillment; that the power

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to attain the desires of our heart is implanted within each one. He is reaching out toward the goal of a "fine human being."

What a world of wisdom in those words of John McCaullum in "Happiness Incorporated," "Out of the fullness of my anxiety grew the satisfactory solution!"
But we can't stand aloft on a pedestal and steer our boy into the gates of heaven. We must go every step of the journey with him, wrapping him in a love that breeds sympathy and understanding rather than an irresponsible indulgence, and listen often to that "still small voice" that alone gives the wisdom that is "wise as a serpent and harmless as a dove."
Don't try to mold him in the plaster cast of another's individuality; instead, wisely guide and direct his own into the right channels.

Get your boy's viewpoint. Ninety-nine times out of a hundred there is no thought of evil in his heart or mind, and Shakespeare says: "There is nothing either good or bad, but thinking makes it so."

Controlling Grasshoppers.

If each and every farmer in the districts affected by grasshoppers will put three hen turkeys on his farm and then hatch and raise their young, the hoppers will soon disappear.

Turkeys do not destroy crops as some suppose, at least where there are plenty of bugs or insects for them. They will hunt the bugs and eat them before touching the grain. Even if the turkeys lived on the grain they would eat less than the grasshoppers, which the turkeys eat would destroy. Last year the grasshoppers made away with all my seeding and nearly all the crops in the vicinity.

It is also a mistaken idea that the turkey tramples down much of the grain through which it wanders. They tend their way slowly between the drill rows of grain and pick every hopper that hops.—K. E. W.

Much thought is now being given to the farm boy, and no better subject can be considered. Great concern is shown over the fact that the boys are leaving the farm. Get the boys interested in the farm, and he will wish to stay there. Make the work agreeable and interest him in making improvements. New things appeal to a boy more keenly than to a man. Men often are too slow in adopting changes, even when unquestionably to better things.

The Sunday School Lesson

MAY 15.
Working With Others. 1 Cor. 12: 4-27; St. John 6: 1-14.
Golden Text—1 Cor. 12: 27.

1 Cor. 12: 4-13. Diversities of Gifts. The apostle is writing about such mental and spiritual gifts as were used in the ordinary services and ministries of the church, but what he says has a wider application to all the work of life in which men share.

Paul says, first of all, that, whatever the gift of work may be, it is inspired and directed by the same spirit. All gifts are consecrated; all are true work. So, in the teaching of the Old Testament, the prophet, the priest, the statesman, the law-giver, the king, the soldier, the skilful workman—all are recipients of the same spirit of God. In particular it is said of a certain workman that the Lord had called him by name, and had "filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workman ship." (Exod. 35: 30-36: 4).

So should it be with all who labor, whether with head or hand, for their own common good, and so it will be where life is offered in whole-hearted service to God and man.

The gifts of which the prophet speaks are those of wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, prophecy, insight, speaking with and interpreting tongues. These he compares to the members of the body, working harmoniously together. They who possess and exercise them in the church are members of the body of Christ.

11-27. Not One Member, but Many. The apostle's ideal for the Christian community is that of happy and healthful co-operation. It is a community in which each will hold in respect and honor his neighbor's work, in which it will be freely and fully recognized that all men are not alike, that they are of different sorts, that their tasks, therefore, must be different, but that all must combine in harmony to make the perfect whole. In it the health of one will be the health of all, and each will be happy and honored in the well-being of every other. Moreover, each man will recognize for himself his proper part and place and gift in the common life, and will hold his own task in respect and honor. It is the co-operation of all which makes the community possible. The humblest and most obscure is not less necessary than the proudest and most conspicuous.

There should, therefore, be no schism in the body, but the members should have the same care one for another. If one suffers all suffer, if one is honored all rejoice with it. The Christian community is the body of Christ.

The apostle sets forth in this way the great law of co-operation, which has as its organizing and guiding principle the desire of each for the good of all, and not simply for his own good.

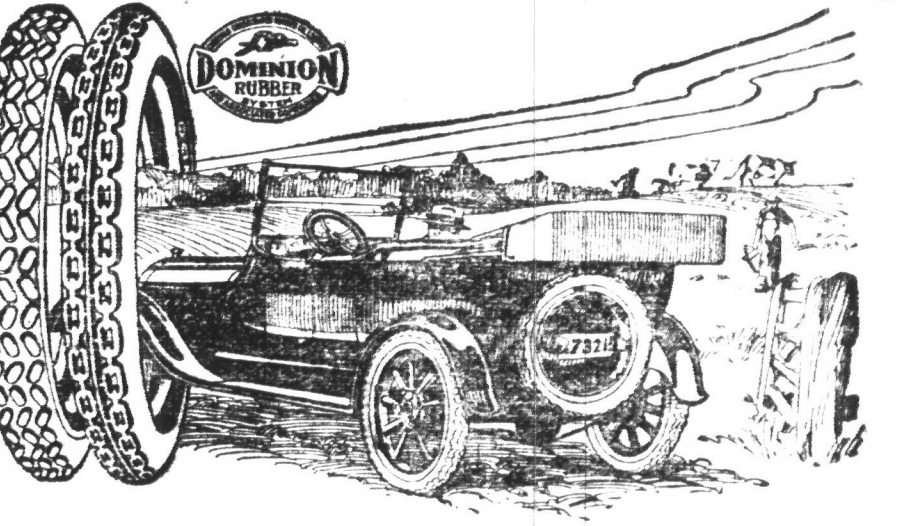
A gardener was explaining to us recently the process of grafting. This has become quite a science among the growers of flowers. It is done to secure, as far as possible, a combination of excellent qualities. One flower has a delightful appearance, but no fragrance. Another type has a sweet fragrance, but is distinctly lacking in beauty. Others, which possess much beauty and fragrance, are so fragile that they are of little value. Then the gardener seeks to secure by the process of grafting a combination of these qualities. He unites beauty and fragrance with strength. No man in himself has all the qualities essential for a strong church, but by being himself he can contribute his best to the "Household of Faith."

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