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Greater Farm Efficiency
Better Crops by Better Fertilizing
By PROF. A. R. WHITSON, Wisconsin College of Agriculture



Manure vs. Manure With Rock Phosphate on potatoes. The Use of Rock Phosphate in Addition to the Manure increased the yield 47 per Cent.

The development of the use of fertilizers in the United States has increased at a very rapid rate within the last two or three decades. Their use in the eastern and southern states is extensive. Within this period, however, Wisconsin agriculture has gone largely in the direction of dairying and in this system of farming the fertility of the soil, as is well known, is more generally conserved than in systems where a large part of the product of the farm is sold in the form of vegetables or grain. For this reason, in part, the use of commercial fertilizers in this state has been very limited. Moreover, the agricultural press of the state and the teaching of the Agricultural college has been opposed to the use of commercial fertilizers largely because the emphasis was placed on the advantages of dairying in the conservation of soil fertility. The time has come, however, when it is not profitable for farmers of the state to longer overlook the advantages which may come from the proper use of commercial fertilizers. There is much land in the state not adapted to dairying, such as large areas of sandy and marsh soil, and some sections of clay loam where the topography is so rough that the necessary amount of corn for silage cannot be grown to advantage. On lands of this class, other products must be grown for the market and it is in the growing of such crops as cabbage, potatoes, sugar beets, peas and corn for canning purposes, and other special crops that the use of commercial fertilizers is needed.

The large yields of practically all farm crops produced in such European countries as England, Germany and France, are frequently mentioned in agricultural papers as an evidence of the possibilities of intensive cultivation. By far the most important factor making possible such increases is the use of commercial fertilizers. It would be a difficult matter to find a farm of any importance in any of these countries on which a considerable amount of commercial fertilizers is not used. Nearly one-half of the immense output of our own phosphate mines is shipped abroad and in addition to that, enormous quantities of phosphate are mined in Europe and produced in the form of Thomas slag in the reduction of British iron ore which runs high in that element. Germany possesses practically the world's supply of potash fertilizer and this is drawn on heavily by that and adjacent countries. In addition to this, the growth of green manuring crops, practically always of the legume family, adds to the nitrogen supply, although enormous quantities of special nitrogen fertilizers are also used.

Without desiring in the least to underestimate the importance of dairy or other stock farming in its effect on the fertility of the soil, we feel that we can no longer afford to neglect the use of commercial fertilizers where they are called for. Contrary to a rather common opinion, the kind of commercial fertilizers called for depends more on the character of the soil to be treated than on the crops to be grown. The amount to be used will depend to some extent on the kind of crop grown since some crops remove much larger quantities of the mineral elements from the soil than do others, but the particular kind of fertilizer needed is determined almost exclusively by the character of the soil. Much can be learned regarding the feeding of crops from experience gained in the feeding of animals. Just as it is well known that a certain balance among the ingredients of feed should there be a balance in the different elements of fertility available to growing crops. When crops are to be grown on marsh land which is extremely high in nitrogen but just as extremely low in phosphorus, and often in potash, these deficiencies must be made good in some way. Sandy soils, on account of their coarse texture and generally low content of all the essential elements, must frequently be supplied with practically all the essential elements for plant growth. The nitrogen may be added either directly in artificial fertilizers or indirectly through the growth of leguminous plants which have the power of fixing that element from the atmosphere. The nitrogen can be gathered in this way much more cheaply than it can be purchased and moreover, when added in the form of vegetable matter it decomposes and becomes available to growing crops slowly so that there is little danger of its loss by leaching from the soil, while nitrate of soda or sulphate of ammonia are extremely soluble and apt to be largely lost in the case of heavy rains falling on the sandy soils. However, there are frequently cases where the use of a light dressing even of nitrogen salts is profitable. This would ordinarily be in the growing of certain special crops that have a high gross return per acre. It is along this line that there is considerable possibility in the development of the various forms of nitrogen containing fertilizers. The new form of coating oven makes possible the saving of practically all of the nitrogen in coal undergoing the coking process and this by-product is being put on the market in increasingly large amounts. The manufacture of nitrogen-containing salts by electrolytic methods is also increasing. A number of plants for this purpose have been installed recently in European countries and one or two in this country.

Clay soils are ordinarily abundantly supplied with potassium and on account of their good water-holding capacity, grasses and other plants which will add organic matter can be grown for supplying this substance and consequently nitrogen, and the only direct fertilizing element usually needed is phosphorus, but probably more than half of the clay loam soils of this country under crop could be fertilized with phosphate fertilizers profitably under present conditions. Heavy clay soils in the northern part of Wisconsin which have been under crop but a few years have shown increases in yield running from 15 per cent. to 50 per cent. as a result of supplementing barnyard manure with rock phosphate.

But even on farms where practically all of the crops grown are fed, there is a possibility of considerable loss in fertility. Only where large amounts of concentrated feed stuffs are fed is the supply of phosphorus maintained. Probably the greatest loss on such farms takes place in the leaching of barnyard manure and there is certainly a great possibility in the direction of conserving fertility by protecting barnyard manures from leaching and also from too rapid heating in the process of composting. It is just as important that a thoroughly good practical system of housing and hauling the manure on the farm be worked out as that the stock be properly housed and cared for. The use of peat for bedding, by which its nitrogen is added to that of the manure, is another method which may add greatly to the nitrogen in use on the farm. This material contains in the condition in which it would be used for bedding from two to three per cent. of nitrogen or more than clover or alfalfa hay would contain, and twice as much as barnyard manure. It occurs in enormous quantities in this state and it only needs a little encouragement in its use to develop the industry to the extent to which it exists in European countries.

Another matter which ought to be recognized at once in the development of agriculture is that it is very much easier to maintain the fertility of soil than it is to reproduce it after it has once been lost by an exhaustive system of farming. This applies particularly to the sandy soils, but is also true in the case of the clay loam soils. Sandy soils frequently show good producing power for the first two or three years and no special care is given to maintain the fertility until the farmer suddenly finds that his crops have become very much less and it is then very much more difficult to reproduce the fertility than it would have been to adopt proper methods at the start.

Those who are planning to use commercial fertilizers should make it a point to become thoroughly familiar with the different forms of fertilizers containing the elements which they desire to add to their soil and with the basis on which the price for the same is figured. It is customary for the fertilizer manufacturers to prepare mixed fertilizers containing all the essential elements in varying proportions. These are recommended to the farmer under trade names such as Tobacco Special, Potato Special, Corn Special, etc., thus implying that they have some particular advantage for those particular crops. As previously stated, this is not the case and the farmer is usually obliged to buy in such mixed fertilizers elements which he does not need and is often obliged to pay higher prices for those he does want than if he were to buy them in a pure form. Buying a fertilizer containing a single element is to be recommended. It will occasionally be desirable to mix phosphate and potash fertilizers, but this can be done on the farm to good advantage.

"When I Am King"
By Virginia Blair

(Copyright, 1914, by Associated Literary Press)

Hester, looking out upon the whirling flakes, thought of that summer morning long ago, when Rex had sung to her the old nursery song:
"Lavender's blue, diddle-diddle,
Lavender's green,
"When I am king, diddle-diddle,
"You shall be queen!"
She mused sadly on that promise.

Somewhere far away, Rex was living in luxury, but he had forgotten the playmate of his boyhood's days—
"When I am king, diddle-diddle,
"You shall be queen!"

She found herself humming the quaint tune as she prepared her frugal supper. She was too tired to toast the bread so she ate it dry, with a cup of tea. Then she went to bed and lay awake in the moonlight, wondering how she should get through the next day in the weary workroom downtown.

Then, mercifully, sleep came to her, and dreams.
She waked to find the world so white that she seemed in a dream city and wondered if she still slept.

From the regions below her landlady called.
"You can't get downtown. The cars aren't running. You just wait and have breakfast with me."
"O, I can't, thank you," Hester answered over the stair railing, "I must go, if I have to walk."

Mrs. Adams came puffing up to the top floor. "Well you just can't walk, and I'm going to bring you up some breakfast. We had griddle cakes this morning, and I'll bake a plate of piping hot ones, and you stay in bed and rest for once in your life."

"You are so good," said Hester, gratefully, "but if I don't get down this morning I may lose my place, and then what would I do?"
"You know you're welcome to keep your room, honey," said the good

woman, "until you get something else to do."
"But I couldn't let you lose money like that," cried Hester; "but if ever good fortune comes to me I'm going to remember you, and we'll share."
As she said it Rex's words again came back to her. "When I am king, you shall be queen."
"I had a friend," she said to Mrs. Adams, who had entered her room and was sitting on the bed, "and he always used to say that when he made his fortune he would come and find me. And yesterday I heard from an old school friend, and she says that Rex is right here in this city, and that an invention of his has brought him half a million, and—and—he's forgotten me."
"Did you love him, dearie?" asked the old landlady, softly.
"Yes. We were engaged when we went to school. But his father and mine were ancient enemies and they broke it off. Then Rex went away to school, and father failed and died and I had to go to work, and I came to the city—and found you, dear Mrs. Adams."
"Well, if that Rex of yours knew what he was doing," grumbled Mrs. Adams, "he'd be hunting you up. You're too frail to work in all kinds of weather. He won't be finding you at all if he don't look out."
"Oh, I'm not really ill, Mrs. Adams," said Hester, cheerfully, and then she began to dress. "O, I really must go," she said when Mrs. Adams expostulated.

Through the white drifts Hester ploughed her weary way.



Through the white drifts Hester ploughed her weary way.

Modern Methods of Fighting Fire Now in Use in Tokyo and Yokohama.

Fires used to be regarded as necessary evils in Japan. Conflagrations which swept through whole quarters, licking up the flimsy houses like waste paper, were mere commonplaces of existence there. But the increased value of modern structures has made it imperative to improve the fire fighting systems.

In Yokohama the apparatus is owned and the firemen are paid by the association of fire insurance companies. In Tokyo it is owned by the city. There are 47 watch towers in Yokohama, each fitted with a gong with which fire alarms are given. At night, says Consular and Trade Reports, watchmen are kept on two of these towers, who give the alarm by gongs in case fire is discovered. In Tokyo the tower system is also used for both fire and police alarms. The city is divided into seven districts, each having a central alarm station. About 290 machines record the alarms upon ticker tape at the different towers and police and fire stations.

The water pressure in the lower portion and in the Japanese quarter of Yokohama is from 30 to 40 pounds per square inch, but in the upper residential section, where there is much valuable property, the pressure is almost nil. In Tokyo the situation is much more satisfactory. There are nearly 5,000 water plugs in the city and the average pressure is 44 pounds to the square inch.

The coolies who assist in time of fire in Yokohama are paid an average of four cents, American currency, an hour. The regular staff of firemen and watchmen receive an average of \$7.47 a month. The coolies in Tokyo receive about 85 cents a day, when called for fire duty, and the regular firemen \$6.47 a month. In Tokyo there is also a guild that is subject to being called out for fire duty. In Yokohama there have been 347 fires in the past five years, which destroyed 1,300,147 worth of property. In Tokyo the number of fires in the same period was 2,717, with a loss of \$3,504,293.

Great System.
"This winter air is nice and fresh," said the brisk citizen.
"That's where you are wrong," replied the man from Chicago. "It's the same old air; it only seems fresh because it has been in cold storage."

Rather Poor Excuse.
She—I didn't get to work Friday.
He—Any excuse?
She—Why, I had no clothes to wear.
He—Your boss must be pretty busy if he'd object to that.

walks, but out in this residential section no attack was being made on the drifts.

Hester turned from the side street into a wide avenue, lined on each side by brownstone mansions. Here she found the walking better, and shivering, breathless, she sped on her way.
"It only wasn't so far," she said to herself, desperately. She stopped for a moment to fasten her coat more closely about her. A red limousine stood at the curbstone and a chauffeur in a fur cape and gloves waited for the man who was descending the steps of an imposing mansion.
Hester gave one look from man to master, then fled, stumbling, gasping.
"It was Rex," she said to her heart, wildly. "O, he mustn't see me. He mustn't see me."
But he had seen her. "Hester! Hester!" he was calling.
She would not turn back. She felt consumed with shame that he should see her thus.
But he was beside her, eager, expostulating.
"Hester, dear girl," he said, with his hand on her arm, and she stopped and turned to him, and when she saw the frankly adoring look in his eyes she broke down and cried.
"You poor little thing, you poor little thing," he said. "At last I have found you."
He made her lean on his arm.
"I'm going to take you home," said Rex, briefly, "but first we've got to get something to warm you up. I can't invite you in there, with a nod of his head toward the house, "because it's a man's club. But there's a tea room at the corner."
Hester ate little. It was enough for her to bask in the comfort of Rex's presence, and the color came back to her cheeks and the light into her eyes, as he talked to her.
"I've hunted everywhere for you," he said. "Nobody seemed to know your address. They told me you were in New York and that was all."
"I wouldn't let any one know," said Hester. "I told her to tell you."
"Vera?" he asked, and as she nodded she saw his eyes grow hard, but it was not until long after that he told her that her trusted school friend had tried to win him for herself, and that she had withheld the address of his former sweetheart.

Kind Mrs. Adams, deep in the mysteries of Friday's cleaning, was startled by the sound of an automobile horn at the front door.
Hester came in beaming.
"It's Rex," she said, "and Rex, this is dear Mrs. Adams. She has been so kind to me."

It was a wonderful talk that followed. Rex insisted that tired, economical Mrs. Adams should give up her poor old lodging house and come and be housekeeper for himself and Hester. He intended to buy a big country place, he said, and there would be many servants to manage. Did Mrs. Adams think she could?
And Mrs. Adams wept tears of joy.
"I told you you should be queen," Rex said to Hester that night, "and while I can't give you a real throne, dearest, you shall reign in my heart forever."

Good Old English Custom.
There was an old-fashioned custom on the English road, which I suspect is now obsolete, or practiced only by the vulgar. Journeys of length being made on horseback, and, of course by brief stages, it was usual always to make a halt on the Sunday in some town where the traveler might attend divine service and his horse have the benefit of the day of rest, the institution of which is as humane to our brute laborers as profitable to ourselves. A counterpart to this decent practice, and a remnant of old English hospitality, was, that the landlord of a principal inn laid aside his character of a publican on the seventh day, and invited the guests who chanced to be within his walls to take a part of his family beef and pudding. This invitation was usually complied with by all whose distinguished rank did not induce them to think compliance a derogation; and the proposal of a bottle of wine after dinner, to drink the landlord's health, was the only recompense ever offered or accepted.—Sir Walter Scott.

The Sollum Anchorage.
The Gulf of Sollum is a misnomer, as a glance at any good map will show. At Ras el Mihar the coast takes a sudden trend south for 20 miles, then turns as abruptly in an easterly direction. Near the angle the high coast drops suddenly in a cliffy point nearly half a mile south of which is the anchorage on a sandy beach. Twelve miles north is Bardieh, a better shelter, which would be made into a tolerable harbor by a breakwater. If the frontier line of Egypt were carried about four miles to the west Bardieh would be included in Egyptian territory. The Sollum anchorage derives its principal value from the fact that it is the nearest point on the Mediterranean to the Siwah oasis, and is thus the sea end of the most direct route through a string of oases to the Sudan. But to describe this uninviting corner of an inhospitable coast as "the finest harbor in these parts," in the words of a contemporary, is altogether misleading.

None Left.
Mabel (just engaged)—George said if I refused him he would never propose to any other girl.
Her Dear Friend—Yes; I understand you were the last on the list.

SAFE-BLOWER'S SMART WORK
Ingenious Operations of a Burglar Who Was After Wealth of Berlin Money Broker.

The confidence of German manufacturers of safes in the resistance of their works against ordinary safe-blowing operations was rudely shaken not long ago by the feat of a single robber in Berlin, who operated in this fashion:
In a hotel a room was secured which was situated immediately above the office of a money broker. At night a hole was pierced in the ceiling of this office. By the use of a drill and saw a circular piece of the flooring was easily raised. Beneath lay a thick layer of cement. A small orifice was made in this and an umbrella shoved down into the space below. The umbrella was attached firmly from above, and when opened received without noise all the fragments of cement which were dislodged as the hole was enlarged so as to allow of the easy passage of a person. By means of a rope ladder the descent was made readily into the office below. The next steps of the thief's work consisted in the bringing down of two cylinders of compressed oxygen and an acetylene generator charged with calcium carbide and water. With these he was able to produce a blowpipe flame of such intensity that steel fuses in it like lead in an ordinary gas jet. It required only a brief space of time to melt away so much of the door that the contents of the safe were accessible.

TABLE DELICACY OF GERMANY
Westphalian Ham is Given its Piquant Taste by the Use of Juniper Berries.

Wherever a German table delicacy is in demand, there is the Westphalian ham to be found. It is given its peculiar piquant taste by the use of juniper berries in smoking the meat. The juniper shrub is indigenous to northwestern Germany and so plentiful, especially in Westphalia, that to its presence is due the growth, during the past several centuries, of two principal industries of this German province, the distillation of gin and the preparation of hams. After weeks of preparation the hams are ready to be smoked. The smoke houses consist sometimes of two, and sometimes of three stories, the fire being kindled in the lowest and the meat hung in the second and third, to which the smoke ascends through holes in the flooring. Westphalian hams are invariably smoked over a bright fire made of beech-wood only, except that juniper twigs and berries are constantly thrown on the fire. Beech-wood sawdust is strewn over the fire in case it becomes too strong. The smoking process requires on an average about eight days.

JAPS BORROW FROM THE WEST
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