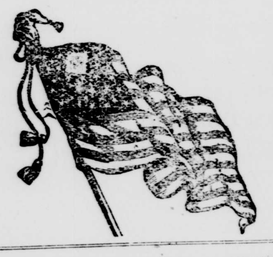
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FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 1921



HAS CITIZENSHIP VALUE?

Citizenship has a definite value. This value cannot be computed in dollars and cents, but it is worth fighting for. Citizenship grows out of communities. Were there no communities there would be no citizens. We would then be merely unprotected individuals entirely at the mercy of all other individuals who might wish to destroy any weaker and less ferocious one. By dwelling in communities we have many advantages. Some of us value and appreciate these advantages while others selfishly accept the advantages but refuse to do their share toward maintaining the community. Laws have been enacted to compel us to pay taxes—used for the financial support of communities for our protection. But there are no laws which compel the members of any community to show appreciation of the benefits derived from living in a community.

One of the benefits of liing in a community is the opportunity afforded us to buy merchandise required for our comfort and indulgence, right here in our own town. This facility permits us to buy what we need when we need it. We can step in a store, lay down a dollar and buy a dollar's worth of merchandise. Perhaps we can get the goods without paying the dollar down in cash—that is, if we have the credit. What a genuine benefit it is to be able to do this. In the olden days our forefathers were compelled to drive many miles to a store where the needed merchandise might be obtained. Large quantities were bought at a time because the trips to the store could not be made at frequent intervals.

As citizens increased in numbers and gathered into communities, stores were established at the various centers of increasing population, frequently they attracted populations around them, until now we can buy, right at home, our necessities and luxuries.

That which we value we endeavor to protect. If we value the facility for purchasing goods at home, we should protect it. The best way to protect it is to make it possible for the storekeeper to continue to do business. If we do not help them to continue to do business here in our community the natural consequences will be for them—some of them at least—to close up their stores and go out of business. If we buy from our local storekeepers only such merchandise as we cannot conveniently buy elsewhere, we will soon discover that the stores will carry only such restricted lines of trade as are in demand by the people who live here. Then we shall find that we are not much better off than our forefathers were. We must send away for much merchandise that we may require. We must wait until the order is received in the mail order house and filled in the due course of time by the employees of the house we are patronizing. There are many disadvantages to this method. We do not fully realize them now. But they would come home to us should conditions arise which would compel us to buy nearly everything by mail—if such a time should come. However, if we look at the matter in the right light, we shall not permit such a contingency to arise.

FIRE INSURANCE RATE REDUCTION

In another column of the paper is an article concerning the reducing of fire insurance rates in a town near here since the installation of fire fighting apparatus. The fire insurance rates of Denton are excessive of the rates in other towns where they have ample fire protection.

The difference in the cost of fire insurance which the business men of the town would have to pay, would in a few years pay for sufficient fire apparatus for our needs, if they should pay for the apparatus themselves. This, however, should not be necessary. Our Town Commissioners should see to it that the town has an up-to-date fire fighting apparatus and that the residents of the town should not have to pay such exorbitant rates. If the town puts in the equipment the cost might raise the taxes one cent or a fraction thereof for a few years, but the rate of insurance would be decreased and consequently every tax payer would be better able to pay the slight increase in the taxes and be assured that they had ample fire protection. Let's get together and proctect our homes and our business.

WASTE PAPER CANS

Our neighboring town of Greensboro has a live Community Club. Within the last two weeks they have placed around the town a number of large cans in which pedestrians and others may throw their waste paper and other material that otherwise litters the streets. That is not the only thing which that Community Club is doing, but it is an item of which Denton should take notice and follow the example of her sister town. The amount of waste paper that is thrown on the streets of Denton to fly hither and thither is enormous and keeps the householder who has pride in his yard, busy picking the waste papers therefrom.

Will not the Community Club or the Town Commissioners take similar action and rid the streets of Denton of this one big nuisance?

GREENSBORO ENTERPRISE ON FOURTH YEAR

With the issue of June 17th the Greensboro Enterprise commenced the fourth year of its existance. The paper is owned and edited by Mr. W. Thomas Thornton, who purchased the plant three years ago. While Mr. Thornton did not claim to be a newspaper man at the time he took over the busniess, he has developed a "nose for news." During the last three years he has been giving to the town and community of Greensboro, a live newsy paper and the business people and residents should be very proud of that industry in their town, for a live newspaper is a valuable asset to any community. We extend our best wishes to the Enterprise for many more successful years in newspaperdom.

HENDERSON

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bostic and daughter, Anna of Felton spent Saturday and Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Quillen.

Miss Martha Johnson and friend of Wilmington spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Carroll Johnson.

Mr. McKinley Wilkinson of Easton was a guest of Miss Martha Griffin on Sunday.

Mrs. Carroll Jones and children were guests of her mother Mrs. J. F. Quillen on Tuesday.

Miss Flossy Jones of Wilmington is visiting her parents Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Jones.

Mrs. Bertha James of New York is visiting her sister Mrs. Gooden this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Bickling of Wilmington have returned home after spending a few days with their parents Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Clough.

Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Medford and family and Miss Pauline Cole were Smyrna visitors on Friday last.

Miss Pearl Clark of Dover is a guest of Mr. and Mrs. Alex. Gooden.

Mrs. R. W. Emerson has for the last week been the victim of an infection in her face. It began in the eyes, extending gradually to her nose and resulting in an abscess which has been extremely painful.

THE USE OF FERTILIZER IN APPLE ORCHARD

In the last issue of the Maryland Farmer the writer presented a summary of the experimental work in apple orchard fertilization that has been carried on in state experiment stations from Maine to Oregon. In this article an attempt will be made to study these results a little more critically and see if it is not possible, out of the mass of data presented, to pick out certain reactions which are sufficiently clear cut and outstanding to be considered safe and capable of a wide application.

1. We must in all candor admit that there are a large number of apple orchards, growing on fairly heavy and fertile soil in various parts of the United States, that will not be benefited economically by the use of any kind or amount of fertilizer. Such orchards as a rule are cultivated orchards. The ground is plowed in the spring, cultivated every two weeks through the summer and a cover crop of crimson clover or some similar legume is sown on about July the fifteenth or August first. The experiments in West Virginia, New York, Indiana, Maine, New Hampshire and England give ample proof of this statement.

2. Sod orchards are more liable to respond to applications of fertiiizers than are the cultivated orchards. In fact, practically all sod orchards which the writer has seen, have responded favorably to fertilization. Those sod orchards, which have not responded noticeably to fertilizer applications have either produced a very heavy crop of grass for mulching about the trees or additional mulching material such as straw, fodder, etc., has been hauled in and used as a heavy mulch under the spread of the limbs. Of the three main plant foods, Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium, the trees in sod have responded mainly to some carrier of Nitrogen, such as Nitrate of Soda.The experiments in Ohio, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania illustrate this fact.

3. In those orchards reacting favorably to fertilization, Nitrogen has been the one element that has been beneficial in practically all cases. If applied just before the buds break in the spring, the greatest benefit will be derived from its use. In such cases the "set" of fruit at least on weak trees, is often increased during the same year.

4. In only a few instances has there been any beneficial effects of phosphorus. In such cass, phosphorus applied alone has not been very profitable, but when added with Nitrate of Soda, beneficial results of the phosphorus appear to be increased. Phosphorus is indirectly beneficial by increasing the sod in sod orchards or by making better cover crops in cultivated orchards.

5. Rarely have any beneficial effects of potassium been seen when applied to apple orchards.

Summarizing these five conclusions, we find that Nitrogen is the most important element in apple orchard fertilization.

What are some of the indications that apple trees need a change in treatment? If the yearly terminal growth in bearing apple orchards becomes very short, say one to three inches, most orchardists would feel that the trees were sick. If the foliage early in the summer became a sickly light green color something must be wrong. If the leaves started to fall from the trees in mid-summer, certainly this would be abnormal. If only a light bloom was produced yearly and very little of this "set", should not something be done? If the trees started to grow very slowly in the spring, compared to your neighbor's, provided each had the same varity of apples, how could this be accounted for? If young trees continued to grow and produced no fruit for years, what action would be necessary? In other words, trees might be weak and non-fruitful or overvigorous and non-fruitful. What should be done in the case of both extremes?

In the succesful management of orchards, several different factors are so closely linked up with fruit bud formation that the effects produced by modifying any one of the factors must be known and appreciated is success is to be assured. Thus a special type of pruning might produce the same result, as far as fruit buds are concerned, as the application of fertilizer. Changing from sod treatment to cultivation might produce the desired result as well as special fertilization. Fertilizers could easily take the place in increasing fruit buds of either special pruning or cultivation in certain cases. The man, who is familiar with the effects produced on the tree by modifying any of these factors and who carefully modifies all three to suit the particular needs of his orchard, is the succesful orchardist.

In order to furnish a more or less convincing explanation of the foregoing and to furnish a basis for later recommendations, let us examine a recent publication (Oregon Bulletin. 179) by Dr. Kraus and Dr. Kraybill. It is, of course, well understood that plants contain two classes of materials, which play an important part in tree growth and fruitfulness. The first class consists of carbohydrates (starch and sugars). These materials and like substances are manufactured within the leaves of the plant. The second class consists of mineral foods and especially Nitrogen. In addition, an abundant moisture supply is essential. It can be seen that amount of carbohydrates formed in a tree will depend on the size, number and vigor of the leaves. The second class will depend on the amount of roots and their activity in absorbing soil solution and, of course, upon the amount of Nitrogen. The Nitrates are in the soil moisture and are taken into the tree through the roots. Thus, lack of sufficient moisture to carry the Nitrates might have as important an effect upon growth as would the absence of Nitrates. Drs. Kraus and Kraybill have shown that there must be a certain balance of ratio between these two classes before a condition will be caused in the tree which is favorable for good growth ond at the same time, the formation of numerous fruit buds. They find four different arrangements or groupings of these two classes, which influence growth and fruitfulness in different ways. The four groups are as follows:

1. If the supply of Nitrate is abundant but that of carbohydrates is restricted growth will be weak, slender and feeble and there will be little or no production of flowers. While this condition is not common in orchards it might occur if trees weredefoliated by insects or spray material. Trees pruned heaviiy in the summer would probably fall into this group. Apple trees which have been severely dehorned in the dormant season, generally fall in this class. The carbohydrates, stored up in the limbs, spurs, etc., are cut away in the pruning, leaving the Nitrates and moisture much in excess. Such trees often die or make a weak growth for a few years at least.

2. If the supply of Nitrate is abundant and there are sufficient carbohydrates, so that this Nitrogen supply is utilized, we get a strong vigorous wood and leaf growth but still little or no formation of fruit buds. All the carbohydrates have been used up in growth, leaving no excess for fruit bud formation. This condition is well illustrated by our vigorous, rather heavily pruned, young orchards which continue to grow on certain rich, moist, fertile, cultivated soils and do not come into bearing.

3. If the Nitrate supply is ample and there is an excess of carbohydrates over and above the amounts utilized with the nitrogen, we get not spurs,, etc., are cut away in the prun- only a good growth of tree, but also an abundant supply of fruit buds. This is the condition found in healthy, producing orchards.

4. If there is a deficiency of nitrates and an abundance of carbohydrates, we get an extremely weak growth, yellowish foliage and either few flowers produced or else a production of flowers too weak to set fruit. This is the condition usually found in our so-called starved or devitalized orchards.

Application of these principles and methods to overcome them will be discussed in The Maryland Farmer next week.

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AS THE SCHOOL YEAR CLOSES

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