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HOW TO RENEW FERTILITY.

Please give the proportion in which nitrogen, potash and phosphorie acid ought to be used for the renewing of depreciated land. G. E. A. St Louis, Mo.

[ANSWER BY PROF. CLINTON D. SMITH.]

A volume would be required to fitly answer this query. I shall not attempt a full reply.

Let it be remembered that what is meant by exhausted soil is not that all the fertility is taken out of it, but that the amount of readily available fertility has been reduced to a point where paying crops cannot be obtained by ordinary methods of treatment. Not the significence of the words "paying" and "ordinary" in the sentence. Usually the first thing to do with such poor soils is to get some humus in them, something that will make the soil more sponge-like, capable of holding more water. To do this quickly, sow some legume adapted to the climate where the farm is located, possibly clover or cow peas or sow beans or vetch, depending on climate or location. Send to Dr. Geo. T. Moore of the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., for the innoculating material for the legume selected, so that the roots will have the nodules containing the bacteria to take nitrogen from the air.

When the seed is sown, apply acid phosphate to supply the phosphoric acid, and either wood ashes or Stassfurt salts for the potash, any amount of wood ashes that may be obtainable up to 1000 pounds per acre, and any amount of sulphate or muriate of potash, say from 100 to 200 pounds per acre. Apply also some nitrate of soda to give the legumes a start, possibly 20 to 50 pounds per acre or less. Depend upon the decaying legumes to furnish the nitrogen and also the available phosphoric acid and potash when the crop is plowed under, and besides to furnish part of the food for the bacteria that will aid in the solution of the mineral matters of the soil itself.

Later, try to find out from the soil itself what it most needs; there is no one else can tell you. Ask the question in this way: Take any piece of land, say an acre, and divide it into nine parallel plats of the same width. On one sow nitrate of soda alone; on the next acid phosphate alone; on the third, potash alone; on the fourth, nothing; on the fifth, nitrate of soda 100 lbs. per acre and acid phosphate 200 lb. per acre; on the sixth, nitrate of soda 100 lb. per acre and sulphar of potash 200 lbs. per acre; on theseventh, acid phosphate 200 lb. per acre and sulphate of potash 200 lb. per acre; on the eighth, a mixture of all three ingredients, and on the ninth nothing. Compare the resulting crops of corn and oats or other cereals that may be sown.

You will get definite indications from this experiment that will show you which of the three is most needed, at least, and afterward you can study the question of amounts. Try the soil if it be acid by making a mass of it just moist and applying litmus paper. Add lime at a venture if there be any doubt on this point. In all probability it will be found that all the principal ingredients are wanted, and that for the commercial fertilizer there should be bought one with a quarter as much nitrogen as phosphoric acid, and twice as much of the latter as of potash, but this is guesswork. Ask the soil what it wants, and be governed by the answer. In no case expect the commercial fertilizer to build up the soil without the intervention of a crop of some legume to plow under as suggested.

Why he Prefers the Mountains

Charles Emory Smith, who was the American ambassador at the court of St. Petersburg before he was called to sit in Mr. McKinley's cabinet as postmaster general, was discussing the other day the more purely personal side of the czar—it was apropos of the birth of the long-hoped-for son and heir.

"Nicholas is really a hard-worked man," said Mr. Smith, "but he is not so ruled by others as some reports make him out to be. He can, for instance, take u vacation now and then, and he does." Then he added with a quizzical smile: "But he always goes to the mountains; never to the sea shore."

"Why is that?" asked the unwary one.

"He doesn't like the serf," came the reply.—The Criterion.

Humor of the Law.

Law and equity are two things which God has joined together and man has put asunder.

When a prisoner in Justice Maule's Court was asked whether he had anything to say why sentence should not be pronounced upon him, he replied: "I wish God may strike me dead if I stole the ducks." Maule waited for about a minute, and then said: "Prisinor, as Providence has not interferred, I must. Three months' hard labor."

A mayor on taking his seat on the bench for the first time informed the bar that during his year of office he would spare no effort to be neither partial nor impartial.

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GOOD ROADS.

The Court of Appeals Declares the Shoemaker Road Law Constitutional.

The Court of Appeals having declared in a decision announced Feb. 9th, that the Shoemaker Road Law is constitutional, nothing now stands in the way of the state and the counties working shoulder to shoulder to obtain that greatest of all boons to rural communities—good roads. The Highway Division of the Maryland Geological Survey has everything prepared and, in some cases, surveys made so that there can be no delay in starting in on the work if the county commissioners only do their share, and apply promptly before March 1, 1905.

The attractiveness of the law as a business proposition is so self-evident as to need no elaboration. The examples of Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and Connecticutt furnish data and living examples of the good that must inevitably follow improved roads. Progressive communities invariably have good roads or are attaining that end as rapidly as commensurate with good financial management, and conversely, good roads invariably indicate progressive communities. No matter how attractive a county or section may be otherwise, the wide-awake man in locating shuns bad roads. It is the first thing that appeals to or repels visitors, and one of the things that fixes lasting impressions for good or bad are the roads of a state. Therefore Maryland, to be classed with her progressive neighbors to the north, must take hold of this improvement with a vim. Formerly the large expense of good roads stood in the way—now this is halved and there is no reason why every county should not make a start to raise itself to meet the demands of present day progress, and apply for at least some of its money, enough to build a mile or two of these roads which will last years after the present patch system has been repaired again and again.

For this conty to recieve its share of the great benefit which is conferred by the Shoemaker Road Law, it is only necessary that our board of county commissioners fill out the simple forms which have been sent to them, stating that they petition for the surveys and estimates of the cost of building different sections of road. The cost of these surveys is very small, only fifty dollars a mile, when compared with the benefits that will result. The fact that the commissioners petition for a number of miles does not necessarily compel them to build all of these roads at once, for after the commissioners find what the cost will be it is optional with them to decide which of the roads to build, if it is found that there is not enough money to build all of them. The important thing is to have the county commissioners petition for the roads.

Eleven counties have signified their intention to petition, and formal petitions are to be sent in before the first of March. All connties which do not do so before March 1st will forfeit their share of the state road fund, which will then become available for the more progressive counties which have already petitioned, in many cases for more than their allotment.

It is therefore, most important, if this county is to receive any benefit from its share of the taxes which it pays towards the state fund, that the county commissioners take immediate action in this matter and send their formal petitions to the Highway Division of the Maryland Geological Survey on or before March 1st. If they do not do this, other counties will reap the benefit that should be in part ours.

The construction of these roads is to be under the immediate supervision of the Highway Division of the Maryland Geological Survey, of which Dr. Wm. Bullock Clark is the Superintendent and A. N. Johnson Highway Engineer. The law requires that detailed plans and surveys and estimates of the cost of work shall be made before the building of the road is undertaken. The following is the circular of instructions which the Highway Division of the Maryland Geological Survey has sent to all boards of county commissioner.

The amount of money allotted by law to Kent county is $5,525.36, provided the county commissioners petition for state aid before the first of March. The milage of the county is 427.

How to Apply for State Roads.

1. All application for surveys of roads, under the State Aid Road Law, (Chapter 225, Laws of Maryland, 1904), are to be made out on the regular blanks furnished by the State Commission.

2. Applications must be signed by the County Commissioners or when the control of the county roads is vested in other boards by the members of such boards.

3. All applications are required by law to be made on or before March 1st, of each year. Those counties not so applying forfeit their apportionment for that year.

4. A separate blank must be used for each section of road.

5. The blanks are numbered consecutively and the surveys and construction of the different roads will be pursued in the order of these numbers unless the county road officials designate in writing a different order.

6 If a blank is lost or destroyed, this office should be notified, and a new one will be issued on application. It is important that notice be given of the loss of any blanks in order that they may be checked off from the list of those issued.

7. Additional blanks will be furnished as needed at any time.

Entirely Too Narrow.

At the international peace congress in Boston, Mrs. Belva A. Lockwood pointed out the selfishness of those who would not help to right the wrongs of foreigners, on the ground that charity begins at home.

"Such persons," said Mrs. Lockwood, "are like an old woman who lived in Lima while I was a student there.

"This old woman was absent-minded. One Sunday morning she walked into church, took a front seat and joined in the service vigorously. Then the collection basket was passed to her, and, puttin a coin in it, she looked about.

"She looked about, her mind cleared, and an expression of amazement overspread her face.

"She got up. She hurried down the aisle. She overtook the man with the collection basket.

"'I'm in the wrong church,' she whispered, and, taking out the coin she had put in, she hurried forth."—New York Tribune.

A Garbled Message.

At the last moment Mr. Gayley found he could not attend the garden party at Miss Fenton's house, and it was, of course, imperative that he should send his regrets, so he summoned Michael, the family gardener.

"Tell Miss Bessie that I am very sorry, but business will prevent me coming," he said.

Yes, sir," said Michael.

"And—stay a moment," said Gayley, "Could you remember a line of poetry?"

"Certainly, sorr."

"Well, tell her, 'Though lost to sight, to memory dear.'"

Half an hour later Michael was delivering his message to Miss Felton.

"The master said it's sorry he is he can't be wid ye," said Michael, "and—and, though he's lost his sight, his memory's clear. And may I be forgiven for the untruth I'm tellin' ye!"—London Globe.

The Old-Fashioned Wife.

A pretty young married woman said to a friend the other day: "Mary is such an old-fasioned wife. She has such queer notions about her duty to her husband and home. Why, she declines all invitations unless he is included and never under any circumstances is away from home when he returns at night.

"Then she always gets up to breakfast with him, and even goes so far as to prepare certain favorite dishes for him instead of leaving such fussedness to the cook.—She does not go away in the summer until he is able to go, too, and, in fact, she fusses over him in the most absurd way."

After the pretty creature had vanished to join a party of friends at dinner a reflective mood stole over the friend, and she thought how much better it would be if there were more old-fasioned wives.

Why Tuberculosis is Not Prevented.

"Tuberculosis is the real race suicide," writes Samuel Hopkins Adams in the January McClure's. And he treats us to a sledge-hammer arraignment of the "ignorance, prejudice, and greed" by which alone this disease remains "the scourge of the world," although it is "often curable, almost invariably susceptible of alleviation, and always preventable."

Of the 75,000,000 living Americans, 8,000,000 at least die of tuberculosis. This is horrible—the more so that the loss of these lives might have been prevented. The only serious source of infection is by the sputum coughed up by the sufferer: if this is properly cared for, as by means of disenfected cloths, the intelligent consumptive is never a peril to others. And modern science can relieve his own condition—can cure it, if it be not too far advanced—by the simple means of cleanlinees, fresh air and sulight, and regular habits.

Piano Made Her Arms Useless.

A serious setback has befallen Miss Anastasia Coady, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James Coady, of Dover, who is taking a musical course at the Syrecuse, N. Y., University. Miss Coady, who is a splendid pianist, went to Syracuse to pursue her musical studies and was obliged to practice continuously four hours daily. The strain became too much for her and her arms were rendered almost useless. In order to prevent any further serious trouble she has been obliged to abandon the piano. She is still at the institution, however, and will continue her studies.

IT is a virtue to avoid vice, and the first step to wisdom is to be free from folly.

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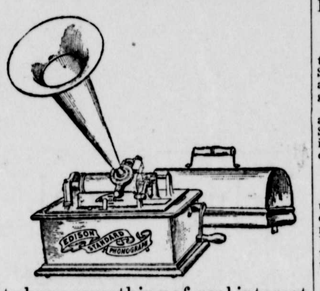
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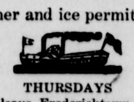
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