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AN EXPERIMENT TO INCREASE CROPS

A New Method of Fertilizing Impoverished Soils.

INOCULATING SOIL WITH GERMS

Important Test Being made by Dr. Jos. Brockerhoff on Four Different Farms—Experiment With Red Clover and Alfalfa.

Progressive farmers, who keep in touch with scientific researches, have in the last year heard and read about a wonderful discovery for fertilizing impoverished soil by inoculation. Some liken it to vaccination—the introduction of a small germ, called bacteria, that rapidly multiplies and extracts nitrogen from the air to feed clover and all leguminous plants (of the bean family.) These germs thrive at the roots where lumps or nodules are formed, and these nodules are filled with nitrogen which nourish the plant and fertilize the soil by adding nitrogen, and when the soil is cultivated immense crops can be subsequently grown, where otherwise there would have been a failure.

The following was published a year ago in a leading agricultural paper on this point:

PROSPERITY OR POVERTY.

The problem of the exhaustion of his farm by the crops he raises, ever confronts the farmer.

To combat this exhaustion of the soil the world is ransacked for fertilizers, the guano islands and nitrate beds of the Pacific, the phosphate rock of the South, gypsum, sea weed, wood ashes, fish waste—everything that can be put back into the soil those elements of which growing crops deplete it.

The scientist, however, proposes to cure worn-out soil by inoculation! This sounds at first as if some one had gone daft in the chase of the elusive microbe. But the idea is not so crazy as it seems at first. All growing plants must have nitrogen; they absorb this by their roots, and to replace this nitrogen fertilizers are demanded. All about us is an inexhaustible supply of nitrogen in the air, but no one can get hold of it except by very difficult and expensive chemical processes. If this could be easily secured the problem of fertilization would be simple.

One class of plants—beans, peas, clover, alfalfa, etc.—have the power to absorb nitrogen from the air; farmers have long known that the roots of a crop of clover will so enrich the ground that a crop of wheat following it will be increased over that of the year before the clover. Why this was so was a problem that scientists have solved.

On the roots of these legumes are bacteria tubercles, and these bacteria have the power to absorb nitrogen from the air and apply it to the growth of the plant.

It was left to an eminent scientist, George T. Moore, to learn how to grow these bacteria artificially and apply them to plants; the results are nothing short of marvelous. The more of these nodules there are on a plant's roots, the more nitrogen the plant will extract from the air.

Side by side were grown experimental crops of clover, in the natural state and inoculated with these bacteria; the natural clover yielded 372 pounds, from inoculated clover 624 pounds, or nearly 17 times as much.

This alone would be a discovery worth making, even if the new cure could be applied only to clover, peas and beans. But the amount of nitrogen obtained, to benefit future crops of other kinds, was from natural clover 4.3 pounds, from inoculated clover 143.7 pounds, or 33 times as much.

Clover and beans treated with these bacteria will grow on quartz sand that has been heated to redness to expel any nitrogen it might hold; such sand would be absolutely barren to any ordinary seeds.

So the dream of inoculating soil is not a crazy dream after all.

One thing to be remembered is this: The poorer the soil the greater the benefit derived from the "fertility germs." On rich land the benefit is slight, but on barren, sandy soil the crops are immensely increased. This does not mean that rich land will give its owner no advantage; but it does mean that the farmer who is handicapped by an unproductive farm is not so hopelessly behind in the struggle for a livelihood.

We have before us testimonials from numerous agricultural stations and expert agriculturists in all parts of the country, attesting the wonderful results obtained by use of the nitro-culture during the past year.

This spring the agricultural station at State College took up the matter and have a number of tests in progress.

DR. BROCKERHOFF'S TESTS.

Dr. Joseph Brockerhoff, who has the management of the Brockerhoff estate farms in this county in charge, has investigated this principle and this spring started the following experiments:

On the farm east of Bellefonte, tenanted by Frank Hazle, one acre of red clover.

On the adjoining farm, tenanted by James Mackey, one acre of alfalfa.

On the Roopsburg farm, tenanted by Geo. Behrens, one acre of red clover.

On the stump farm in Potter township, near Old Fort, tenanted by Mr. Bloom, one acre of alfalfa.

In each of the above instances seed

sufficient to sow one acre was inoculated with the nitro-culture bacteria. Aside of it the same seed was sown, that did not have this treatment, so that the results could be noted, if there are any, for comparison.

In each case barren soil was chosen, as the best results are claimed from it.

This nitro-culture comes in small dry packages and is prepared by adding water, and in a short time can be sprinkled over the seed, which is ready for sowing as soon as dry.

The cost is small, only \$2.00 per acre. The merits of nitro-culture are disputed by some people, while others make for it extravagant claims. Farmers over the county should watch this experiment closely. A small patch aside our office was sown this week with both kinds of seed and the results will be carefully noticed.

A LARGE EDITION.

Owing to the execution and the special edition issued Tuesday of last week the circulation of this paper was unusually large. For the regular edition we printed 4,400 complete copies and for street sales considerably over 2,000. The total was in excess of 6,500 copies, with orders since, from far and near, that could not be filled.

No promises or previous announcements were made and, despite the insinuating slur contained in the little statement, maliciously designed and so freely distributed Tuesday to injure this paper, we made more of an effort than a "spiritual adviser" would have in trafficking in confessions, pictures, etc.

GREEN AND DILLEN'S MISFORTUNE.

The last issue of the Centre Hall Reporter contained the following paragraph:

"Just what motive a spiritual adviser would have in trafficking in confessions, pictures, etc., is a query, and will remain so unless explained by persons who deal in them. Green and Dillen were unfortunate to the very end."

The above comment is to the point; it needs no further explanation.

Taylor-Cross.

Wednesday noon Hugh S. Taylor, the present sheriff of this county, and Miss Bertha Cross, were the contracting parties in a wedding ceremony at the home of Mrs. Robt. Lloyd, an aunt of the bride, at Philipsburg, Pa. The Rev. Miller, of the Presbyterian church, officiated and the ceremony was attended by only the immediate relatives. Mr. and Mrs. Taylor departed on the afternoon train for Pittsburg and they expect to return to Bellefonte next Saturday evening. Of course we join with hosts of others in extending congratulations upon this happy event. Miss Cross is an accomplished and amiable young lady and we know the Sheriff is more than proud over the termination of this conquest—he conducted this campaign so cleverly that few were aware of its existence.

Quickly Righted a Wrong.

The sons of the late Thomas H. Forcey, Alfred L., Clarence L., Harry L. and E. Blake have demonstrated to the world that they are manly, fair-minded men. Notwithstanding the terms of their father's will by which they were left the proceeds of almost the entire estate, the last week they entered into a contract between themselves and the executors by which the estate is divided into six shares instead of four as their father directed. The other two shares go to the children of their late sisters, Mrs. Zache Fulton and Mrs. Reubea Holt, who were cut off in the will.

By their generous act the Forcey boys have earned the praise of the entire community. They were in no way compelled to take their sisters into the estate on equal footing with themselves, but they felt their father erred and they lost no time in righting what they considered a grievous wrong, even at the cost of a couple of hundred thousand dollars, for that is what it means.—Clearfield Republican.

Girl Makes \$80,000 in Stocks.

Miss Florence Payne, of Williamsport, daughter of E. R. Payne, of that city has returned home after spending the winter with her father at the Waldorf, Astoria, New York. There she met people prominent in society and business and got tips on the stock market. She invested in American Smelting, and cleared \$80,000 by the operation. So says the Williamsport News. What this young lady got some other speculator lost. You never hear much of them.

Smallpox via Love Letter.

Daniel A. Moyer, aged twenty-three years, of Altoona, was discovered to be suffering from smallpox. It is supposed Moyer contracted the disease by means of germs being carried in a love letter from his sweetheart in Millin county, where there is an epidemic of the disease.

Absence makes the heart grow fonder of some other fellow.

JAPS WILL NOT FORCE FIGHTING

Admiral Togo Assigned to Coast Defenses.

NAVAL BATTLE IS UNCERTAIN

The Russian War Fleet Too Strong—They Greatly Outnumber the Japanese Navy—No News of Importance From Manchuria.

A dispatch from Harbin states that the newspaper correspondents and military attaches who have been following the armies in Manchuria have all departed for the coast. The opinion prevails in Harbin that a battle will be fought in the very near future on the ocean.

About the admiralty there is a feeling of general expectancy that a naval battle will be fought in the near future. If the battle does not come, naval officials say, it will be because Admiral Togo, the Japanese commander, keeps out of the way of his adversaries.

The junction of the two Russian fleets is regarded as an assured fact. With the strong fleet now at his command, Russian admiralty officers think there is no reason why Rojestvensky should try to avoid Togo. While positive information is not obtainable the opinion is expressed that Rojestvensky has already arranged his fleet in divisions and is probably on his way northward.

Information has been received that the Japanese fleet under Togo has been partly assigned already to the defense of Japanese ports.

This would show that the Japanese have decided not to engage Rojestvensky, but this is the first official news indicating a direct policy on the part of Japan.

Strong suspicions are held by the Japanese that France has secretly permitted portions of the Russian fleet to anchor and secure supplies in ports controlled by them. This would lead to serious complications and might involve other nations, England especially.

Electrocuted Near Tyrone.

Harry Stetinger, a farmer residing a short distance west of Tipton, met an untimely death last week within a short distance of his home. He was caught in a wire fence along the Tyrone division of the Altoona and Logan Valley railway and electrocuted. The fence had become charged through the lightning arrester on one of the trolley poles. Stetinger in crossing the fence was severely shocked and fell with his neck over the charged wire, the current passing through his body and killing him instantly. The neck and hands were burned by the current where they had come in contact with the live wire. The body was removed to his home, just across the field from where the unfortunate accident occurred. He was aged 45.

Farmers' Institutes.

The County Board of Farmers' Institute Managers, will meet at the county commissioners' office on the second Tuesday of June, to arrange for the place where the institutes are to be held this season. All of our people who desire institutes, ought to attend this meeting and present their claims. This board is composed of the local members of the State Board of Agriculture, and one representative from each county agricultural society, the Pomona Grange and County Alliance. If you find that you cannot attend this meeting, address a letter with your request to John A. Woodward, chairman of Board of Institute Managers, Howard, care of county commissioners.

Another Arrest.

J. E. Stover, on a warrant issued at Bellefonte, was arrested at DuBois last Thursday on the charge of larceny and burglary in connection with the Eby matter ventilated in the recent session of our county court. Assistant Chief of Police Charles M. McMullen, of Philipsburg, conveyed Stover from DuBois to Bellefonte. The man declares he knows nothing of the crime, and was perfectly willing to be taken. He has a wife and a child in DuBois.—Philipsburg Journal.

Eagles at York.

The 29th annual convention of the Knights of the Golden Eagle met at York last Thursday. It was one of the shortest and most harmonious in the history of the order. Reading was selected as the city for holding the sessions of the grand body in 1906. State Senator Webster Grim, of Doylestown, was chosen the new grand chief. S. D. Gettig, Esq., of Bellefonte, was appointed a member of the committee on Returns and Credentials.

The Pennsylvania railroad needs two hundred new engineers to operate the additional engines now going into service.

EXECUTION NOTES.

Three minutes after the lever was pulled, the Centre Democrat was on sale on the streets giving a full account of the same, outstripping its competitors by about a half hour.

Sheriff Taylor did not receive a letter with skull and cross bones marked on it, and threatening his life. The letter published by us last week, was the only one of the kind received.

The plastering back of the bed in Ira Green's cell was found scraped away by use of a small pointed stick. The material was hid in a small box under his bed. This was done likely on Sunday night, as he lay in bed, as the cell had been searched regularly. A rumor on Monday night, that Green declared he would never mount the scaffold, induced the sheriff to change them the last night. Previously a small piece of tin was found in Green's cell, evidently a handle broken from a tin cup, which was sharpened by rubbing against the plastering, and had a keen edge. It was concealed in a crevice at the window sill. Whether it might have been used for a serious purpose, can only be conjectured.

The statement in Ira Green's confession, published in this paper, that Condo was struck but twice on the head with the irons and twice by the wire knob on the end of a broom handle by Henderson has aroused some criticism. Dr. Feidt, the physician who first examined Condo, and Wm. Storm the barber who shaved the head, positively state that there were more than a half dozen cuts or gashes across the top of the head, evidently made by the irons. There also was a decided bruise on the upper left side of the skull that could have been made by the stroke from a wire knob on a broom handle like Henderson should have carried.

The morning after the execution, Ed. McCullough, known as "Trusty" and who was the only eye-witness of the assault came to our office to get a paper. When he heard Green and Dillen's confessions read it made him angry; he said "there is no use of them fellows telling such stuff" which he denounced as a pack of lies. McCullough insists that Dillen struck Condo twice with the T iron and Green ran ahead to block Condo from going up the steps and struck him on the head several times with the iron in the sock. Then both carried the turnkey down the steps to the floor.

Those confessions were made over a week prior to the executions, and the prisoners then had hope that a respite might be granted. Whether they told the truth under the circumstances is a matter for speculation—many doubt it; the condition of Condo's skull does not indicate it. McCullough positively declares they did not—though his competency may be doubted also.

The remains of Ira Green were buried on Wednesday afternoon on a plot of ground furnished by Charles Lucas, on his farm, up Wallace's Run, and not far from the home of Green's parents. Application for a burial permit was made to different cemeteries but all refused, and the family finally secured this private plot. Services were held at the home of Green's parents near Gum Stump, and were largely attended; Rev. Cox officiated.

Curtin Relics Found.

A pair of fine linen trousers and a watch-fob on which was the name "Governor Andrew G. Curtin" were found recently stowed away in the corner of a cutting table in one of Harrisburg's old merchant tailoring establishments.

The trousers were made for Curtin in 1865, when he was governor, and it is supposed they were taken for repairs to the tailor, who laid them away, and both owner and tailor forgot all about them. The waist measure is 35 inches, showing that Governor Curtin at that time was not so stout as in after years.

Democratic State Convention.

The Democratic State Convention will be called to order at 12 o'clock noon, in the Lyceum theatre at Harrisburg, Wednesday, May 24th.

The business for which the convention is called will be to place in nomination three candidates for Superior Court Judge and one candidate for State Treasurer, and to act upon and determine such other matters pertaining to the welfare and success of the Democratic party in Pennsylvania as may be properly brought before it.

Just a Wee Little Ba-a-ah.

Sunday evening a week ago a heifer of W. E. Grove, tenant on the Samuel Williams farm near Lemont, gave birth to a perfectly developed calf, which at noon of next day, weighed in a scoop scale just 20 pounds, and is only some 20 inches high. The average weight of calves at birth is from 80 to 100 pounds. This little thing is frisky, and jumps around just as happily as you please.

INFORMATION FOR DEMOCRATIC VOTERS

The Call Issued for Primaries and the Convention.

THE REGISTERED CANDIDATES

Apportionment of Delegates to Various Voting Districts—Primaries will be Held Saturday June 3rd--Convention, Tuesday, June 6th.

The next important political event in Centre county will be the Democratic Primaries and County Convention, to name a full county ticket for the annual fall election. County Chairman, H. S. Taylor, has issued the following announcement for that purpose:

Democratic Primary Election and Convention.

The Democratic voters of Centre county will meet at the regular places for holding the general elections, in their respective election districts, on SATURDAY, JUNE 3RD, 1905, to elect delegates to the County Convention. Under the rules of the party, the officers for holding the primaries will consist of the Committeeman and two assistants in each district, and the election will be opened at 3 o'clock P. M. and close at 7 o'clock P. M.

The delegates chosen at the above stated time will meet in the Court House in Bellefonte, on THURSDAY, JUNE 6TH, 1905, at 12 o'clock noon, and nominate the following:

One candidate for the office of Sheriff.
One candidate for the office of Treasurer.
One candidate for the office of Recorder.
One candidate for the office of Register.
Two candidates for the office of Commissioner.
Two candidates for the office of Auditor.

A Chairman of the County Committee to serve from the 1st day of January, 1906, to the 1st day of January, 1907, and transact such other business as may come before the convention.

APPOINTMENT OF DELEGATES

The number of delegates to which each election district is entitled, based upon the vote for President in 1904, and as apportioned by the County Committee in 1906, is as follows:

Bellefonte N. W.	124	Harris	120	2
State College S. W.	171	Howard	61	1
" W. W.	72	Huston	57	1
Centre Hall	52	Liberty	66	1
Howard	43	Marion	64	1
Milesburg	24	Milton	60	1
Milhelm	12	Miles	66	1
Philipsburg 1st W.	51	M. P.	41	1
" 2nd W.	51	W. P.	71	1
" 3rd W.	64	Fatton	70	1
S.	24	Penn.	36	1
State College S. W.	171	Howard	61	1
Unionville	22	S. P.	37	1
Boggs Twp. N. P.	64	W. P.	30	1
" S. P.	56	W. P.	30	1
Boggs Twp. N. P.	22	Rush N. P.	38	1
" S. P.	36	S. P.	32	1
College	45	Snow Shoe	30	1
Burnside Twp.	21	W. P.	47	1
College	60	Spring N. P.	37	1
" 2nd W.	51	W. P.	71	1
Ferguson	12	W. P.	46	1
" W. P.	41	Taylor	30	1
Gregg	12	Union	38	1
" E. P.	19	Walker	38	1
" W. P.	12	M. P.	81	1
Haines	12	W. P.	60	1
" W. P.	12	Worth	31	1
Half Moon	19		19	1
Total			4015	81

I hereby certify that in accordance with the rules of the Democratic party of Centre county, requiring the registration of all candidates three weeks prior to the primary election, the following named persons have duly registered and are eligible to be voted for at the primaries:

Shaffer,	Ellis S.	Miles Twp.
Strommer,	Dr. Frank K. White,	Philipsburg.
Miller,	J. D.	Walker Twp.
Rowe,	John C.	Philipsburg.
Geiss,	D. Wagner	Bellefonte.
Jackson,	Harry J.	Bellefonte.
Fry,	W. H.	Ferguson Twp.
Neff,	Joseph L.	Boggs Twp.
Dunlap,	John L.	Spring Twp.
Weaver,	C. A.	Penn Twp.
Gramley,	James J.	Miles Twp.
Grove,	D. A.	College Twp.
Swabb,	James W.	Harris Twp.
Hoy,	S. H.	Benner Twp.
Beck,	John W.	Howard Boro.
Taylor,	H. S.	Chairman.

Stood by Quay.

Governor Pennypacker on Monday affixed his signature to vetoes of appropriations to monuments to Generals Hancock and Hartman, at Norristown; to General Wayne, at Valley Forge; to former Governor Pollock, at Milton; to General Geary, at Gettysburg, and to General St. Clair, of Revolutionary fame, at Greensburg. All were vetoed because of "insufficient revenue."

True to his idol, the Governor did not go back on Quay. He approved the bill appropriating \$20,000 for a monument to Quay in Capitol Park.

Bible Depository.

At the rooms of the Y. M. C. A. in Bellefonte can be seen a partial stock and samples of the publications of The American Bible Society at COST. Plain Bibles free to any person or family in the county in need and unable to buy. Testaments free for all orphan children. Family Bibles, clear type, handy for home use, \$1. Testament and Psalms, large type, 85 cts.

R. CRITTENDEN, Depository.
JAMES HARRIS, President.

Church Struck.

During the thunder gust yesterday afternoon the Lutheran church at Boalsburg was struck by lightning doing some damage to the roof and breaking over 200 panes of glass. The church is insured in the Farmers Mutual of Centre Co. against damage by lightning and fire.

FACT, FUN AND FANCY.

Bright, Sparkling Paragraphs--Selected and Original.

TAINTED TIMES.

Tainted money,
Tainted stocks,
Tainted ways;
Getting rocks;
Tainted garments,
Tainted shoes,
Tainted food
And tainted booze.
Tainted morals,
Tainted sports;
Tainted cases
In the courts,
Tainted votes
And tainted tricks
Of politics,
Tainted novels,
Tainted plays,
Tainted husbands,
Tainted wives—
Gee, but ours are
Tainted lives!

Chinese music is not played the same as chop-sticks.

When a fellow is dead in love it's his own funeral.

The spring fever germ always works with a system.

Most girls like a brass band, except in a wedding ring.

Many a man remains poor because he has too many friends.

Some men are such hustlers that they don't even live loaf sugar.

The bargain-hunting woman can always make a dollar look like 95 cents.

The woman who can make good butter, darn socks to a frazzle, cook a meal that tickles her husband clear to the waistband, and keeps the children's neck and ears clean, seldom figures in a divorce case.—Miller Co., Mo., Autogram.

A Kansas man has made a bet that he could invent a question to which fifty people would all give the same answer. The experiment has been tried and it works like a charm. The question is this: "Have you heard that Smith has committed suicide?" Answer: "What Smith?"

A Most Singular Egg.

John Watson, the well known huckster of Lamar, in Porter township, Clinton county, in gathering his duck eggs found one of such extra size that he gave it to his former neighbor, A. D. Porter, who measured and weighed it and found that its size was 8x5 1/2 inches and weighed 5 1/2 ounces.

Upon breaking the egg a most singular formation was discovered, for inside was found another fully developed egg containing yolk and white and surrounded by a shell of usual hardness. Inside the outer shell, and surrounding the inner egg was a quantity of white but no yolk.

To the individual who is not away up in eggology this seems to be a freak of makeup most uncommon.

This is printed and can be vouched for as a true story although some skeptical ones are most ready to hint that Mr. Watson must have a way of his own of producing duck eggs and this one was an overproduction.

DR. BUCKLEY REBUKED.

Rev. Dr. Buckley, editor of the Advocate, an organ of the Methodist church, having asserted that he would take money for his hospital from any one who had a legal title to it, Rev. Charles Crane, pastor of the People's Temple, Boston, replies in a caustic vein by saying: "The editor of the leading Methodist advocate asserts that he will take money for his hospital from any one who has a legal title to it. Had it been one of the pieces of silver that Judas Iscariot tried to give to them he would have justified the acceptance of it on ground that he should not inquire into the source from which the money came—which shows one difference between a modern Methodist and an ancient Jew." Rev. Mr. Crane, himself a leading minister of the Methodist church, seems to have given Rev. Dr. Buckley something to think about.—Comoner.

A New Fence Law.

The new fence law which was recently approved by Governor Pennypacker, will be of interest to every farmer and property owner in the state. The act provides that each property owner must keep up half of the line fence and if he does not the adjoining property owner can put up the fence and collect the cost for so doing. In case of disputes the township auditors are made the arbitrators. In this capacity township auditors will be important officers hereafter as line fence disputes are numerous.

United Evangelical Convention.

The Ministerial Sunday School and K. L. of C. E. convention of the United Evangelical church will be held in the Lewisburg church on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, May 16, 17 and 18. Delegates from eleven counties will be present.