

The Messenger Almanac.

MARCH.

Last Quarter, March 3rd, 6h. 52m. A. New Moon, " 10th, Sh. 33m. A. First Quarter, " 18th, Sh. 22m. A. Full Moon, " 26th, 9h. 9m. M.

Table with columns for Day, SUN., MOON., High Tide, and Low Tide. Rows list days from 1st to 31st with corresponding times.

THE TIDES.—The column of the Moon's Southings gives the time of high water at Parrsboro, Cornwallis, Horton, Hantsport, Windsor, Newport, and Truro.

High water at Pictou and Cape Tormentine, 2 hours and 11 minutes LATER than at Halifax. At Annapolis, St. John, N.B., and Portland Maine, 3 hours and 25 minutes LATER, and at St. John's, Newfoundland, 20 minutes EARLIER, than at Halifax.

FOR THE LENGTH OF THE DAY.—Add 12 hours to the time of the sun's setting, and from the sum subtract the time of rising.

FOR THE LENGTH OF THE NIGHT.—Subtract the time of the sun's setting, from 12 hours and to the remainder add the time of rising next morning.

BAPTIST CHURCH REQUISITES.

Articles and Covenant \$1.00 per 100. Church Record and Register \$2. and \$3 each. Alphabetical List of Members 40 cents each.

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AGRICULTURE.

About Top Dressing.

Dear Editor,— The Messenger of Feb. 11, has a paragraph in the agricultural column on Winter Top Dressing. As a large number of your readers are farmers, the article should not pass without comment.

The writer must have meant his information for some other latitude, as that plan is not at all adapted to this country. The writer never could have been a practical farmer in Nova Scotia.

From manure spread on the land after the frost has penetrated, and especially after the snow has fallen, the soil will receive little or no benefit, and the farmer will have his labor for his pains, the farmer who wants manure is thus throwing away that which is better than money.

After forty years' experience in farming, it is the writer's opinion the land should be first prepared for wheat, then put on the top dressing, sow the wheat and hayseed, and harrow all in together, and don't forget the roller.

Where it is desirable that the soil should remain undisturbed top dressing can be applied with good results. Put on the dressing as soon as the hay is removed, or not later than the first of September, that is, where there is sufficient timothy and clover roots in the soil, but where the soil has been impoverished by continual cropping and the above mentioned roots are destroyed and a poor class of grass has taken their place, top dressing will have but little effect.

A HANTS FARMER.

[Short articles from practical farmers are always acceptable.—Ed. C. M.]

SOWING CLOVER WITH WHEAT.—Mr. D. F. Kelley, of Minnesota, writes to the Pioneer Press that he is sowing wheat and clover together, with a view to the recuperation of exhausted wheat lands. He says:

One year ago last spring I sowed a bushel of clover seed with wheat on four and a half acres, according to the surveyor attached to the Buckeye drill. The wheat proved to be better in quality and the yield was larger than on land adjoining, where no clover was sown. In the month of June last, I cut the first crop of clover for hay, securing enough to winter six head of cattle. In October following the second crop was harvested for seed, which I have just thrashed, and which yielded twenty-five and one-half bushels of No. 1 seed, or five and two-thirds bushels per acre. I turned under the third crop in November, and I shall sow the land with wheat next spring, after harvesting which I will make a full report. No fertilizers are being used.

The Press, which is an old advocate of this system, advises that a little plaster be used also.

OSTER SHELLS.—The majority of poultry-keepers seem to have an inadequate conception of the value of broken oyster shells for laying hens. Lime in some form is necessary in a hen's bill of fare. There is not a great deal of calcareous matter in an egg-shell, but the required quantity must be there or the eggs will either not come at all, or if they do they will have defective shells, thus rendering them useless for hatching or sending to market.

All this trouble may be avoided by giving the hens as much broken oyster shells as they want to eat. It may very easily be prepared by placing a good solid stone at or near the feeding place and breaking the shells with a hammer or hatchet by pounding them on the stone. They only need to be broken fine enough for the fowls to swallow; they will eat a good deal of this kind of food if they can get it; and if a considerable quantity is broken-up at once it will all be picked up in a few days if it is not trodden into the mud. To avoid waste and loss it may be put into shallow troughs with latticed lids, and when the supply is exhausted, fill up again. This is a small matter, but an important one. See to it.

To grow cuttings of geraniums, take coarse, clean road sand, put it in a shallow box or flower pot, to the depth of three inches; insert the cut end of the cutting about one inch deep therein, press the sand firmly around them, and water freely at first; afterwards use it sparingly, just enough to keep the sand moist; give them all the light you can, but not the direct sunshine; about sixty degrees is the right temperature. One cause of geranium cuttings turning black is the keeping of them too wet. The scented geraniums are the most difficult to root.

CHARCOAL AS MANURE.

Although charcoal is nearly pure carbon, a large constituent of all vegetation, still it is not claimed that this substance furnishes direct food to plants. Its action is thus described by Liebig: "Plants thrive in powdered charcoal, and may be brought to blossom and bear fruit, if exposed to the influence of rain and the atmosphere. Charcoal is the most unchangeable substance known. It may be kept for centuries without change. It possesses the power of condensing gases within its pores, and particularly carbonic acid, and it is by virtue of this power that the roots of plants are supplied with charcoal as in humus, with an atmosphere of carbonic acid, which is renewed as quickly as it is abstracted. Plants do not, however, attain maturity, under ordinary circumstances, in charcoal powder, unless moistened with rain or rain-water. Rain-water contains one of the essentials of vegetable life, a compound of nitrogen, the exclusion of which entirely deprives humus and charcoal of their influence upon vegetation."

VALUE OF SHEEP MANURE.—There is no manure more fertilizing in its nature than that of the sheep, and it does not so readily waste by exposure as that of other animals. A German agriculturist has calculated that the droppings from 1,000 sheep during a single night would manure an acre of land sufficiently for most crops.

THE HOUSEHOLD

POACHED EGGS.—Take a large iron frying pan, or any large, shallow pan that will sit flat upon the stove, butter it well, place as many muffin rings in it, side by side, as it will hold. Fill the pan half full of boiling water, break an egg into each ring, salting slightly. Cook about three minutes, remove to a hot platter, then place a bit of butter on each one. They may be served upon hot buttered or cream toast.

THE VIRTUES OF BORAX.—The washerwomen of Holland and Belgium, so proverbially clean, and who get up their linen so beautifully white, use refined borax as washing powder instead of soda; in the proportion of one large handful of borax-powder to about ten gallons of boiling water; they save in soap nearly half. All of the large washing establishments adopt the same mode. For laces, cambricks, etc., an extra quantity of the powder is used, and for crinolines (requiring to be made stiff), a strong solution is necessary. Borax being a neutral salt, does not in the slightest degree injure the texture of the linen. Its effect is to soften the hardest water.

VARIETIES.

LOOKING FOR A PLACE.—A tramp applied for food at the house of a suburban agriculturist, and while he was eating the food given him he was asked:—"Why do you not go to work?" "I have looked long for a place that would suit me," he replied, "but have never found it." "Is there not plenty of work at farming?" asked the interrogator. "Oh yes," said the tramp; "but you see, sir, I want to find a vineyard where the man who goes in at the eleventh hour is the first to come out and draw a full day's wages. That is the New Testament treatment, and that is what I am looking for."

THE ADVENTURE OF A WEDDING RING.—After a business gentleman had gone from home, his wife went into the back yard to feed the fowls. Shortly afterwards she missed her wedding ring and at once made a search, but in vain. Upon the husband's return another search was made with a like result. In the evening, however, the wife suggested that it was possible the ring might have fallen off her finger, and been swallowed by one of the fowls. At first the husband ridiculed the idea, but eventually he thought there would be no harm in feeling the "crops" of the fowls, which he did, and after "feeling" about twenty (more or less) he fancied he felt the ring in the "crop" of a cock six or seven months old. In a trice the head of the young cock was severed from its body, and, sure enough, the ring was found inside its "crop."

Fitting emblems are not always appreciated. The neighbors of a poor fellow who died erected a tombstone to his memory and had placed above it the conventional white dove. The widow looked at it through her tears and said—"It was very thoughtful to put the bird there, John was very fond of gunning, and it was an especially suitable emblem."

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Table with columns for GOING WEST, GOING EAST, Miles, and departure/arrival times for various stations like Halifax, Windsor, Kentville, etc.

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