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COAL DUST AS A MANURE.

Very few Farmers are aware of the great value of this article as a stimulant of vegetable life. With many, the question whether ashes of anthracite coal have any perceptible fertilizing properties, or not, is a perplexing one, no experiments of a reliable character having been instituted upon which any decisive or definite opinion can be based. A writer in one of the most noted papers in Pennsylvania, in an article on the material properties of Coal Dust, says:—

I have never seen any notice of Coal Dust as a manure, but the finest and most luxuriant stocks of the Poke weed, used and preferred here for early greens, because it is more tender and succulent, are found growing among the heaps of dirt around the mouths of the coal mines. Its growth is most rapid, and it branches beautifully in such situations. Upon the heaps of coal dust upon the wharves of Philadelphia, fine crops of oats may be seen growing, with extraordinary vigor, without any soil. I am not a farmer, but I can answer for its efficacy on a garden made in this region; and from the fact that fruit trees which suffered from insects in the roots for several seasons past, being very healthy this year, after removing the soil, and covering the roots with coal dust.

No one who has not witnessed the powerful effect of pulverized charcoal on culmiferous and leguminous plants, can easily be induced to believe the extent to which the favorable action of the article is developed by the surprising and almost immediate expansion of the vegetables to which it is applied.

The antihelminthic properties of the dust are also a powerful argument in its favor, as well as the absorbent properties characterizing it. The gaseous products of fermentation, and the aura resulting from the economy and development of vegetable life, and which not only cumbers the air in vast quantities, but acts under favorable circumstances, as a most salutary, and, indeed, indispensable agent, of vegetation, is attracted, absorbed and economized by this substance in surprising quantities. As a dressing for onion beds, it is perhaps unrivalled in the whole catalogue of manures.—In Scotland a piece of land was shown, no long since, on which this vegetable had been grown for upwards of seventy years consecutively, and with no other material or stimulating agent applied. The productiveness of the soil, and the quality of the crop steadily improved. On the wheat lands of Pennsylvania, it is extensively used. It is also applied to the corn crop, and in both cases with like success. A dressing of coal dust will last ten or fifteen years—charcoal being nearly indestructible in its value, when thus used, as is evinced by the fact that parts of limbs, charred by burning of the primitive growth in clearings are often found, many years after, perfectly sound and undecayed buried beneath the soil.

KEEPING AND FEEDING POULTRY.

Fowls need a great deal of fresh air and exercise too is as needful for them as for any other animal. They are always more healthy, and lay more eggs when they are at large than when confined. The eggs are not so easily found, but more are laid.

Still they are so troublesome at certain seasons, that the owners incline to shut them up. Some are in the practice of letting them out a little before sun set, and shutting them in at night. In this way the eggs may all be found, and the health of the fowls may be preserved—care being taken that the roosting place shall not be too confined and that it be often cleansed with lime water or potash water. Either of these will kill the lice that breed on the fowls.

If poultry is kept confined in this way till garden plants are fairly up and strong, hens will not do much mischief even in gardens, provided there are no strawberries for them to pick. But farmers need not let hens have the run of the garden at any time. It is an easy matter to keep them out if you begin aright. Exchange your

old fowls for strangers to the garden, and a little dog will soon learn to keep them away.

In July fowls should have the whole run of the farm to pick up grasshoppers and grubs, and they may be suffered to run at large till winter, in case you are not ambitious of keeping large numbers. They will eat some of your grain and corn in the field but you will not mind this, if you are not overstocked.

In regard to food, it is known that fowls, like other farm stock, are fond of variety. Animal food is hankered after by them, and when they cannot find insects, fish worms, &c., they ought to be supplied from the house. Offal from the butcher's stall is always agreeable to them. When they are shut up they should have grain of different kinds. Buckwheat and flour wheat contain more lime than any other grains do, and these are best to form the egg shell. Gysier shells pounded, and old lime mortar, are good for the same purpose, and when hens have not access to these they pick up gravel stones to finish filling their crops. These stones yield lime, and it is supposed that this is the reason why they swallow so many so with their daily food.

Potatoes are highly relished by them, and they are very proper food for a change. They also contain lime and contribute to the information of the shell of the eggs. Hens drink much water when they can get it, and when they are shut up, if not at all times, they should have a supply. They drink the dew from the grass when they have not access to pools of water.

It is good policy to keep young hens in preference to old ones for laying. None should be kept longer than four years, and many people think this too long a term.

DISCOVERY OF NEW FARMS.

Lawyers have known for a long time that a landholder owned ever so far down below the surface. But farmers never have seemed to suspect, that their deeds gave them any right to more than about six inches of the surface. Nobody hardly has thought of looking deeper than that except the diggers of gold and water.—Discoveries in the earth are keeping pace now with those of the sky, and a new earth is opened to the cultivator as a new heaven is to the astronomer. I omitted speaking of another great source of phosphate of lime, and that is one which some few farmers have hit upon. I mean that part of the farm which lies six inches deep under the farm.—There since the deluge, lies undisturbed the fertilizer, usually hard. Roots of the grains and annuals cannot penetrate it. There it is and has been accumulating for thousands of years, insoluble, except when roots apply themselves to it. Not one farmer in ten ever plough deeper than five inches. The roots cannot get at the mine below—it is too hard.

He cannot afford to buy guano or bone, but he can afford a subsoil plough. Let him go down 15 inches into his good farm below, and he may have a new farm good fifteen years to come. I never thought until this year that my loose, sandy, gravelly land wanted subsoiling! It is so very loose, that I almost wade in it. But, nevertheless, this year I have subsoiled 12 to 14 inches deep, and my corn on that tillage has given me a double crop. I found the bottom of my very loose top soil hard packed; the animal plant could not put their roots through it. My double crop has succeeded in spite of a pretty severe draught. I have for many years always ploughed to the depth of from eight to ten inches, but this season I have resorted to the farm which lies under mine, successfully.

It is necessary to sub-soil every year. I think not; but I mean to sub-soil every acre I cultivate at all. It operates, also, as a drainer. It also receives the fertilizer from the atmosphere. The first store of manure is our earth; the second is our atmosphere. That from the latter enters the earth by means of dew and rains—by dew even in times of draught—when a deep tilled soil can take it in, while a shallow one cannot.

HONEY WATER.—To make honey-water, powder two ounces of volatile salts very fine, and dissolve in a pint of milk or water for use.

THE FISHERIES.

From the Pictou Chronicle.

JAMES CAIE, ESQUIRE,

Secretary of the Miramichi Fishery Society.

Dear Sir—In course of correspondence last year in reference to the operations of your Fishing Society, I stated that your society would confer lasting and permanent benefit by introducing the Scottish system of fishing by drift-nets, set lines (or the Bullow line.) The report of M. H. Perley Esq., on the River and Sea Fisheries of New Brunswick places this view of the subject beyond a doubt. The Bay of Chaleur offers facilities for this system of fishing exceeding that of any portion of equal extent of British fishing grounds. The variety and quality of the fish is beyond anything of the kind to be met with in the old country. Your society expended last year £180 in bounties, exactly on the same principle as agricultural societies. Of course this must put a little money in the pockets of the most successful fishermen, but the same amount of money would secure the services of three competent fishermen for a year to teach your fishing class to construct the proper Bullow line, to bait, to set and to fish with it, to manufacture the net, and to prepare to fish by drifting for Herring and Mackerel. One of these men, a few days in the boat along with a crew of your own fishermen, would teach the system sufficiently to enable them by practice to become expert and successful; and if your fishermen would catch two quintals of fish instead of one, and two barrels of pickled fish where only one is now taken, would they not be gainers beyond any amount of money they can possibly gain in the shape of prizes. But it approaches nearer to the mark to say that ten to one would be the result. In order to prove, not the probability but the certainty of this result, permit me to bring under the notice of your society once more a brief description of the most approved boats and outfits employed by the fishermen of County of Banff, on the Moray Firth, Scotland, which tallies with the description boats recommended by the Scottish Fish-Board, (see folio 265 of report, and contrast these boats and outfits with those now in use by the fishermen of these colonies). The largest class of Buckie boats are 33 feet keel, 12½ feet in breadth, 5 feet 4 in. in depth, and use from 27 to 30 nets, each net 30 fathoms in length and from 8 to 10 fathoms in depth; and taking the lesser quantity of nets it gives 1620 yards in length when set for fishing; the larger number gives 40 yards over a mile. In the prosecution of deep sea fishing (cod and haddock) each man is furnished with a set line divided into nine lengths or cuts of 100 yards, giving 600 to each. Will any having the least pretension to a knowledge of colonial fishing grounds take on himself to assert that the one half of the above outfit would not be attended by the most profitable success, when properly attended to. It cannot for a moment be imagined that such a length and depth of net trap would fail in ensuring its finny prey. The net in its whole length may be let down to any required depth; and the boat may ride by the net or drift with it, as may be considered expedient,—the length and darkness of the night being more favorable than in the country where this system is now so successfully prosecuted. The comprehensive and valuable report of the talented gentleman appointed by your government places within the reach of every man full information in reference to the quality of the materials of fishing nets (see folio 267), and also the facilities presented by your sea-board in general for prosecuting this system of fishing. Eighteen inches, or one third the length of spool with which the hook is attached to the Bullow line, is made of horse tail hair, (white or grey preferred), and instead of the blue steel hook, a tinned one is the hook universally used by the Scottish fishermen, made of untempered steel cut into the suitable lengths for haddock, codfish, or ling. They are sold by the gross, in parcels, by the manufacturer; the fishermen prepares them by bending, &c. before attaching to the snood. This kind of hook is not apt to rust, and if it

gets foul, the hook and snood is saved, as it will straighten and come home, and the proper bend may again be given to it. Mussels are the most approved bait, and it is secured on the hook by a very small portion of white sheep's wool.

The fishermen of the county of Banffshire stand confessedly at the head of their class as the most expert and successful. This can only be accounted for on the same ground as the Yankees are the best fishermen on the American waters, viz, that they have to go a greater distance from shore in the pursuit of fish, and of course are suitably and apply provided with all that is requisite to insure remuneration in their hazardous occupation. But it does not follow, but that men who are so fortunate as to possess fishing grounds at their very doors may not be equally successful, and more so, by adopting and putting in practice the proper method. Nova Scotia, during the two bygone years, spent £5,000 under the ostensible pretence of encouraging and fostering her fisheries; and at this moment large numbers of her fishing population are petitioning her legislature for food to sustain their life. If the same thorough investigation of her fishing resources took place as in St. John N. B., it would be discovered that that portion of the Gulf of St. Lawrence which washes her shores is capable of affording employment and food to double her present population. Tories and Whigs, Conservatives and Liberals, have deeply sinned, and are alike guilty in their unstatesmanlike and unlightened action in reference to this great staple of the country. If the British Government, which or without the consent of the colonies, retain the fishing privileges secured by the treaty of 1818, it is worth the attempt to place the fisheries on a proper footing. If New Brunswick will follow up Mr Perley's able exposition of her fishing capabilities by appointing a board of well qualified men to superintend the fisheries, and introduce a few crews of the most expert of the present Scottish fishermen, to man a crew at each suitable fishing station, or even a few single fishermen, to teach the mode of preparing set lines and drift nets, to accompany the crews to set the lines and shoot the nets, the success attending the system will induce the native fishermen to put themselves under the tuition of such men. And let it be borne in mind that this class of men have not as yet visited our shores, and that it will require a little outlay to induce them to do so, but the favorable result of one of them could give after a brief residence, would induce others to follow as emigrants. For the directions by the Scottish Fishery Board for the care of all pickled fish, see appendix to report folio 264 to 276. If Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, the secretary of the board, was not aware of the practice persisted in by Nova Scotians and New Brunswickers in the cure of pickled fish by steeping in foul and fetid water for hours and previous to salting, otherwise he would not comment on it in language not to be misunderstood. The fattest of our herring will not cure and keep untainted, if treated as either the Dutch or Scotch herrings, under the most favorable circumstances. The writer tried the experiment, but did not succeed. In order to cure the herring properly, they should be split with a sharp knife from the throat to the belly fin, extracting all the contents, including melt or roe, run the point of the knife from the fin along the back to the throat, roll or fill the belly with salt, and pack immediately, into tight and sweet barrels, and follow the directions given by the British Fishery Board, and the fish will be found superior to the crown brand ones, and the blood more effectually expelled than by the Dutch method. Their manner of curing pickled fish is simple and easy, and attend with less labor than the system now practiced. So is the system of catching fish when once understood, and when once introduced, our simple fishermen will be astonished that they themselves did not stumble on it before. In conclusion, I beg to remind you that the Scottish fishermen would teach yours the system of smoking the haddock now sold in the markets at half the price of codfish. On the east coast of Scotland, this fish is of more value than all other fisheries, put together. My Buckie correspondent writes that ten smoking establishments ought to be put down as in operation in 1851, and 14 in to smoke a kiln full. One thousand or ten