

## What Farmers Want to Know.

Answers by Prof. W. F. Massey Unless Otherwise Stated.

### MAINTAIN NEW-GROUND CONDITIONS.

#### To Do This You Must Feed Stock and Make Manure and Not Depend on Fertilizers Alone.

I am a minister of the Gospel and a farmer too. All my work is among farmers, and am very much interested in the science of farming. Land sandy, clay about 20 inches from surface, with yellow sand between the dark surface and the clay. Hence we think four inches is deep enough to plow. Our best farmers plow four inches, work shallow and lay-by very light. Are we right? My land is new and rather fertile but has some roots and stumps. On most of it I grew a fair crop of peas this year. How much fertilizer of 14 per cent acid phosphate, kainit, cottonseed meal would help this land to make a bale of cotton per acre or 40 bushels of corn? I cannot see any profit in less than a bale per acre, and we ought to make 50 bushels of corn per acre. I made 6 bales on 5 acres this year, with a light coat of stable manure and 400 pounds of fertilizer in the furrow, on part using 8-4-4 and on part 8-2-2 goods, and on another part a mixture of acid phosphate, kainit, and cottonseed meal in equal proportions. This fruited best, though the 8-4-4 made good stalks. On 20 acres of cotton, with no stable manure this mixture at 400 pounds per acre made 14 bales. I usually trade cottonseed for meal, and it pays when we can get 1,500 pounds of meal for the ton of seed. I think Prof. Massey is right about rotating. Am anxious to try some crimson clover, but fear that cattle will not pay here by reason of the distance from markets. M. H. S.

Cattle are the very things that do pay when some distance from markets, as they can carry themselves to market, and no system of farming that depends solely on bought fertilizers to make the sale crops will ever be permanently prosperous. No farming is real farming that leaves out stock feeding in some form. Hogs will certainly pay with you, and bacon is always in demand. Your land is new and still has some humus in it and fertilizers give better results in such conditions than on old land where the humus that darkens it and makes it retain moisture is worn out. Four inches is too shallow plowing for any land and your sandy soil will be far better plowed six inches deep. But the deepening should be gradual since the turning up at once of two inches more might temporarily work harm. With a clay 20 inches below you can plow as deep as you choose, and a gradual deepening of the plowing will only increase the capacity of the soil to retain moisture. Then by all means retain the new-ground conditions, by growing peas and crimson clover to add humus-making material to your soil. Your mixture is not a bad one for your soil. It would be approximately 2½ per cent nitrogen, 5 per cent phosphoric acid and 4 per cent potash. It is easily gotten and I would suppose that you can do no better than to keep using it. But you can get the same amount of potash in one-fourth the amount of

goods, and have less freight to pay, if you use muriate of potash. That is, a ton of muriate of potash contains 1,000 pounds of potash, while a ton of kainit contains but 240 pounds.

Practice a good rotation of crops and grow plenty of feed for stock, and make manure, and you will find it worth all the fertilizer you can make, in the permanent improvement of your land. With a good rotation there is no reason why you should not make more than a bale of cotton and nearer 100 bushels of corn per acre. I know one man in Florida who makes 100 bushels of corn per acre, and you can do it as easily as he does.

#### How to Handle Black Swamp Land.

I have twenty-five acres of black—loamy level swamp land that yields from thirty to fifty bushels of corn per acre; but I want to make more. I sow cow-peas at last plowing and they yield well and improve my land. I do not use any fertilizer. I cultivate one year and rest the next. Have rows five feet apart, and plant two stalks four feet apart on the drill. What fertilizer do I need, and how pre-

(Continued on Page 12.)

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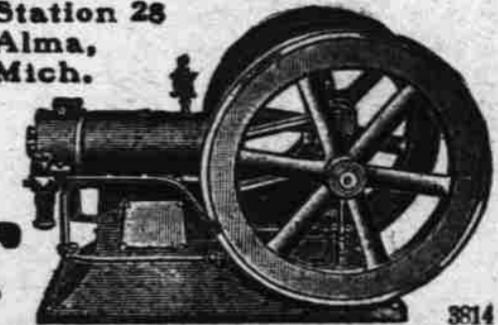
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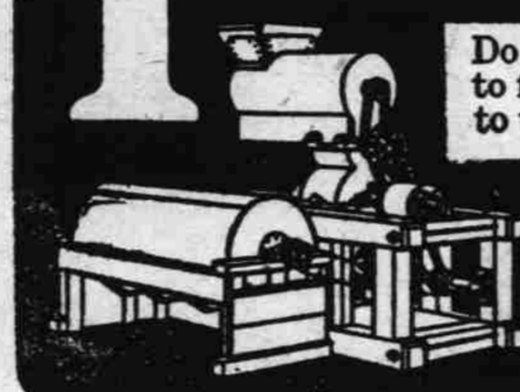
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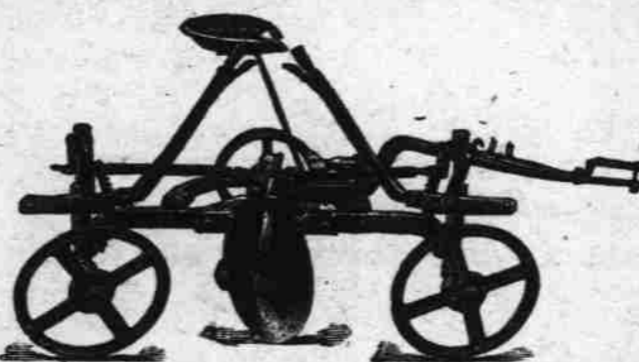


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