

FARM TOPICS

SOIL FERTILITY VITAL TO U. S.

National Security Requires Productive Land.

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American agriculture is coming to realize that a national defense program against the forces of soil depletion and exploitation is just as vital to the future of this country as defense against foreign aggression.

In every past age soil fertility has played a dominant part. Succeeding civilizations have sought and fought for fertile lands that would provide food and clothing.

The restlessness of the earth's early inhabitants, their migrations and invasions of new countries were in most instances due to the depletion of the soils in their own countries and a desire to acquire and settle the more fertile areas of the then-known world.

It was not until comparatively recently that the development of the science of soil chemistry taught the nations of the world how to maintain soil fertility on their lands.

Of recent date, too, is the recognition by American agriculture of the dangers of soil exhaustion in this country. Farmers have come to realize that every year they are selling plant food from their land in the form of cash crops, dairy products and live stock. They have discovered that even in a system of live stock farming where all the crops are fed to stock and the manure returned to the fields, they are losing fertility at an alarming rate. Everywhere we have been drawing checks on our bank account—the soil—and spending and using our fertility much faster than we have been replacing it with plant foods.

The hopeful fact in our situation, however, is that farmers in increasing numbers are becoming aware of the seriousness of these losses and are taking steps to prevent them. They are using lime and fertilizers and following soil and crop management practices that will restore the native productivity of their farms.

This national defense program against the forces of soil depletion is steadily gathering momentum. It is being spurred forward through the co-operation of the federal government, the AAA, the state agricultural colleges, and farmers' organizations everywhere. The war against soil exhaustion gives promise of final victory.

Capons Require Special Care Before Marketing

Where capons are being fattened for market they should be fed a regular growing ration and plenty of whole grain, which should be hopped fed. Clean quarters and range are important. Close confinement should be avoided. A clean open field with protection from the weather, such as that afforded by a good range shelter, is ideal.

During the last couple of weeks before marketing, it will pay to feed a wet mash twice a day consisting of growing mash and milk or whole grain soaked in milk in addition to the usual ration. Such feeding will improve the quality of the birds, but actual poundage is made by keeping them on a full and complete growing ration throughout the summer and fall months.

Worms should be strictly guarded against, tapeworms in particular, since wormy capons simply refuse to get fat. If the birds are wormy, they should be treated without fail. After which, they should be removed to a clean range.

Mulch of Pine Needles Reforests Eroded Field

Pine needle mulch can sometimes be used to reforest old fields or clay gull areas, recent experiments at the Southern Piedmont Soil Conservation Experiment station at Athens, Ga., show.

Seeking an economical way of seeding eroded areas, the station mulched four clay-galled plots with 800 pounds of pine-needle litter from adjacent woods. In five months a healthy mixed vegetation developed, including more than 1,600 shortleaf seedlings—an average of two seedlings from each pound of mulch.

The study will observe for several years the survival and height growth of the seedlings resulting from this simple and inexpensive scattering pine-needle litter over the bare area to a depth of about one inch. If only one-fourth of the existing seedlings live for five years, the area will be well planted.

He Served 3 Flags, Ready for the RAF, Jailed for Bigamy

Canadian Judge Is Puzzled Over Rare Case, Gives Him 9 Months.

TORONTO.—Veteran of service under three flags and applicant for enlistment under a fourth, Donald Willis, 27, was sentenced to nine months in reformatory for perjury and bigamy, with probable deportation to the United States to follow.

Willis, who served in the United States army in Hawaii, and later fought for Finland and Norway, and who was awaiting enlistment in the Royal Air force, admitted having married a Toronto girl in Hamilton, but pleading that he believed his first wife, Mary Kathleen Krouse, whom he married in New York in 1937, had divorced him.

Willis testified that he enlisted in the United States army at the age of 17. He admitted serving 14 months in Alcatraz prison for assault.

Fought With Norse.

He stated that upon Russia's invasion of Finland a year ago he enlisted in the Finnish air force, serving there until the end of the campaign. Later he made his way to Norway and served in the air force there with Commander Hans Bugge, now in command of Norwegian aviators training in Toronto.

After collapse of the Norwegian campaign, Willis flew with Bugge to England in a captured German plane. Later he came to Canada, trained with the Royal Norwegian air force and received an honorable discharge to permit him to qualify for a commission in the British or Canadian air force.

Willis testified that on arriving in Canada he was informed that his first wife had launched divorce proceedings against him and that he had assumed he was free to remarry.

"I don't know what to do with this man," Judge Otto Klein commented. "He has a remarkable record."

"He is a man of restless disposition, enterprising, energetic, and of such a mentality that he would not inquire too closely into what was best for him," E. G. Black, defense counsel, pleaded. "But his motives were right, and he has always been on the right side. He is the impulsive type."

Crown Disagrees.

W. O. Gibson, crown prosecutor, stated that he did not agree with the defense estimate of Willis' character.

"He left Kathleen Krouse to go to Finland," the crown added. "I believe he used the same means to attract this Toronto young woman, as he did to lure the young woman who became his first wife."

"Everybody loves a soldier," Judge Klein observed — "nine months!"

Honesty Saves Him From Long Sentence in Jail

ST. LOUIS. — Carl ("Babe") Spikes was hailed into federal court at St. Louis charged with possession of bootleg whisky.

When Judge John C. Collet asked him if he wanted a lawyer the defendant refused, explaining, "You don't need a lawyer when you're going to tell the truth." He then pleaded guilty.

"Have you had any trouble with the police?" the judge asked.

When Spikes answered that he had not, Judge Collet pointed to Babe's record of 28 arrests in 13 years.

"Oh," replied Spikes, "I thought you meant real trouble."

"You have some redeeming features, Babe," the judge smiled. "Your candor and bluntness. I'm only going to give you four months in jail."

Check Suspect Trapped By Movie Star Photos

CHICAGO.—A passion for collecting pictures and autographs of movie stars resulted today in the arrest of Harold Rose, 37, Hollywood, Calif., on charges of passing worthless checks.

He was bound over to a federal grand jury under \$2,500 bond on a charge he passed about \$10,000 worth of bogus checks, most of them drawn against insurance companies, during the last two years. Rose said he had worked in Hollywood as publicity agent for screen and radio stars.

He was arrested here on tips that alleged victims had recognized his automobile at Louisville, Ky., and Indianapolis, Ind., en route to Chicago. The car was covered with pictures of Rose, posing with film celebrities.

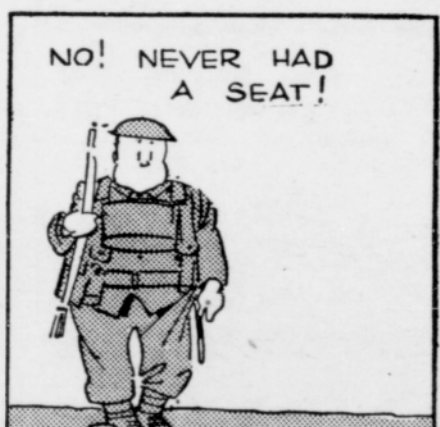
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Events in the Lives of Little Men



POP

By
J. Miller Watt



S'MATTER POP

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