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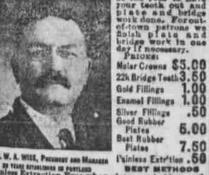


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SOIL FERTILITY IS WANING.

United States Agricultural Expert Predicts Exhaustion of Farm Land of Western Prairies.

The agricultural department at Washington is concerned about the exhaustion of the soil of the United States. On the prairies of the west fertility is beginning to wane. In many of the older communities fertility has been reduced below the point of profitable production. How to store and maintain productivity of soil is a most important phase of the conservation problem.

These observations are set forth in a farmers' bulletin prepared by W. J Spillman, agriculturist in charge of the office of farm management of the agricultural department, Mr. Spillman says that in order that the prairie country may not follow the descent of the east and south it is necessary that intelligent and vigorous effort be made to farm correctly.

Renting of land on short leases for the purpose of growing grain for the on a visit to Calcutta. He was a permarket is one of the surest means of sonable fellow, of good family and my reducing the productive power of the aunt thought her only child was makcoll. Well managed pastures and ra- ing a good match. The resemblance fonal systems of crop rotation are necessary to the development of permanent systems of profitable farming.

Land owners must realize this, and must take steps to improve renting methods by stocking their farms with a full complement of domestic animals. in case the renter is not able to do this for himself, and by giving longer

occurred, Mr. Spillman asserts, it is in ignorance of the relatives in Africa. not surprising that values of farm Aunt Marie's idea in this was to proproducts have risen to a marked degree in the last few years.

POTATO BUGS ARE AT WORK

War Must Be Commenced Early and Continued With Vigilance-Paris Green Recommended.

Potato bugs are at work. They are an enemy to be poisoned by the potato grower. War must be commenced early and continued with vigilance. Paris green is the most highly recommended. It may be used as a spray, with a sprinkler, mixed with air slaked had received from my father, who was counts. Even if he merely wants to lime, flour, or fine, dry road dust, sifted remember something he "charges his over the potato plants when covered with dew or rain. In any form of ap. subordinated Tyoga and her child, my plication at least one pound of Paris green should be used per acre, but when the plants are large a greater amount may be required. The Minnesota Experiment station prefers to use Paris green mixed into a thin paste larger volume of water to be used in after a flirtation with Hackleye, who a sprayer. Very good results, however, had followed her to Africa and marhave been obtained by the use of a ried her there. common sprinkler. Where the crop is of lime, made by slaking two pounds of stone lime in water to each pound strained into the poisonous mixture to 'ime need be added.

The Colony House.

The permanent colony house is not as good as the portable. The portable easy to care for the birds as if they risse that I could but gasp. were in a single continuous house. The colony-house system is in general use in England, and is practically the only system employed; says a writer in Baltimore American. These colony houses have wheels at each corner and no floors. I would advise those who contemplate going into the poultry business, no matter on what scale, to start with the colony system. It takes a little more work, but it is best in the end, and the chances of success are much greater than where the other plans are followed.

Use of Separator.

We make butter and think it pays much better than selling milk. We only have to take our butter to market there began the tragic end. once a week, while, if we sold our milk, we should have to go every day. and now we have our skim milk and buttermilk for pigs and chickens, and from eight cows and we average over 32 cents for our butter the year round to private customers.

To Maintain Nitrogen.

the corn belt is clover. The clover earth. crop should be left on the ground. If removed, not much, if any, nitrogen is added to the soil. If the crop is removed and fed to average live stock and the manure given average care and hauled back to the field, the loss is nearly one-half of the plant food and three-fourths of the organic matter. If a good crop of clover is left garden, while Narcisse sat in the house on the ground once every three or four and rocked her baby to sleep. After quite large grain crops.

The Quest of **Betty Lancey**

By MAGDA F. WEST

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CHAPTER XXVI (Continued). 'So they went to India and Cerisse had forgotten her home and took up their residence in the hills.

One daughter was born to them, named "Both Cerisse and Harcourt stopped Narcisse. Capt. De L'Enclos died the following year. When Cerisse was only eighteen she was married to Harold Harcourt, whom she had met while between these four women-my Aunt Marie, and her daughter Narcisse, whom you know as Mrs. Harold Harlittle Harold, Jr.

court, and my mother and her daughter, Cerisse Wayne, my sister, was appalling. They all had the same coloring, the same features almost to the fraction of an inch, and the same remarkably exquisite coloring. Yet I am sure that not until to-day has Mrs. leases whereby the renter may reap Harcourt known that Cerisse Wayne the reward of intelligent management, and she were full-blooded cousins, as In view of the soil waste that has Aunt Marie brought her daughter up tect my mother from my father's wrath, as he had forbidden mother to tell us of our aunt, and indeed we were so young when Aunt Marie departed that we soon forgot her. Moth-

er and Aunt Marie never had any communication after Anut Marie left for India. My mother died when I was about nine, and Cerisse not quite eight years old. Cerisse had always been father's favorite and after my mother's death home would have been unbearable to me except for Tyoga. We had excellent tutors in the house, and later father sent Benoni and me to Europe to study. I took a doctor's degree in Heidelberg at a remarkably early age, thanks to the previous instruction I an exceptionally brilliant man. Benoni studied with me, for while father had

mother had dealt fairly with them in the matter of wealth. "I was at Heldelburg when Aunt Marie came to visit me. It was the year that Narcisse was married, and three years after Cerisse, a madcap girl of seventeen, had been sent home with water and then stirred in the in disgrace from a French convent

"Aunt Marie had gone to Africa in arge and it is possible to procure one, search of her sister. With her daugha power sprayer is advised and re- ter my aunt felt she could safely seek and Hackleye would have believed garded as almost indispensable. Milk out her twin sister after the lapse of that it was his wife who had died. Ceall these years. She was grief-stricken over the news of her sister's death, and unwittingly let fall before my of Paris green, should be carefully father that in the Tiougaley region were some extremely valuable diamond A. P. ARMSTRONG, LL. B., PRINCIPAL prevent burning of the plants. Arsen fields, the secret of whose location had Ours is admittedly the high-standard commercial ate of lead may be used as a potato been made known to her husband, Capt. bug poison, but it is more expensive De L'Enclos, by an Arabian servitor business and professional experience qualify stu- than Paris green. Paris green may of his. Aunt Marie's fortune had felt dents for success, by individual instruction if be mixed with bordeaux mixture, when the touch of years, and she had made the mixture is used as a disease de- a joint reason for her African journey stroyer. In this case no additional an attempt to locate and work these mines. Father, his avarice all stirred again, strove to force her to tell him where they were. Aunt Marie knew him of old and refused. Learning I was at Heidelberg, she proceeded there, and stopped with Benoni and me for over a year, giving me the only happihouse is usually built upon runners ness I had known since my mother's similar to the common stone boat. In death. She spoke freely to me of my the spring and summer they are drawn young cousin Narcisse Harcourt in Inupon the range, and in winter may be dia, asked me to befriend her if ever brought up near the feed house and she needed it, and showed me her minarranged in rows, so it is almost as lature, so like that of my sister Ce-

"I went home that summer and left Aunt Marie in Paris planning to return to India in the early fall. Later the news came that she had perished in a horrible conflagration at a charity bazaar. This was a severe blow to me, for I had loved my aunt, and my heart went out to my unknown cousin.

"Cerisse had the heart of a fiend. Hackleye had taught her that she was the most beautiful human existent. A whim of hers was to fancy herself the reincarnation of Venus herself. Cerisse did not take kindly to the news of her equally exquisite cousin across seas, especially since her children, of whom by now she had two, were, with all due respect to their father, whom they resembled, not particularly comely. To satisfy herself Cerisse made a flying trip to India in disguise, and

"Father at this time became cognizant that I knew how to reach the Tiougaley mines. Aunt Marie had besought me with her farewell breath to have all the cream we want and make keep this intelligence from him. I kept as much money as if we sold milk. my faith with her. And as a penalty We have a tubular cream separator, for that faith my father subjected me barrel churn and a butter worker, says to the most cruel tortures that forty a writer in an exchange. We make fiends might have devised. He began about 180 pounds of butter a month in the castle and ended with them in the jungle. And when I was nearly dead from pain and distortion, he realized that I was dying and the secret with me. Then he put forth all his uncanny and exceptional surgical skill, and dragged me back to life-but such a life-such a living death-for no be-Nitrogen must be maintained by ing so deformed and taunted out of hulegume crops, and the best legume for man shape as I ever before walked the

"Cerisse went to India. She saw Narcisse and hated her on sight. Narcisse had a child, too, by then, and her one baby was as lovely as Cerisse's two had been plain. What is more, Cerisse became violently infatuated with Harcourt, Narcisse's husband. She made herself known to him one day years, only the seeds being removed, the first start Harcourt became interit will supply sufficient nitrogen for ested. I know not what wiles Cerisse dose meant originally for Narcisse. used, but this Cerisse soon had Har-

court bound hand and foot. Narcisse was ousted from her husband's heart. children.

at actual murder. They began to play a royal game. The resemblance between Cerisse and Narcisse made this easy. They kept Narcisse under the nfluence of the loco blossoms-drugged her poor mind almost to imbecility. When Narcisse lay stupefied from the dearly powders Cerisse paraded before the world as Mrs. Harcourt. Cerisse was always jealous of their child, the

"One day Harold, Jr., fell by accident into the lily pond. The poor drugged mother was watching him at the time and sat by the window too stupefied to move or rescue him. Harcourt tried, but he was too far away at a distant corner of the garden. Harold dead, he decided it would be best to leave India. Hackleye and father were growing suspicious of Cerisse's long absences, and Mrs. Harcourt's friends in India were becoming unduly exercised over the changes that apparently had come over her, for of course this strange exchange of personalities was known to none. So Harcourt gave out that he was to travel for his wife's health. In my pitiable shape I could do little to protect my cousin, but I tried to travel closely enough in their wake to prevent their ever killing her. For my affliction Cerisse felt no pity. She loathed the sight of me, and her evident hatred soon drove me to ally myself in spirit with my sadly injured brother-in-law and couşin. Harcourt and Cerisse had planned to spend the summer here. She was to go to live in lodgings till she could find a home in which to remove with his wife, and then Cerisse would join them, and the same old farce was to have been renewed. To that end Harcourt leased the Flanders house-

A distinct "Ah!" ran through the court room and Harcourt simultaneously uttered a denial.

"To that end," continued Le Malheureux. "Harcourt leased the Flanders house. For some whim or other he took it under the name of Hamley Hackleye. I think Harcourt had intended to make an end of Narcisse there, for he knew that Hackleye was close on the trail. Then Cerisse was to have stepped into her cousin's shoes risse took rooms at the Desterie's and almost immediately a secret doorway was cut through. I tracked Harcourt to the house at 94 Briarsweet place the night of the murder. I waited till I had a chance and secreted myself in the house. I saw him remove the plaque and climb into my sister's room.

I followed, hiding in the closet. "Cerisse and he quarreled nearly all evening. Cerisse in one of her petulant moods was provoking him beyond endurance. She was becoming wearled with him. The letter that was found on the floor urging her to live up to the demands of womanhood and to return to 'H' had been recently received by her from Harcourt, and she made it the pivot on which to turn many a joke and jest. Finally she told him she was tired of him, and thought she would go back to her husband. They squabbled and wrangled till finally Cerisse made ready for bed. Harcourt started to go home, but at length, fully dressed, threw himself down on the bed and began to smoke, at the same time chiding Cerisse for using so many cigarettes. Then she asked him for money, claiming that her losses at the races had, as she termed it, 'laid her flat.' He said he had no money, and then she turned on him with reproaches of an over-fondness for roulette. They bickered about money till nearly daylight and till Harcourt would not talk any more. Cerisse dropped off into a doze, but Harcourt lay there smoking in moody silence. Cerisse roused and asked him to get her a drink of water. He refused at first, but she kept at him. Finally he got up, went over to the stand, fumbled there for a moment and came back, handing her the glass half filled with water, and said, 'Never ask me for a drink again."

"Cerisse lay back on her pillows, and apparently fell into slumber again. Harcourt resumed his place by her side. I was about to go, wishing to make my way back home before the dawn broke, when suddenly Harcourt turned over on his elbow and moaned like a whipped lioness. "What have I done, what have

done?" he cried over and over again. 'My temper, my temper! My awful jealousy! Cerisse, I have killed you, killed you!" "He kissed her again and again, and

wept and dug his nails into his flesh. The sunlight came in at the window and the breakfast gong clanged in the hall. Reality came back to him. He cautiously slid from the bed and made his way back into the house. He knew that safety lay in flight.

"Handicapped by deformity, I knew I could do nothing, but I relied on Hackleye. Together I thought might take the body away with us through that trap door. I went over to the bed and assured myself that Cerisse was quite dead. I smelled of the glass and from the lack of odor and as he walked beneath the trees in the the condition of Cerisse's body guessed that Harcourt had depended upon his old friend, the loco plant, to end her life. Perhaps he had given her the

"Then I went in search for Hack-

leye, It took me longer to find him than I thought, for it was very late, nearly noon, when we returned to the room. I had not told him she was He was fearfully shocked. We had just entered and were figuring how we could get the body away, when we heard the trap door fastened behind us. Evidently Harcourt had come in and noticed it open and, fearing he had forgotten to close it in his wild flight of the morning, made haste to remedy the oversight. There we were, Hackleye and I, locked in the room with the dead body of his wife and my sister. Five minutes later Mrs. Desterle burst in the door. There was time to get out, as Hackleve has said, while they carried Mrs. Desterle to her room. "I was in the hotel perched on the

fire-escape above the room occupied by

Miss Lancey, now Mrs. Morris, that same night. I was keeping guard over Mrs. Harcourt, I did not know but that in an after rage Harcourt might not destroy her, too. I did not know what the papers were, but feared they might react on my cousin's safety. followed Mrs. Morris to Mrs. Harcourt's room and ran into her as she was rounding the corner on her return. She struggled to free herself, but held her fast. I wanted to discover what she had done, and to see if she had the stolen papers hidden about her, and if so, what they were. In the contest her waist was torn off and her nose began to bleed. Then she fainted from fright. I carried her from the hotel to Hackleye's rooms, intending to take her to her home in the morning. She grew steadily worse and by morning was having convulsions. I hold high European degrees as a physician, and as I knew the cause of her malady felt the only just way to the girl would be to treat her myself. Together with Tyoga and Hackleye I got her to San Francisco and took her to Africa with me. I had to do it. There was no other way. My only safely lay in flight. Her only chance of recovery lay in the medication I could give her, for I alone knew the cause of her complete mental prostration. The later complications of her journey I had not foreseen, but she is here now, safe and well, and, may I not say it? all the happier for her trip."

Harcourt had risen and staggered from his feet toward Francis Wayne. Harcourt walked like a drunken man, and quicker than anyone could divine his purpose he had unveiled the shrbking figure of Le Malheureux.

Shrieks rose from all sides of the court room. Before them stood The Man-Aperilla!

High and clear rang Narcisse Harcourt's voice: "My poor cousin! My poor, poor cousin!

CHAPTER XXVII.

They hanged Harcourt within the month. And the British government did not interfere. It was glad to shift the riddance of such a human pest on Uncle Sam. Hackleye went back to England to be with his children, and patch out the rest of his life as best he could. Narcisse Harcourt and Philip Hartley married.

The papers Francis Wayne produced bore out his story, which was further attested by the old French Cure, and by Benoni. They also told of the frightful treatment Francis Wayne had suffered at the hands of his unnatural father, and how his repulsive shape was in reality a perverted triumph of science. For old John Wayne out there in the African jungle had forestalled all continental research in the graft of body on body. When through his tortures his son lay before him scarcely more than a heart and a brain, John Wayne had grafted to him bodily thehugest gorilla the jungle furnished. The human brain and heart and soul still beat in kinship, and the beast's body thrived and made for the mortal soul within it a torture.

After the trial Le Malheureux, disdaining the pleadings of a hundred scientists, went back to Africa with Meta and Benoni. There he has sunk his identity in a wonderful laboratory for electrical research, from which annually issue builetins that delight and astonish the scientific world. Before Le Malheureux sailed he said, in selfjustification:

"Only once have I let the inclinations of the beast that is part of me overtop me-only once permitted its physical characteristics to conquer my immortal soul. That was the time when, penned in the death-chamber of my sister, with the trap-door locked behind me, and open escape, such as Hackleye took, barred from me because of my unmerited affliction, and when knew no one would believe my story, that I might keep free for my cousin's sake, hunted and sore, I jibbered and fought and played the beast I look." (The End.)

Bruce's Mother.

The inspector was examining Stangard I, and all the class had been specially told beforehand by their master: 'Don't answer unless you are almost certain your answer is correct." History was the subject.

"Now, tell me," said the inspector, who was the mother of our great Scottish hero, Robert Bruce?"

He pointed to the top boy, then round the class. There was no answer. Then at last the heart of the teacher of that class leaped with joy. The boy who was standing at the very foot had held up his hand.

"Well, my boy," said the inspector, encouragingly, "who was she?" "Please, sir, Mrs. Bruce."-Philadel-

phia Inquirer.

A Bright Prospect.

"For five years," said the commercial traveler, "I had called upon a certain draper in Scotland and never got an order. I mentioned it to the head of the firm. 'We aye deal wi' B-& Co.,' he said. 'Their traivler ca'd for twenty years before he took an order, an' if ye'll continue to call for twenty years I'll no say but ye may get one." -- Manchester Guardian.

Bowers-They say that the new dominie is not a very entertaining preacher. Powers-That's right; he can even preach a dry sermon on the flood.