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RED LAKE NEWS

"Work is a Splendid Tonic for Dissatisfaction"

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ABRAHAM LINCOLN

(By Thomas Curtis Clark)

He was a true American,
A king of earth in yeoman's guise,
A freeman whom the truth made free,
A patriot whom love made wise.

He held that might is born of right,
That God is Master of the State,
That only nations sternly just
In his eyes are accounted great.

He taught that earth will never see
The true democracy of man
Until each soul, a son of God,
Shall live by God's eternal plan:

Free as the winds, but each close bound
By sober sense of truth and right;
Proudly insurgent, yet in each
A reverence for the inner light.

Democracy for him was not
The howling mob's unthinking wrath;
A blind subservience to crowds
Should lead no man from reason's path.

He was a true American,
A king of earth in yeoman's guise,
A freeman whom the truth made free,
A patriot whom love made wise.

"Then gently scan your brother Man,
Still gentler sister Woman;
Tho' they may gang a kennin wrang,
To step aside is human;
One point must still be greatly dark,
The moving why they do it.
And just as lamely can ye mark
How far, perhaps, they rue it.

"Who made the heart, 'tis He alone
Decidedly can try us;
He knows each chord, its various tone,
Each spring, its various bias;
Then at the balance let's be mute,
We never can adjust it;
What's done we partly may compute,
But know not what's resisted."

—Robert Burns.

INCREASING SOIL FERTILITY

The soil has two distinct functions to perform, i. e., a home for the plant to live in, and the production of plant food, so that the plant may grow and produce in abundance. Good seed may be obtained

by careful selection and storing of the previous crops. Every farmer ought to save his own seed, as seed grown in his locality and soil does better than seed obtained from away.

The soil is not all plant food, but largely an inert mass of very small particles of rock, brought to its present finely pulverized condition by ages of weathering and decomposition. Through this mass a redistributed small quantities of mineral elements called plant foods.

A fertile soil also contains organic matter—the partially decayed remains of plants and animals, which is called humus. This substance is the basis of soil nitrogen, which is the most important element of plant food, because it is the one most quickly exhausted.

Humus has a great influence on the texture of the soil, it giving the dark, fertile appearance, holds moisture, tends to produce a mellow, warm condition, and is the medium through which bacterial life exists. These bacteria, so essential to the development of available plant food, thrive only in the presence of a good supply of humus. Soils which lack humus are unproductive and crops will not grow.

The texture of the soil is nearly always more important than mere richness. The maintenance and improvement of soil texture is more dependent upon plowing than any other tillage operation. It will add neither humus or richness, but if properly done, will maintain a good condition and make plant food available.

A finely pulverized mellow soil is more productive than a hard lumpy one of the same chemical composition, because it affords more feeding ground and more favorable environment for plant roots, absorbs and retains more moisture, has better aeration and less variable extremes of temperature. It also promotes nitrification and the development of available plant food by giving favorable conditions for the development of soil bacteria, also for the decomposition and solution of soil minerals.

Plowing, especially in the spring tends to ventilate, warm and dry the seed bed. If properly done, it lessens evaporation from the deeper soil by producing a mellow mulch above it.

Deep plowing brings up new stores of inert plant food, enlarges the moisture reservoir, deepens the seed bed, gives more root room, and more material for the soil bacteria to work over into available plant food.

Deep plowing or subsoiling serves to break up a hard pan, which is often a desirable thing to do.

Fall plowing is an efficient means of destroying weeds, because it prevents them from seeding. It also destroys many kinds of insects. Careless plowing is never done right. Do not cut and cover or ship any soil. If the plow is thrown out, go back and clean out the furrow. It will pay in extra yield and make the field look better. Never plow the field the same way every year as this makes ridges and brings the dead furrow in the same place. Do and clean out the furrow. It will pay in extra yield soil in it so that the drag will fill it up. A deep dead furrow is a waste of land and makes the field rough.

Spring plowing on light sandy soil should be done early so as to save all the moisture from the snow and early rains, and to make the soil firm, to check evaporation.

It is a good plan to plow sometimes before planting, so the soil may store moisture and become settled into good seed condition. This practice also allows the surface tillage which destroys weeds and makes plant food available.

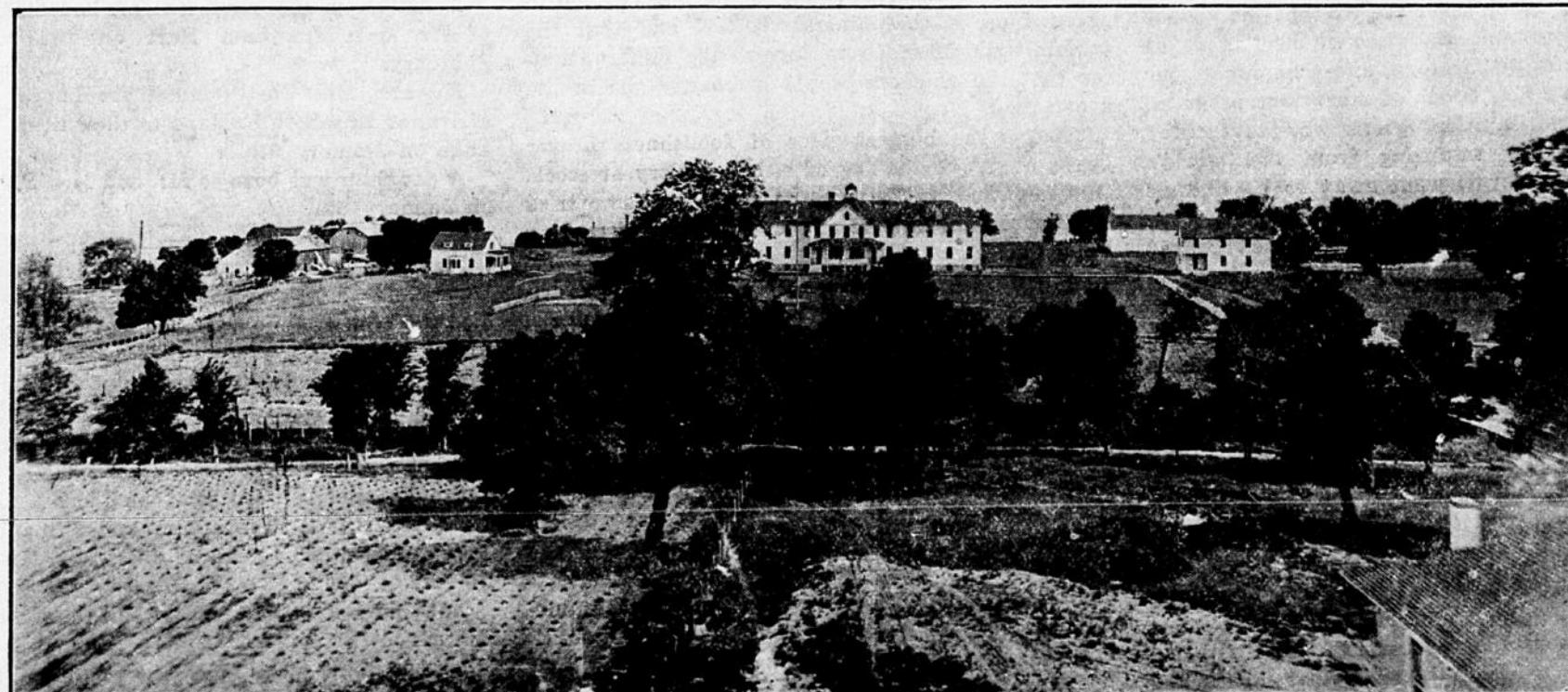
It is not a good practice to depend upon plowing just before seeding, because the condition of the soil and bad weather may interfere with the work, delaying planting beyond the time when the seed should be in the ground. There is a "proper time" to plant each crop and the successful farmer will prepare his soil and await that time, for it will never wait on him.

It is better to plow some soils when too dry than too wet. Very light mellow soils or coarse sandy soils are improved in texture by plowing when wet, because the compacting effect of the mouldboard leaves it less loose and porous. Clayey heavy or sticky soil should never be plowed when wet, if it can be avoided because the particles are so firmly packed together that drying produces hard chunks, which plant roots, air or water, cannot very easily penetrate. In the case of fall plowing the freezing of the wet soil causes it to break up into a mellow condition. The texture of gumbo land, which can hardly be plowed unless it is wet, is greatly improved by deep fall plowing. Some soils which have a tendency to blow should not be plowed in the fall. It is better to leave it with the stubble or cover crop and plow in the spring.

The advantages of fall plowing, are destruction of weeds and insects, a well settled seed bed and accomplishment of part of the labor of preparing the land when other farm work is pressing.

It is not always best to plow deep, because in dry seasons very deep plowing, unless great care

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