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DAILY EDITION

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THE DOLE AGAIN

Yesterday announcement was made from Victoria that the government was again returning to the dole system of tion of soil, its nature, and its func- protozoa). relief, something that it was hoped was a thing of the past. If this is simply a temporary expedient, no one will grumble, but if it is intended to make it a permanent policy, we believe it is not in the best interests of the people receiving it or of the province generally.

When Premier Tolmie announced that he was about to eral while peat is practically all or any other way, except by the addi- stimulates the growth of the root they would otherwise and the rate institute a system of absorbing the unemployed on needed ganic or vegetable material. Be- tion of certain nitrogenous fertiliz- system of most plants, and is bene- of plant growth is reduced. public works, we commended the plan. We have commended other utterances of Premier Tolmie in regard to this matter, but now the government seems to be changing its original plan.

We hope this is only a temporary expedient and that in gin state about 7.2% organic ma- dead vegetation so that the plant does not gest solid particles of food. To the very near future we shall hear from Premier Bennett and Premier Tolmie that they have agreed upon a big scheme of highway construction and railway construction derived from rocks, by the action of suit of fine team work between dif- growth particularly in the early ses. that will benefit the whole country and bring about a more prosperous condition.

NOTHING IS STABLE

When times were good we were assured that the good sures. Then again, by means of the times would last for ever and that we could never return gas in the atmosphere and water, to the former condition of business depression, low prices, low wages and unemployment. Then came the slump and tion. In most cases the fragments today we find people trying to say that we are living in a were sooner or later carried away by new world and that from this time on there will be low prices, low wages, and all the accompaniments.

Both groups are wrong. This is an age of change. Noth- which have subsequently played an ing is stable. None of us know what the condition will be like ten years hence or even five years. Changes come quickly, and often they arrive before we have time to adjust ourselves to the new way.

And there is a change needed in our system. In this then, as a result of some earth country we find there is a glut of wheat and beef and eggs change, the water retreated leaving and other commodities and yet there are people going the deposited material as dry land hungry. That is undoubtedly wrong. While many people think they know how to right that wrong, it is probable that they do not. No system yet devised seems to meet the viously have obtained its mineral situation. Those who point to Russia ignore the fact that the streets are filled with beggars, that the standard of liv- the soil particles but, when it died ing in that country is far below our standard and that many of the inhabitants habitually do not have more lux- were returned. But the plant reuries than our unemployed army.

Probably we have much to learn from Russia and much from other countries. In all probability the new system, whatever it is, will be evolved rather than adopted. Exactly how it will come about nobody today knows.



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Local Scientist

(continued from page 1)

ded, the plant grows normally, showing that the minerals it requires come from the soil.

Plants require all their food in so-

It has been shown that the five following factors profoundly affect the growth of plants:

- 1-Water supply.
- 2—Air supply. 3—Temperature.
 - 4 Supply of plant nutrients.

tion in the growth of plants. divided broadly into two parts, the mal life. For in breaking down the Calcium is beneficial in nuetral- of about 70 degrees Fahrenheit mineral or inorganic part and the dead vegetation they provide the izing acidity— the majority of the best. In Prince Rupert it doesn't ample, quartz sand is wholly min- substances that it cannot obtain in do. and peat is quite acid. It also bacteria do not work as rapidly a tween these two limits there are all er. One generation of plants die that ficial in a number of other ways. Moisture is essential for a num terial, the Peace River belt about gen it contains is made available to stand up well. 27%, and peat, 93%.

masses to crack and these were gradually broken into smaller particles by the alternate freezing and thawing of water in the rock fissome of the rock went into soluwater and deposited at the bottom of a river or sea. There they mingled with residues of living organisms important part in the history of the soil as its chief source of calcium carbonate and calcium phosphate. In course of time, the material accumulated to considerable depths;

food from the dissolved material of and decayed, all the substances taken up from the rock particles turned more than it took from the making (synthesising) sugar, starch, etc., which, when it died, fell back on the soil. This organic or vegetable material introduces fundamental change in the soil because on it other living things may

The soil then may be visualized as framework or skeleton of rock particles within the spaces of which are the residues of plants which have grown since the soil occupied its present position.

A plant requires just as many substances for its growth as any animal. For example it must have in some form or other such nutrients as copper, potassium, phosphorus, carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, sulphur, iron, magnesium, chlorine, sodium, etc.

The rock particles and dead vegetable material are both essential for

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Attention

why rock in the form of lime is ad- others take up the work until there ity of the plant and consequently. This is because the dominant plant ded to such soils as peat. And then finally evolves a nitrogenous com- flowering plants will bloom somethere is one constituent which the pound called nitrate; it may be ni- what earlier. plant must have and can only be trate of soda or calcium. In this A moderate supply of nitrogen obtained from dead vegetable mat- state nitrogen appears most bene- leads to more rapid growth, very ter (unless it is added as a fertilizer, ficial to plants. This is nitrogen. The release of ni-Fertile Soil rogen from dead organic material for plant growth introduces one of the most fascinating problems in the domain of natural science.

Not Inanimate Mixture

The composition of soil may be would not be any vegetable or ani- upon the soil's acidity. the plant. This process is not an

as to what constitutes a fertile The answer is that there is not one set of conditions that will give the sect and fungoid pests, as well best growth for every kind of plant. Soil is not just an inanimate mix- Every plant seems to require a parture of rock particles and dead ve- ticular set of soil conditions. One the form of sodium of potassium nigetation but a subterranean world substance may be very beneficial for trate is the best. teeming with the activity of enor- the growth of a particular plant and mous numbers of very small plant- injurious to another. As a general part in conditioning the soil for like creatures. These plants are so rule in any fertile soil there will be plant growth. Soil temperature fol-5-Various injurious substances, small that they can only be seen found a plentiful supply of calcium, lows the temperature of the atmossecreted by plant roots and bacteria. with the aid of the microscope and potassium phosphorus and nitrogen. Phere. It profoundly affects the The question that naturally pre- because of this they are called mi- The rapid growth of a plant de- rate of growth of plants. Its effect sents itself is what is the composi- cro-organisms (bacteria, moids, pends a great deal upon just how is equally important upon the bacthese substances are held in the teria in the soil which are so busily Without these organisms, there soil, which in a general way depends preparing food for the plant. Gen-

vegetable or organic part. For ex- living plant with certain nutritional plant do not like acid. Peat plants get that high and consequently the

kinds of soils containing different the succeeding ones may live. Soil If potassium is lacking, the color ber of reasons. The bacteria that proportions of inorganic or organic bacteria are the connecting link be- of the leaves become abnormal, first prepare the plant's food require material. The soils of southern parts | tween the dead and the living. They dull green and then they tend to die | their own food in solutions just a of the prairies contain in their vir- -the bacteria-disintegrate the early at the tips. The stem becomes plants do-neither of them can in-

Root Growth

The soil in the first instance was haphazard one but is rather the re- Phosphorus promotes the root's so reduces their normal life proces frost, air and water. The changes of ferent groups of bacteria in the soil, stages of growth. This is very notemperature caused the large rock One group tears down the vegeta- ticeable on sticky soils as clays and

useful in cold weather. Abundance of nitrogen on the other hand leads The question is commonly asked to the development of dark green leaves which are often crinkled and usually soft, sappy and liable to inretarding ripening.

For immediate effects nitrogen in

Temperature plays an important erally speaking a soil temperature

much water interferes with the respiration of bacteria and plants and

Sphagnum Peat

plant growth. That is one reason tion to a particular stage and then peat mucks. It also hastens matur- district is called Sphagnum peat. is a moss called Sphagnum. It is very acid, and lacks especially phosphorus, potassium, calcium and ni-

> trogen. The calcium can be supplied in the form of calcium carbonate (shell or marl) or lime, phosphorus as bone meal or phosphates of calcium such as apatite, tri-di or mono-calcium phosphate, potassium as wood ashes or more directly as muriate of potash. Nitrogen may be added as an organic fertilizer such as fish fertilizer, or if immediate results are sought nitrate of soda (chili salt petre) is best. If ammonium sulphate is used a plentiful supply of lime along with it is generally preferable. Stable manure is also very good if it has been properly preserved. It must be remembered that such substances as wood. ashes, coal ashes, and bone meal in addition to supplying certain substances that the plant must have also help in other ways. If a peat

s mucky they will tend to open it up and permit a better circulation of water and air which bacteria and plants always need. Sand too will have a similar effect when used in his circumstance. Peat soil should ilways be well drained.

There is only one way of knowing what the effect will be of a particular soil upon a particular plant, and that is by experimentation. Small pot experiments in which deinite quantities of certain fertilizrs are added to the soil in which he plant is to be grown will genally answer the question. No hemical analysis can do this.





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