

“How Lime is Prepared”

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Peggy B. Perazzo
Email: pbperazzo@comcast.net
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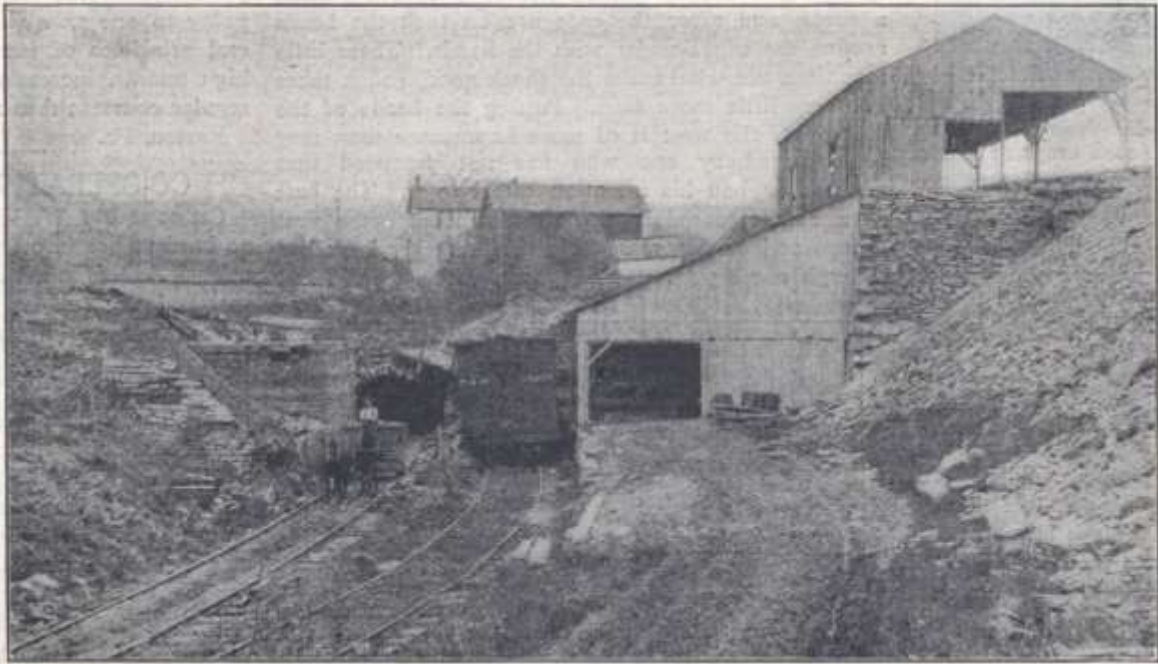
Heavy Use on Clay Soils.

“Fig. 264 will show the quarry of James E. Reichart, Montour Co., Pa. (Pennsylvania) Here we have a typical quarrying scene. This quarry is equipped with a steam drill (the boiler house and steam pipes showing in Fig. 264; horse railway and up-to-date dump cars. Two sets of tracks lead from the quarry to the kiln sheds, one a surface track, the other an underground tunnel, enabling the quarrying to be carried to a great depth. This tunnel connects with the P. & R. R. about 500 yards from the quarry. The tunnel and quarry were originally opened to supply limestone to the iron furnaces, but the furnaces being moved elsewhere the lime kilns were built near the tunnel’s mouth, and now the stone can be brought to the kilns by either way. Fig. 262 shows the tunnel exit, kiln shed and lime shed, also a car being loaded. After the stone is quarried it is taken to the kiln, broken into suitable sizes and placed in the kiln with alternate layers of coal. As fast as the burned stone or lime is drawn out at the bottom of the kiln more stone is filled in above, Fig. 263. The capacity of the plant is about 500 to 800 bushels per day when in full operation. Our method of using the lime on our farms may be quite different from many. Living within a few hundred yards of the kilns, it does not take us long to lime a field. The lime is wheeled on the wagons from the kilns, and we are loaded in a few minutes.



THE LIMESTONE IN THE QUARRY. FIG. 264.

“The Limestone in the Quarry. Fig. 264”



THE TUNNEL FROM QUARRY AND THE KILNS. FIG. 262.

“The Tunnel from Quarry and the Kilns. Fig. 262.”



DRAWING OFF THE LIME FROM THE KILNS. FIG. 263.

“Drawing off the lime from the kilns. Fig. 263.”

“In unloading two methods are used. If we are liming a field in the Fall for our Winter crops, after the field has been plowed and usually harrowed once or rolled, we drive through the field, shoveling the lime off on small heaps. Here it is left until slaked. This usually takes a few days unless rain wets it, when it will be ready to spread in a few hours. If we are liming in the Winter to Spring on sod for corn it is usually spread broadcast from the wagon, but here care must be

taken to have the large chunks well broken up. Some to have it evenly spread drag a heavy pole over the ground. If liming in the Autumn on wheat stubble we usually use lime previously slaked. Others who live far away from the kilns haul at any convenient time and place in large piles in the fields where it is to be used. Here it may be left for months lying to slake until it is wanted for use, when it is hauled around and spread. As to the quantity used, that depends on the ground to be limed, and how much one can afford to expend.

“In our vicinity no one thinks of using less than 50 bushels to the acre, unless it is very dry upland, but on our heavy clay bottom soils, naturally wet, we use anywhere from 50 to 200 bushels to the acre, but usually about 65 to 100. The men who are our heaviest lime users are raising the best crops. But as I said before, the money side must be looked after. We get our lime for eight cents per bushel at the kilns, where to the man who must have it shipped or hauled a great distance the expense is considerably more. On this account many are using more of the commercial fertilizers. We do not wish to be understood to oppose commercial fertilizers, but we do want to use lime and all the barnyard manure we can get in addition. Our farmers who have not spared the lime and who have kept their land well drained, using what stable manure they could make, are the ones who are now growing the best crops to-day. Another point is to buy good lime. Lime that has been burned from good blue bottom rock is white and floury, whereas if top stone, slate or rotten stone are used the lime will be quite yellow, sandy and almost worthless. A piece of good lime on slaking should be very white, and will almost double itself in bulk. It is like everything else; one must know what to get, from whom to get it and how to use what he has got. If these are not observed no mistakes will be made.

“Guy A. Mowrey, Montour Co., Pa.” (Pennsylvania)