

Extract.

Preventing Soil Erosion — Rebuilding Soil in U. S.

"Incorporation of organic matter adds plant food and erosion resisting characteristics of the soil"—Many farmers of the wheat growing areas of the U. S. Pacific North West have put this into practice and reduced their top soil losses to a minimum. Dr. S. C. Vande Caveye of the Soils Department of the State College of Washington has found that by utilising the stubbles and other crop residues and adding Nitrogen the organic matter level can be raised to something over 3½ per cent soil which has only 3 per cent organic matter can be rebuilt. During the process of rebuilding a great deal of raw humus is left on top of the ground or at plough depth depending on rainfall or other local conditions. As it rots it is an important factor in solving down run off and improving filth of the soil. The farmers at Paulose adopt a cropping system wherein they save all their crop residues and add Nitrogen either in the form of legumes grown in rotation or by applying commercial Nitrogen to the stubble. The straw is evenly spread over the surface of the fields with straw spreaders and thus making it easier to disc in, plough under, put into the top soil or leave on top as trash. To add Nitrogen Alfalfa or sweet clover is grown. Mixing a grass with legume is still better. (Planters' Journal and Agriculture, Vol. XLI — No. 3, March '49.)



Gleanings.

Plastic Watch Straps. Do They Cause Skin Trouble? Do plastic watch straps cause skin diseases? This allegation, recently raised in the Madras M. L. A., is being hotly argued all over the country. Manufacturers of the plastic material in England and America have been quick to refute the Madras allegation. The British have already proved that their plastic material is 100 per cent safe.

Elaborate research investigations, in England, proved that a British material, "Welvic", is completely free from any toxic hazard. The technical name of the plastic used is polyvinyl chloride, or P. V. C. for short.

During the war, many uses were developed for this versatile plastic. One of its spectacular applications was for the manufacture of artificial ears, noses and fingers, for war wounded. It was imperative that the P. V. C. used for these purposes was non-toxic and caused no skin diseases. Manufacturers soon proved to the world that no skin troubles resulted from the wearing of P. V. C. surgical aids for many years of constant use, testify to the complete safety of these compounds.

Advice to the Public. Manufacturers in India should safeguard their interests by ensuring that they use the correct type of compound, namely, materials obtained from highly reliable suppliers. Likewise members of the public, when buying plastic watch straps, can guarantee complete satisfaction and safety by purchasing straps which bear the name of a reputable manufacturer. (I. C. I.)