# Rural Economy.

### FALL PLOWING.

MORALLY, man is said to require "Line upon line and precept upon precept," and not less does the farmer require his attention to be called, in season and out of season, gradually, to deepen his surface soil from four inches of a light colored clay, never be-fore disturbed. Neighbors, who saw the per acre through the field of ten acres.

An excellent way to plow deep in fall, on land too heavy for one team, is to use two teams and two plows. Let the first plow turn six inches and the second four inches from the bottom of the first furrow, leaving it on the top of the first. "This leaves the last four inches in looser condition and more favorable for the action of frost. The second plow shouldy to work easy; be a little narrower than the first? This is undoubtedly better than to turn the ten inches with one plow, and would, perhaps, pay the ex-

is, that it destroys many insects and noxious weeds. By reversing the roots of they are destroyed to a large extent! Then, it is done at a season of comparative leisure pensive. Besides, the crop may be sown in spring from two to four weeks earlier than on spring plowing. This is so important that it often saves w orop which would practicable, full plowed land should be sown to spring grain when the frost is out of the surface sufficiently to cover the seed, with the frost still remaining under—which on coming out will leave the soil very loose; and to this loose and pulverulent condition of the soil is owing the large crop realized, on fall plowed land. It is also allowable to plow clay land wetter in fall than in spring, as the frost will mellow it. This is also a gain, for the work may be done late in the fall, just before winter sets in. But early fall plowing is preferred. Fall plowing makes all the difference between profitable and unprofitable farming.—E. W. S. in

## PURE MILK FOR LARGE CITIES.

This subject, of vast importance to the people of large cities, we observe has attracted the attention of the Philadelphia Society for promoting agriculture, as appears by its last meeting. We hope they will give it a thorough sifting, and the evil being an admitted one, suggest some remedy by which the water can be mixed by the retail purchaser, to suit his or her taste, and not be paid for as milk. Living ourselves in the country, and dining in the city, we have not unfrequently found that the pouring the article here called cream into a cup of tea or coffee has barely colored it. So accustomed have some of our citizens become to wellwatered milk, as hardly to know what a genuine article is; and the middle men or milk dealers, presuming on this, continue furnishing the watered variety. The question is an open one, and we presume will never be satisfactorily settled how or where the water gets in, whether it is Schuylkill water, or spring, or we'l water from the country. It is perhaps immaterial whichten ets. per quart being too much for it.

We have heard of one case where a farmer, having newly converted his grazing farm into a milk dairy and unaccustomed to the trade, commenced supplying new milk to his customers. He was soon discharged by one of them, on the ground of his article not being good, "as a scum always rose on it after standing."

In the cheese factories in New York State, where the character of the milk determines the character of the cheese, they use both the lactometer and hydrometer for testing the proportion of water. In one of our recent numbers there was an account of a lawsuit on this question, at Utica, the company being plaintiff and the farmer defendant. Three able lawyers on each side were engaged, and the jury decided in favor of the defendant, that these tests were not of suffiupon. As six lawyers and a jury trial of a week is rather a fearful ordeal, it is probasubject a difficult one; but a great public good will have been accomplished, if there is any way of ensuring a suppy of pure good milk in our cities and towns .- Practical

JOHN JOHNSON, of Geneva, N. Y., it is said, sows about five bushels of salt to the acre, at the time he sows his wheat. He finds it WHAT RED CLOVER DOES.

S. Edward Todd, in the course of a discussion before the New York Institute Club, referred to the fertilizing power of red clover as follows: "On the heavy, stubborn soils of the slopes of our northern lakes, the production of red clover has been of inealculable value in renovating and changing the character of these stubborn soils, so as to his duty of thoroughly preparing his soil to render them more productive from year for the future crop. The frost of winter to year. Under the ameliorating influences works wonders upon a stubborn clay soil of a crop of red clover, farms that produced when turned up in the autumn. No implement, hand or horse, can so thoroughly disintegrate it; besides, it sweetens and purifies integrate it; besides, it sweetens and purifies the soil from unfavorable acids, and thus en-ables the farmer to plow his land deeper characteristic of red clover as a renovator than in spring. Every farmer, especially of the soil, is to produce vegetable mould or one who owns heavy land, should endeavor, humus. Where humus abounds in large quantities in the soil, red clover is not the six to twelve inches. And the fall is the fertilizer required. But where the surface six to twelve inches. And the latt is the true time to do this. Some years since we plowed in the fall a piece of heavy clay ten inches deep, which had previously been plowed only five or six inches, turning up plowed only five or six inches, turning up the solution of a light adjoint and appropriate the average of a light adjoint and appropriate the surface is not covered, by a stratum of fine mould, red clover can be raised with eminent satisfaction and profit. Our most extensive players of a light adjoint and approximately a surface is not covered, by a stratum of fine mould, red clover can be raised with eminent satisfaction and profit. Pennsylvania farmers understand and appreciate the excellence and efficiency of red clover. Almost our entire country has got field in spring, thought it useless to sow any to renovate with red clover. Old and imgrain upon it, as it would require several poverished fields will eventually be made years' seasoning before anything would to feel the ameliorating influences of the grow. Regardless of these prophecies, we efficient renovator of poor and badly mandrilled in two and a-half bushels of oats per aged soil. And this great and desirable acre, and had a yield of forty five bushels change will be wrought out by the production of red clover.

### STONE ON LAND.

had an article on the stone found on many sections of farming lands. The point considered was whether the small stones, dotting a field were injurious to cropping or the reverse. This is a question we hade often pondered on with the general result arrived at by the New England Farmer, to wit, that these small stones aided the fer-tility of the soil, and hence increased the the practical workings of the tax, as they Another important feature of fall plowing quantity of its products. They are "living are developed every day, raise a serious that it destroys many insects and now stones"—that is, they prevent the ground question. By secret distilling, or a small from parching while keeping it in a lively weeds and exposing insects to the frosts state, whereby food is supplied more readily by the connivance of officials, by the corand in greater profusion to the plants seek | ruption of politicians, the Government is ing nourishment from the soil. Land that with the farmer, making it much less ex- is to be used for meadow, and the small grains, harvested by machinery, will require to be disburdened of its stone, but, in all such cases, a fertilizing power, of which the soil readily avails itself when under cultivaotherwise be lost. And more, the crop will tion, departs with the stone removed. The average a fourth better with fall than stone, to the mower and reaper, are a nui- By secret combinations, the contraband

### THE BEST STRAWBERRIES.

To those inquiring for the most desirable variety of the strawberry, we commend the following exceedingly enlightening experiences related in the biennial meeting of the National Pomological Society, held in St. Louis, September 11. The conclusion reached will be "clear as mud."]

Mr. Jordan had been so deeply interested in the subject, that he had this season travelled over two thousand miles to see strawberries in different sections.

Mr. Hoag said a friend of his had found and he himself had it fail in clayey soil. A member said the originator of the Agriculturist himself regarded the Green Prolific as superior.

Dr. Edwards, Missouri, for two years had found no strawberry to compare with the Agriculturist in quality and productiveness, unless the Green Prolific. He referred to Dr. Morse to corroborate his statement. His trial of the Jucunda was limited. Saw it at Pittsburg, but it did not equal what he had since seen of the Green Prolific. But in different localities various results were found. He found the Triomphe de Gand not worth

Mr. Quinette, Missouri, had seen the Agriculturist, extensively, and it was every where inferior.

Mr. Parry had proved it excellent in his region, and his experience with it was highly

JUCUNDA STRAWBERRY.

Mr. Hooker. Three years' trial with it had pleased him. It was of good size, fair, healthy, productive and second in quality. Mr. Heaver. Most have tried the Jucunda; it has merit in appearance, but in quality it is about as good as a turnip. He

thought it an imposition. [Applause.] Mr. Hoag had five years of Jucunda, and it had done well; brought a good price. It is not first in quality, but good; more productive than the Wilson, and a valuable

market fruit. Mr. — got more quarts from a Wilson than berries from a Jucunda.

Mr. Stevens, St. Louis, knew of gentlemen strongly in favor of it, and going largely

into its cultivation. Mr. Knox had tested it thoroughly and used no leception, and defied the most critical examination. It is uniformly large, has perfect beauty in form and color, and yields enormously. Seeing it on my grounds said Mr. K., you ask, "How is it possible for that's a matter of taste. Some like the cient scientific accuracy to found a verdict Wilson, others the Triomphe de Gand, others tolerate neither. If to the gentleman it resembles the turnip, he either grows ble the Philadelphia Society will find the fine turnips or has a fine taste for that vegetable. [Laughter.]

## POULTRY-KILLING AND DRESSING.

Poultry killed and dressed by some persons resembles the breaking up of a hard winter, rough and dirty, while in the hands of the experienced the defunct fowls look as smooth and unruffled as though slain by gives stiffness to the straw, prevents rust, touch ethereal. In Geylins' Poultry Breedand causes the wheat to ripen several days ing the following excellent directions for country have a personal interest in its supdressing poultry are given: "Open the beak pression.

of the fowl, then with a pointed and narrow knife, make an incision at the back of the roof which will divide the vertebræ and cause immediate death; after which hang the fowl up by the legs till the bleeding ceases; then rinse the beak out with vinegar and water. Fowls killed in this manner keep longer and do not present the unsightly external marks as those killed by the ordinary system of wringing the neck. When the entrails are drawn immediately after death, and the fowl stuffed, as they do in France with paper shavings or short cocoanut fibres to preserve their shape, they will keep much longer fresh. Some Breeders cram their poultry before killing, to make them appear heavy; this is a most injudicious plan, as the undigested food soon enters into fermentation, and putrefaction takes place, as is evinced by the quantity of greenish, putrid-looking fowls that are seen in the markets,"

## Scientific.

#### [COMMUNICATED.] THE WHISKY TAX.

When the Government found it necessary to frame a tax bill which should yield a large revenue, it was a unanimous feeling among all temperate and good mon that as much of the burden as possible should be placed upon intoxicating liquor. The tax upon whisky, or distilled spirit, was finally fixed at two dollars per gallon. The various branches of art and industry dependent The New England Farmer, of recent date, dent upon spirit; in the shape of alcohol, readily accommodated themselves to the increased cost, the Tariff being altered in

such a manner as to protect their products. Probably no right-minded man objects to the amount of this tax upon the liquor traffic. If it were double, or even made sufficient to yield the whole of our necessary refractional return of the amount distilled,defrauded out of nineteen-twentieths of its dues. The tax, by making a nominal high price, affords to the smugglers a large margin of profit, and they accumulate princely fortunes. Many a coarse ruffian displays, to puzzled eyes, costly diamonds and heavy jewelry which are the fruits of such villainy. spring plowing out claydand. Light sandy sance to be removed, but to the soil, a friend whisky league has become one of the most soils are not benefited by full plowing, as whose retention in it would be a blessing powerful monied interests in the country, and openly boasts that "the ring" is too strong to be broken. The corrupt or weak official is bribed,—the scrupulous intimidated and overwhelmed. They do not shrink from murder. The poor fiddler, who, a few months since, without any apparent offence, was left weltering in his blood on the side walk, had been employed by the Revenue detective.

Besides this fearful and wide-reaching demoralization, the effect upon some manufactures is disastrous. Among the chemists, pharmaceutists, varnish men, &c., who consume alcohol, some are too conscientious to endure complicity in any fraud upon the Government, and have therefore sought to obtain spirit which has paid its tax. But in the Agriculturist variety fail in sandy soil, so doing, they are unable to compete with their unscrupulous neighbors, who secretly buy smuggled spirits, and their business is ruined. One manufacturing firm of this city, producing such essential articles as chloroform, ether, spirits of ammonia, &c., has submitted to the decay of an important business in those articles because of their steadfast refusal to buy any but duty-paid spirit. And more than one honest man, engaged in rectifying alcohol for mechanical and scientific uses, has been forced entirely out of business.

The distillers, who profit so hugely by this state of affairs, are sometimes heard to complain of the heavy tax laid upon their calling; but they secretly uso every influence to maintain it as large as possible, because under the highest tax they have the widest margin of profit. In this effort, they acknowledge a principal, vital support from that influence which dictated the imposition of the tax, and which, uninstructed, remains substantially the same,—the moral and religious sentiment of the community.

Ought not this influence to be withdrawn and reversed? Should there not be a popular determination to end this bold unblushing fraud which shifts its appropriate burden to the shoulders of honest tax-payers? After two or three years of trial, in the last of which the Government has put forth herculean efforts, its best officers acknowledge that their endeavors have been like the sweeping back of a rising tide with a broom; and that, in a country like this, it is practically impossible to reach all the recesses of this fraud. Liquor is more plenty, and intoxication more alarmingly prevalent than ever before. What is the remedy? Some have urged a reduction of the tax to one dollar, to fifty cents, to twenty cents. But a slight calculation shows that the smallest of these sums would still offer an enormous premium to rascality. Apparently, the only effectual remedy is, the entire removal of small that it would be no object to evade it. Probably more revenue would be gained, at the same time that the temptation to fraud less labor than usually been required. would be withdrawn, and the support utterly knocked away from the smugglers, by a tax of five cents per gallon, or even the five per cent. assessed upon other manufactures. That the liquor traffic might not feel any encouragement from such a course, the tax should be replaced by a heavy license, which can be collected with comparative ease and

It is earnestly to be hoped that the coming congress may successfully combat this giant evil. The people of the whole

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