Democratic Watchman.

Bellefonte, Pa., January 24, 1890.

Farm Notes.

The more even the temperature in the cellar the better what is stored there will keep.

It is not the full-fed cow or horse that kills itself by overeating when it happens to break loose and get at the meal or oat bin.

Dairy salt stored in the vicinity of codfish, or kerosene, or turpentine, is apt to contract flavors that injure the butter in which it is used.

The garden, the truck patch and the orchard should furnish the farmer with fully one-half of his living, if proper care is taken with each to secure the best products in good season.

During the winter there is always more or less that can be done in the way of preparing for the spring crops and by doing this help materially in getting the spring work done in good season.

There is no economy in supplying more bedding than is necessary to keep clean and to absorb all the liquid voidings; more than this is adding to the quantity at the expense of the quality.

If a horse intends to be vicious, the tail is carried low and the ears are laid back. If in gook humor and eager to go, the tail is carried high. If nervous or inclined to kick, bite or strike, the tail is switched from side to side.

"Buy the Best and Breed Better," is the heading of an editorial in the *Jersey Bulletin*. It is axiomatic and good enough for a motto, without comment. The man who obeys the injunction is on the great highway of progress and cannot fail to succeed.

Every animal needs plenty of water. Water flushes out the organs through which it passes, thus aiding to carry off the effete matter. Water, then, when given to the cow, besides aiding her in milk production, performs the other office.—*Western Rural.*

Put white butter and yellow butter side by side and tell the consumer that one is artificially colored, and he will take the colored article 999.999 times in 1,000,000. Let nobody worry about the consumer being deceived. He is after the "yaller."—*Western Rural.*

Securing large yields of corn or potatoes in competition for prizes teach the farmer how best to cultivate and the best fertilizers to use, but the matter of profit is the end to be considered. The cost of the crop, not the yield, determines its value to the farmer.

By mulching newly set trees or plants late in the fall or early winter, the damage done by thawing and freezing may be prevented. Another advantage, especially with fruit, is that it often delays blossoming in the spring, and in this way prevents the fruit from being damaged.

Minnesota has passed an act to prevent the practice of fraud by tree peddlers in the sale of nursery stock. Peddlers from other States before being allowed to sell must file an affidavit with the Secretary of State of Minnesota that they are all right and enter into $2500 bonds to the same effect.

The *Vermont Chronicle* speaks of a dairyman who makes 30-ct. butter with less trouble and expense than are bestowed on their product by those who make 16-cent butter. It is less work and costs less to make butter in the right way than it does to do everything out of time and order and thus turn out a poor article.

Lime has the advantage of being beneficial at all seasons, though its effects in the soil may not be immediate. It never injures land if properly applied, and though its results may be unsatisfactory at first, yet the effects are lasting, the lime applied this year proving beneficial in the future. Lime is cheap and should be used freely.

The strongest wood in the United States, according to Professor Sargent, is that of the nutmeg hickory of the Arkansas region, and the weakest is the West Indian birch. The most elastic is the tamarack, the white or shell bark hickory ranking far below it. The wood having the highest specific gravity is the blue wood of Texas.

The mainspring of farming is the seed. It is more important to secure good seed than to prepare for its reception in the soil. The failure of seed to germinate may cost the farmer the loss of an entire crop. The seed is something that the farmer should carefully examine now before spring opens, by testing it in boxes of earth under glass.

Chicken feathers, if properly treated, will make pillows which are almost as light as those of geese. Use only the downy, entire feather, stripping all of the others from their shafts. To kill the rancid odor, wash through a warm water to which you have added chloride of lime—a spoonful to a gallon of water—and dry in an open oven. —*Rural New Yorker.*

A good practical farmer says: "Whenever we feed a pig much beyond eight or nine months old we are needless'y throwing away profit. We are very slow to learn this, notwithstanding that it has been so often demonstrated. Perhaps we know it, but are too lazy to get out of the ruts in which we have been traveling for years.—*Michigan Farmer.*

In feeding and fattening hogs it is important to have a lot as near of the same size, weight and quality as possible; it will sell for a better price than a lot of different sizes and weights. If when fatted there are a few small ones, or one of extra size, the lot will sell for more in the average if you take these out and kill for home use or dress for market, or sell when a shipment is being made of hogs that average with them.

The Department of Agriculture Statician says the acreage in potatoes last year was 2,500,000, and the average yield seventy-six bushels. Did your field help to pull down the average?

The prize butter at the Bay State Fair, Boston, was made from cows fed on cut clover at night, pasture by day, and a grain ration composed of two parts corn meal and one part each of crushed oats, linseed meal and wheat middlings.

She Speculated in Oil.

A Strange Story and a Sad One That Is Not Yet All Told—Ten Years of Terrible Trial and Failure.

There have been some pretty big female plungers in the oil market at one time and another. There are still women speculators in most of the oil exchanges in the region, but there are few, if any, of the "high rollers" left. Oil City has had more women speculators in petroleum than any other town, although at one time Bradford had a fair quota. The *Globe-Democrat* correspondent learned to-day that there are but three woman who still visit the oil exchanges daily and make a regular business of toying with the oily tiger. These ladies have been familiar figures about the exchange for several years, and are all that are left out of several women speculators. These ladies do not come on the floor of the exchange, and are not in fact, members, but are in their seats in the ladies' gallery as soon as the exchange opens and remain tolerably regularly until the close at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. They deal, of course, entirely through brokers, a nod being sufficient order for a broker to buy or sell 1000, 5000 or 10,000 barrels of oil, as the case may be. It is not often that they go beyond a deal of 1000 barrels, as the ladies who are left in the exchange, to put it in the phraseology of a broker, are "flying light." With a few exceptions, the ladies who have entered the jungles of the oily tiger, have got the worst of it. The three who still cling to the exchange are content to deal in 1000-barrel lots, and it is not always they can do this.

A number of ladies prominent in the charitable organizations and in society here have been successful speculators in oil, and two or three of them have been interested in some large deals. They were not regular habitues of the exchange, and were frequent visitors to the gallery, which is open to the pub. All their deals in the market have been made through brokers. When there was more activity in the market than there is at present it was a universal theme of fireside gossip. Everybody speculated in oil, from the minister down to the porter in the hotel, and it is no wonder that the ladies fell under the fascinatinating spell of the "bull ring," as the pen-like place where the deals are made on 'change is called. During exciting times in the market it has been discussed quite as much in the drawing room as in the counting room. In the system of speculating in oil the persons of small capital and no capital at all have not been overlooked, and the servant girl is given an opportunity to "take a flyer in oil" if she is so inclined. During one big whirl in the market, following the collapse of the Cherry Grove field, it was well known that a large number of servant girls lost their little bundle along with the big fellows. This was the most disastrous panic the oil country ever knew, and it marked to a great extent the end of speculating by women. So many of them lost all their money that only a limited number of them have had the courage to venture back into the speculative whirpool.

The history of one woman's speculations in the Oil City Exchange is curious. Her husband had been in business in the oil country for several years and had accumulated considerable property, in all worth about $16,000. He concluded to go West and went to several of the Western cities to look around for an investment. He had effected a sale of his property before leaving Oil City, and his wife remained behind to settle up some details, collect payments not yet due, and join him in the West, where they were to make their future home. The woman collected the money, and, doubtless, wishing to carry a pleasant surprise to her husband, she put the money into the oil market to "make a turn." The turn went the wrong way and she lost. In the hope of getting it back she made other investments, with the usual result. It was not long before she lost every dollar of the money she was to carry to her husband. It was sometime before she ventured to break the news of her folly to her husband, and this she did only after he had written repeatedly for her to come on with the money. At last she told him the story of her loss in the oil market, where she had gone in the hope of doubling their money. The husband had taken enough money with him to buy a small farm, and with this he was contented to begin the business of money-making over again, but his wife refused to share his lot until she had restored to him the money she had lost. She declined to go west, but remained in Oil City in the hope of recovering her lost fortune.

This was 10 years ago, and the woman is still a daily attendant in the gallery of the oil exchange. She has had varying luck, but has never got enough money ahead to make good the loss of her husband, or anything like it. The *Globe-Democrat* correspondent was told that in this time she has several times been reduced to the extremity of doing the work of a servant. When she would get enough money together to buy a "put" or a "call" she would again try her luck in the market. She always dresses in solemn black, and evidently has but one purpose in life—namely: to recover the money she foolishly risked in oil and restore it to her husband. There is not much likelihood that she will ever succeed. Her husband continues to urge her to abandon her self-imposed task and join him on his farm in the West, but she resolutely refuses to do so. He has made two or three trips to Oil City to prevail upon her to give up the market, but she can not be shaken from her purpose. She says she is in it for the money she lost in her life. She lives in the most frugal manner, even when making money, but the chances are remote of her ever recovering her losses. Her dealings recently have been in a small way, and she barely makes enough to support herself.

In contrast with this sad case several other women in Oil City have at different times made considerable sums of money in the market. One lady who lives on the South Side, who had money in her own right, went into the market against her husband's protest and made a snug little fortune. It is understood she has never entirely given up the pleasures of speculation and occasionally takes a "flyer." One of the successful oil companies in the Bradford field was composed entirely of ladies of Bradford and Jamestown, N. Y. This company never went into the speculative market, but attended solely to the producing part of the business. They struck a number of good wells in the Bradford field, and after that territory began to wane they came to Venango county and developed a good piece of property near Oil City.

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