

Democrat Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., July 25, 1890.

Farm Notes.

The road tax is one that should be cheerfully paid, but the farmers should insist that the amount be applied for the purpose intended. The condition of the roads largely affects the labor on a farm.

Lime is recommended for use in case of mildew in cucumbers and diseases among potatoes. Powder the lime and shake it through a sieve, being careful to distribute it thoroughly.

It is easy, says Galen Wilson, to prevent cabbage worms from injuring the plants. Just keep the crowns filled with soil. The earth does no harm to the cabbages, as the head grows up from the bottom and throws off the earth.

Sugar beets should stand from seven to nine inches apart, according to the fertility of the soil. Cultivate them flat, give them plenty of sun, stir the ground thoroughly and aim to produce beets weighing about a pound when topped and cleaned.

One man last year used on 20,000 current bushes 40 pounds of hellebore. This is at the rate of about an ounce to 23 bushes. Every bush had a little hellebore, but if there is no sign of worms only the slightest shake of the box was given in passing.

A fifteen-mile journey is an average day's work for a horse. How far does the cow travel in a poor pasture, nipping a pennyweight of grass here and there, to get her daily ration? Then she is expected to pay for it through the milk-pail, says the *Mirror and Farmer*.

While butter is cheap use all the cream and milk in cooking and upon the table that you wish. For vegetables, pie-crust, and many other uses in the culinary art cream is far ahead of butter or lard, and should be indulged in by every farmer's family.

Pear blight is very prevalent this season in sections where it has but seldom appeared before. This result is partially due to forcing the trees when young. The blighted portions should be removed after the crop is gathered. When the trees grow rapidly some other crop should be raised between the rows.

Professor Phelps, of the Storrs Exchange Station, says: "There is little doubt to-day that one of the cheapest and best ways of adding nitrogen to soils is to grow the nitrogen collectors, such as clover, alfalfa, vetch, lupines, sardella and peas, and feed them and save the manure or plow them under."

When chickens are to be caught it is best to do it after they have gone to roost. The chasing liable to ensue if one attempts to catch them during the day not only annoys the person in pursuit, but is highly injurious to the fowl. Besides all the other poultry is generally frightened, and more or less injury results from this.

Probably for general cultivation the advantages of a tap-root in drawing fertility and moisture from the subsoil will always outweigh the loss from heaving, but for persons who have soils in which clover leaves badly it may prove worth while to make an effort to reduce the taproot by using seed grown for a series of years on a damp, heavy soil rather than grown on light and sandy soil.

Bran and grain are cheap as well as milk. Store them in the cow now, that she may be in good shape to produce milk when better prices rule—we don't mean fat her, but grass alone—and such watery grass as some parts of the country are producing this season, is very poor stuff to build up the system of a cow that is a good milker. Give a little bran or grain or both, to help out—we feed bran and a little corn meal each day.

When manure is handled it is so much added to the cost; hence any labor required in preparing the food, reducing the litter before adding it to the heap, is saved when the manure is to be handled. The most disagreeable work on the farm is the handling of manure full of constalks. Manure should be decomposed, and the finer material that is added to it the quicker its reduction by decomposition.

Honey was employed by the ancients for most of the medical purposes for which sugar is now used, and especially with barley water for bronchial affections and sore throat. Its present use is almost exclusively local and for the same purpose as of old; and particularly to stimulate the mucus surface. Honey is employed in gargles to cure thrush, sore throat, etc., but its efficacy is increased by the addition of chlorate of potassium.

Mr. Samuel B. Green, in a late letter in the *Farm and Fireside*, replying to a subscriber's question whether it would be best to keep his orchard completely mulched, and if so with what material, said: "The best mulch for an orchard is a loose top soil. If an orchard is heavily mulched the roots are very likely to come to the surface and be injured if the mulch is removed. Then it is very apt to stimulate a late fall growth, which is not advantageous."

Even when overproduction lowers the price it does not pay any individual farmer to allow the yield of his crops to diminish. The term "overproduction" is not always general in its application. While such a thing as an overproduction of a certain crop may be possible yet there never has been a time when there was not a scarcity in some other direction. If the market is overstocked with one kind of product the farmer who produces several kinds of crops will not feel the effects of overproduction as severely as he who relies entirely on one crop.

Figs and Thistles.

No man can walk with God without reaching out a hand to help somebody. To be a jack of all trades is one of the easiest ways in the world to be nothing.

Until a man has been tried he will always have reason to be afraid of himself.

Religion that don't go clear through a man don't cause the devil much uneasiness.

To be able to worship God acceptably is the greatest blessing that can come to man.

When you want to see the person most to blame for your misfortunes gaze into the looking glass.

Treasures in heaven are treasures forever, but treasures on this earth are only treasures for a little while.

The man who commits sin is simply putting a halter around his neck that will some day bring him face to face with God.

If you are not making the world better, it will be worse for your having lived. No man can leave the world as he found it.

There was weeping at the grave of Lazarus, but we don't know that there was a tear shed when Methuselah was buried.

Those who have the greatest knowledge of God and enjoy most of His love are those who have had the greatest need of Him.

The angels have standing orders to throw wide open every window in heaven as soon as all the tithes are brought into the store house.—*Ram's Horn*

Important to the Farmer.

It is not likely that England will change the policy of many years standing and re-enact the Corn laws, but it is in the power of the Government to hamper greatly by untried legislation the importation of American meat products. The Continental States are all wedded to the protective policy, and it will involve no change of front on their part if they shut down utterly on the products of this country. It is true that there has been for some years next to no market for American meats on the Continent. A regard for the farmers of the West would dictate that a policy be pursued which would open that market, not close it beyond hope. But with breadstuffs it is different. In 1887 the farmers shipped abroad \$90,000,000 worth of wheat. Of this \$33,000,000 worth went to England and \$34,000,000 worth went to the Continent—to Belgium, France, Germany, Spain, Italy and the Netherlands. Will the McKinley bill be much of a boon for the Western farmer if at one blow it deprives him of a market for \$30,000,000 worth of surplus wheat? What good will cheap sugar be to him if he have no money to buy it with?

The total value of American exports in 1888 was \$633,000,000. Of this \$221,000,000 consisted of cotton. That left \$412,000,000, of which \$257,000,000, or more than half, was made up of the four items of breadstuffs, animals, meat products, with butter and cheese and tobacco. Therefore, if a commercial war comes it will be the farmers chiefly of the West who will have to stand the brunt of it. Judging from the tenor of the speeches at their meeting they are not prepared for it and in no mood for it. They are complaining of their poverty. They will hardly relish a scheme to make them poorer. They say they have not markets enough. They will not fancy being deprived of some of those still left them.

Whether the McKinley bill was or was not meant by its authors for the good of the farmer, Mr. Blaine, who is now in a position where he hears quicker than any one else the sentiment of the political and commercial world beyond the seas, perceives that if the bill were to pass it would not benefit the Western farmer, but the ryot of India, the peasant of Russia and Hungary, and the cattle-growers of the broad plains of the Argentine Republic. Having strong American feelings, he prefers that what is done be done for the good of his fellow-citizens and not for their injury and the profit of foreigners.

The building up of Chinese walls is a game that two can play it. No matter how high Major McKinley may rear his Powers of Europe can build still higher. This wall-building may amuse the architects, but where does it leave the American farmer? If he knows his interests he will side with Mr. Blaine.

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— AT THE WATCHMAN OFFICE. —

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