

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., September 19, 1890.

Farm Notes.

An old fruit grower in the New York *Tribune* says that for every dollar he spends in thinning fruit he reaps a profit of \$5. Good pay and good for the trees.

In budding, the best size of the stock is about half an inch in diameter; but with care smaller trees can be budded, and much larger ones. Special care is required, however, with stocks of unusual size, and beginners will do better by working on those of half an inch.

Cabbage plants from fall-sown seeds are thought to give earlier heads than those from spring sown. Sow the seeds toward the close of September, and winter the plants in a cold frame. These plants can be set out earlier, and they are not checked by cold weather afterward, as often happens to plants.

One of the most important items in feeding, and one that is very frequently overlooked, is regularity. Health and thrift are both promoted by feeding stock of all kinds at regular hours. All classes of stock will fret if the time passes for their meal and they do not receive it, and whenever they are fretting they are losing.

Probably the Chester Whites are as hardy as any breed, and they grow rapidly, having no superior for crossing on common stock. Cholera is due to causes and not to peculiarity of breeds, though inbreeding may impair vigor and induce the disease. Any person claiming to possess cholera-proof hogs should be mistrusted.

An old Galveston Island truck farmer says: "For cabbage, beets and cauliflower a heavy dressing of salt applied in the fall or early winter will be very valuable. Much less than one thousand pounds to the acre will do no good. The finest crop of cabbage I ever made was in the fall of 1875, immediately after the great overflow."

A pound of butter per week for each cow may make the difference between profit or loss. This difference depends on the kind of cow. It pays to use only the best. If your cows are not up to the required standard, grade up the herd with the use of thoroughbred males. Never allow a scrub bull on the farm, even if the scrub cow is given a place.

Ensilage has been the means where it is fed of doing away with that terribly provoking nuisance—long cornstalks in the manure pile. Every farmer who has tried to load manure with long cornstalks in it on a wagon will admit there is no language adequate to describe the performance and the tendency it had toward making a man lose his patience.

H. P. Hopkins, of New York, avers that every time he churns unripe cream he loses. He says: "When cream is a trifle acid it is sufficiently ripened. I prefer a concussion churn to the friction churn. White specks in butter come from coagulation of the milk, which settles to the bottom of the cans. They should be washed out properly."

In flavor, no large chestnuts and no European or Japan chestnuts, either large or small, are equal to our native small nuts if eaten raw, as they lack the sweet delicate flavor which is the standard of delicacy in nuts, and in most large nuts the skin contains such astringency, but when boiled there is but very little difference between the various sorts.

Do not look for a general-purpose sheep, advises a Western shepherd. All breeds produce wool and lambs; some excel in one point and some in the other. Decide what your location demands for a leading characteristic and then go for it. If you have a flock of coarse, rooky-bodied sheep, get a Merino buck to improve the wool, or a Southdown for early lambs.

Farmers complain of their severe work, and yet while knowing that the same amount of hay, grain or potatoes can be grown on half the land now used for the purpose, and with much less labor, they calmly keep on in the old way of getting small return from large acres. Not only can a crop be increased, but two crops can frequently be grown with profit on the same field in one season.

In France the poultry industry is recognized by the Government, and it is owing to this fact that the Houdan fowls have attained their reputation as the best table fowls. The French people are great epicures, and they have succeeded in breeding the Houdans with full, round breasts, with meat tender and juicy, and these fowls, for the same number of pounds, will dress more than any other breed.

The New York *Tribune* says that tests at the Ohio Experiment Station led to the conclusion that in very many, if not the majority of cases, neither wheat nor corn will return sufficient increase of crop to cover cost of any artificial fertilizer, at present prices of grain and fertilizers respectively. This, comments the *Indiana Farmer*, is about the result arrived at by the experimenters at Purdue.

For both potato-rot and bugs the Bordeaux mixture, containing six pounds of copper (blue vitriol) and four pounds of lime to twenty-two gallons of water, with one pound of London-purple added to each 100 gallons of the mixture, was used by the Ohio Experiment station last year, the vines being sprayed on May 27, June 26, June 29 and July 16. Blight appeared about the middle of June and did serious damage for the next six weeks on such plants as were not sprayed. The sprayed vines showed much less injury, remaining green after the others were dead, and yielded a profitable crop, while the blighted and unsprayed portion of the field was practically a failure. The tubers on the treated portions were also much more free from scab.

Senator Jones' Grab Stake.

A Thousand Dollars He Loaned a Miner Brought Him Millions.

Senator Jones, of Nevada, is one of your self-made men. He commenced life poor. But a year old when his parents came from Herefordshire, England, he has made his way to the top by dint of hard work and the exercise of considerable shrewdness. Like Senator Saunders, of Montana, who made his first ten strike out of a claim he staked out in a grave yard, Senator Jones's first streak of luck was purely accidental, as nearly all streaks of luck are.

The story goes that when Jones was in California he stumbled across a pile in the following remarkable manner: He lived in a certain county that Bret Harte made famous—Tuolumne, the voracious chronicler asserts—and during the gold excitement kept a small grocery store. He did a thriving trade; prices were high in those days in California, and after a few years Jones had amassed a few thousand dollars. Up the mountain a piece lived a solitary miner. He was poor, had the reputation of being shiftless, but despite the report was always busy.

One day he called on Jones. "Say Jones, I think I've got a bonanza in that claim of mine," said the miner. Jones smiled. He had heard these stories before. He knew how great expectations were frequently never realized. Time, labor and money were usually wasted on what looked like something rich, but what developed into snares; so Jones merely smiled.

"It's a big thing," persisted his visitor, and he proceeded to explain what the claim was and his reasons for being so sanguine. After several hours' talk the miner asked for an advance of \$1,000 with which to buy tools and food. Jones demurred. A thousand dollars was a big enough sum, saved as it had been, with much trouble and labor. But after all \$1,000 cut no figure in comparison with the profits of a good mine. Jones finally told the miner he would see what could be done.

After nightfall and the Chinamen employed in the neighborhood had taken their departure, Mr. Jones allowed the embers of his fire to die out. When satisfied no one was about he scraped away the ashes, raised the stone on which the fire was built, and weighed out the necessary gold dust to make \$1,000. These little precautions were always taken in that region, where even robbers were more plentiful than fortunes.

The tools were bought, Jones lending the money and the miner promising him one-third of the profits of the mine. For months the solitary miner labored, but he did not strike the lead. He grew wan and hollow eyed, and occasionally dropped in to see Jones. The latter had by this time abandoned all hope of ever seeing his money again.

"There's no gold up there," he would inform the exhausted miner.

"Yes there is," insisted the latter, "if I could only strike it."

Affairs were becoming desperate with the hopeful but penniless man. One day he called on Jones and, after coughing apologetically, asked for some meal and bacon. He knew he would be successful eventually with his search, but provisions were out. Jones smiled again.

"It's like throwing it in a rat hole," he cheerfully observed as he dug out a side of bacon and gathered up a sack of corn meal for his luckless partner. For four months nothing was heard of the old fellow, and Jones presumed he had either gone away or had died at his post up the gulch. Both suppositions were erroneous. The miner dashed into the store one day irradiated with joy. He had really struck his bonanza. The mine was sold for \$3,000,000, and, faithful to his promise, the honest miner gave Jones one third of it. Senator Jones's prosperity dated from that time.

A list of military sentences recently made public in Paris contains this pen alt, adjudged upon a cavalryman. "Trooper B—is sentenced to four days in the guard house for having cruelly struck his horse while it was eating hay with a pitchfork."

As to the stings of bees and wasp an English contemporary says: "These stings, though very painful, are not dangerous to a healthy person, unless in the mouth, throat or eyelid."

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Those who use nothing,—who think they need nothing,—who live on expectation, hope or some intangible nothing, will save time by passing this column by. It is not intended for them but the other fellows. We write what is here put down for the people who are mortal enough to get hungry, and in consequence of getting hungry are sensible enough to try to get what is good, pure, wholesome and necessary, at prices that don't require them to lay out all that they earn, to appease their appetites. We have been in the hunger appealing business for many, many years. We know what men want, we know what women and children desire, and we know how much better and how much more pleasant it is to reside in a community where people enjoy good health, than among dyspeptic complainers, growlers and sufferers. To have healthy people pure food must be used. We understand this, and understanding it, keep nothing but the purest of everything that can be found in the market. To satisfy the demands of the many different stomachs that we try to gratify, requires a vast variety of dainties, condiments and relishes, as well as the substantial; and knowing this there is nothing that is eatable, relishable or appetizing, that we do not keep.

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