

# Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., September 26, 1890.

## Farm Notes.

With cattle in many cases it will be more profitable to sell when grass-fed. It requires good management to graze cattle now with profit.

Times have changed on the farm as well as everywhere else, and that for successful farm husbandry the man must know why as well as how.—*Maine Farmer.*

To stake raspberries and blackberries is a needless and wasteful practice. Pinch or cut back properly, and they will support all the fruit they ought to bear without stakes. Staking is about as sensible as to prop up an overladen tree.

Experiments show that Paris green is preferable to London purple as an insecticide on peach trees. One part of Paris green to 300 parts of water is the proportion used. The London purple, though efficacious, injures the leaves of the trees.

Pear blight is less abundant in orchards where but fair growth is made than among trees forced along by strong manures. Moderate growth well ripened is the best for pears. For this reason in districts where blight abounds the trees are often grown in sod.

A good, well-kept, tasteful farm, with good buildings, handsome animals and fine crops, advertises its owner's qualities, and you conclude at once that he isn't badly depressed nor hankering to go West. The East is a pretty good place if one only thinks so.

Teach the boy to do his farm work so that it will be admired, and you give him something to think about that adds rest to his work. Teach him to be neat and tasteful in his work as in dress, and you develop valuable qualities, such as may hold him to the farm.

Professor Bailey suggests as a remedy for the entozoa that carbolic plaster be applied profusely to the tree when the dew is on. To make this powder stir one pint of crude carbolic acid in fifty pounds of land plaster, or quick lime may be slacked with the acid.

Pekin ducks reached nearly seven pounds each when 12 weeks old on some farms this season. The breed is one that is fast becoming known all over the country. As much as a pound in one week has been gained by individual ducks that were highly fed and pushed forward rapidly.

No farmer, no matter how wealthy, influential and seemingly independent, can afford to hold himself aloof from the general movement which is now manifest in agricultural communities to unite the farmers and secure for themselves a better recognition of their interests in the halls of legislation.

Jonathan Talcott says in the *New York Examiner* that his way of protecting sheep from dogs is to house them at night and let them run in pasture with a herd of hinged cattle in the daytime. He keeps no dog, and his cattle look on all dogs as enemies and make short work of them when they come near.

Whale-oil soap and carbolic acid, in quantity of one pound of soap to one ounce of acid, dissolved in five gallons of warm water, will keep the borer out of apple trees. Apply two or three times during the growth season. If the egg is already laid wash and kill the borer as soon as its work begins to appear.

Farmers who grow oats and cut the crop when the grain is in the milky stage save thrashing and handling of the grain. If oats are cut in the green condition the nutrition that would be deposited in the grain is arrested in the stalk, and the result is that the straw is not only more nutritious but more digestible. In preparing the ground for oats another season keep the above in view.

Orchard grass matures seed, but they will not come up well unless the ground is stirred so as to cover them. A good harrowing or two will suffice to do this. Stock will not eat the dry portion of the grass; indeed, they do not relish orchard after it gets old. But as fresh leaves continue to spring up from the roots, if the weather is not too dry, cattle will feed upon these. It is quite a common practice to graze orchard grass in autumn.

Cities, villages and suburban towns are giving "the shake" to fences. Of what use are they, anyhow? They cost a great deal to keep up, and, since cattle are not allowed to run at large, are of no possible use; while as to ornamental, it is ten times more ornamental, but even that has little to excuse it when neighbors are really neighbors. Let the square be a park with many houses in it, all sharing its beauties in common.

The *American Cultivator* remarks that the popular but most mistaken notion is that deep seeding is somehow a protection against winter killing by the ground heaving and thawing. Experience and observation is largely curing farmers of this delusion. A weak germ will grow near the surface, and the only advantage of putting seed wheat in deeply, and that a doubtful one, is to kill off the germs of weakened vitality, and allow only the strongest to survive.

Look over the fences. This is the season when stock at pasture is inclined to roam, seeking fresh grasses and better pasturage. It is far better to mend the fence before the stock breaks over it. Better still to have good fences that are not getting out of repair and tumbling down. Put some of that spare money into good cedar posts and wire and enjoy the pleasure of knowing the fences are all right and the stock safe in their inclosure. It will pay better than four per cent.

## The Innocent Farmer Boys.

Two Monroe township boys not being able to discover a single apple in their father's orchard took it upon themselves to counsel one of the trees to bear fruit. Accordingly they went to the corn field and secured two or three dozen small sized pumpkins and fastened them to the tree so neatly that a very sharp eye would have been deceived and have taken them for apples.

A day or so later an agent for a fruit commission house drove up to the farm, hitched his horse, and seeing no one about, started through the orchard in search of fruit. The boys saw him coming and hid behind a brush pile. When he reached the tree on which the pumpkins were hanging, he walked around it again and again, looked on the ground, shook one of the lower limbs, and then made an ineffectual attempt to climb the tree.

"Well, if that don't beat batter for buckwheat cakes I hope to strangle; I am a harmless idiot if them apples ain't as big as pumpkins."

He then carefully counted the apples, took a good long look at the tree and started for the house. The boys crossed the orchard and went down along the fence to the wood shed. When the agent came out they were busy sawing wood.

"Any fruit in your orchard, boys? I'm buying up apples, peaches, pears, anything that's good to eat."

"There ain't a apple in this hull orchard; I heard dad tell that we wouldn't get our share."

"I guess you're mistaken, young man; there's surely a few. What will you take for all the apples in the orchard?"

"There ain't any there," persisted the boys.

"Well I'll tell you what I'll do. I'll give you a dollar for what fruit I can find in the orchard."

"We hate to see you cheat yourself, mister; but as you know what you're doin' we'll take the cash."

The agent handed each of the boys fifty cents and picking up a ladder lying near by started for the tree. The boys slipped along the fence and got behind the brush pile again. The agent was already in the tree and had carefully climbed out a limb, but not until he had seized one of the pumpkins and given it a twist did he agree with the boys that there were no apples in the orchard.

"Talk about protecting the farmer," he roared; "it's the unsuspecting buyer that needs protection from their skin games. I'll get even with them infernal sun burned farmer cubs if I ruin the house."

## A Tender Association.

At his lecture on "Ministers and Preachers," Dr. Andrews told some amusing stories of ministers of the past. One about Dr. Jeter was especially good. Dr. Jeter, when he became worked up in preaching and was the most eloquent, had a habit of putting a whine into his voice which as near resembled tears in the voice as possible. Once when the tears were especially strong during a sermon the good old doctor noticed a lady weeping in the audience. As soon as the services were over he hastened to overtake the lady and ask her what part of the divine word touched her to tears.

"Twasn't that," said the lady.

"Have you had some deep affliction, losing family friends?" said the doctor.

"Twasn't that neither," said the lady.

"Well, what was it?" asked the doctor.

"Well, doctor, we had a mule, and it was a good one, too. We all liked that mule, and he died; and while you were preaching your voice sounded so much like that mule's that I couldn't help crying."

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On an average the better plan is always to sell an animal whenever it is ready. There is always more or less of a loss in feeding longer than this.

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