Democratic Watchman.

Bellefonte, Pa., March 2, 1894.

Farm Notes.

Charcoal is almost a necessity for hogs. Its cost is but little, and all that is required is to place a large piece in the pen daily, as the hogs will easily crush it for their use.

House plants become gradually covered with dust, and the leaves are unable to perform their functions. It is essential that they be washed with tepid water at least twice a week, by spraying on the plants with a bulb syringe.

Any animal will eat too much salt if deprived of it for a length of time. A little salt every day will be beneficial. If a lump of rock salt is placed where all kinds of stock can have access to it they will regulate the quantity for themselves.

The exertion required by a horse to move a load on a bad road is estimated at four times the weight he can carry on his back, but on a macadamized road he can pull ten times as much as he can carry. The difference between one horse and two heavy ones.

Fine bone meal has been fed to hogs with advantage, and ground bone is largely used for poultry. Cows have also been known to lick bone meal. It serves as an occasional offering to stock, but whether it is safe to allow it regularly has not been determined.

No kind of land should remain idle. It can be made to produce some kind of crop, or it can be improved in fertility in some manner. If useless for crops let it be given up to sheep. If this cannot be done plow it, and use lime on it, so as to enable it to become fit for cultivation in the future.

No man will be successful with pure breeds if he neglects even the scrubs. The first step to success is good management. This is necessary at all times, and must be made a duty. Many of the failures with pure breeds are due to the pay unless they are used for all that can be obtained for them.

The potash in the soil is mostly in the form of a silicate, which is not readily soluble. All other forms of potash are very soluble. When lime is added to the soil it assists in breaking up existing combinations and renders the inert matter of the soil more easily taken up by the roots of plants.

The earliest fodder crop is peas and oats, sown together, on rich land, using plenty of seed. When the seed pods of the peas begin to form the crop may be cut and cured, or the green food may be cut daily, and carried to the barnyard. A large crop can be grown on an acre, and it will be highly relished by cows and sheep.

There are many fixed customs in agriculture that seem to be handed down from generation as laws, that must always be obeyed. Progress in agriculture is retarded by these customs, and even when facts show that former methods are erroneous there is resistance to the changes which are finally forced upon the unbelieving.

Farmers who did not apply lime on their land in the fall should do so as early in the spring as possible. The advantages of lime are almost innumerable, as the beneficial results are dependent upon many circumstances. It is the cheapest of all plant foods compared with the benefits it imparts to soils and crops.

Be sure that the early sitters have a warm place for a nest. Prepare the nest first by putting in some road dust; slightly hollow it in the centre and then put on a layer of fine straw. Eleven eggs are plenty for a medium sized hen, nine for a small one. Too many eggs in a nest causes poor hatches and runty chickens.

A Holstein heifer, two years old, tested last November, produced over fourteen pounds of butter in one week. She was well bred, however, coming from a family which was noted for large yields of milk, and for individuals with good butter records. This proves the advantage of breeding from animals whose ancestors for many generations have excelled in the uses for which they were intended.

Just as soon as the ground begins to become warm rye starts in growth. It provides green food before grass makes headway, and is very valuable for early pasturage. Stock should not be turned on the rye, however, but for a short time each day, as the sudden change to the young rye may cause looseness of the bowels, and perhaps a shrinkage of the milk. The change from dry to green food should be gradual, in order to avoid loss.

Novelties in seeds are very tempting, as they offer many inducements as superior to the old and tried varieties, some farmers buying more seeds of new vegetables than of the standard sorts. The first essential to consider is the adaptability of any variety to the climate, and to determine this a test must be made, which should be done cautiously, and on a limited space. It will pay, however, to try all the new varieties by testing them, selecting the best for the purpose to be used a succeeding season.

The farmer has the advantage in growing his raw material on the farm. He converts his grain and grass into meat, milk and butter, and saves a portion of the cost in the manure. Stock raising is essential when prices for farm produce are low, and as much of the work feeding is done in the winter employment is afforded at a time when it can be profitably bestowed. The profit, however, depends on the kinds of stock used. Thousands of farmers devote their time and labor to the task of attempting to derive a profit from stock that should be sent to the butcher as unprofitable.

Starvation in Texas.

HOUSTON, Tex.—A circumstantial story of actual famine comes from Starr county, in the arid region near the Mexican border. Resolutions adopted at a public meeting held at Paisano set forth that, by reason of the drouth, 90 per cent. of all cattle, horses and sheep are dead; that no crops of any kind have been raised or harvested during the last year; that great destitution and absolute want exists, and that many are forced to subsist on roots, prickly pears, etc. Even the half putrid flesh has been taken from the carcasses of dead animals and eaten to satisfy the gnawing hunger of many of the inhabitants. Many of them, particularly the children, have scarcely sufficient clothing to cover them. The town's own resources are exhausted and aid is asked of the world in the form of money, clothing and food.

Struck a Gusher.

A Whole Ohio Neighborhood Flooded with Oil Going to Waste.

FOSTORIA.—Emerson & Steel's well on the Carter lease, drilled 50 feet in the sand early in the week without showing either oil or gas, was shot this afternoon, and its first showing was greater than any well yet drilled in this territory, throwing out oil far above the derrick for more than half an hour when it was partially controlled.

As nothing big was expected, no preparations were made for the oil, which has all been wasted and has flooded everything in the vicinity.

Couldn't Call It a Cold House.

The best perhaps of the many stories that have long been current regarding the late Lord Crewe in that society in which he was a conspicuous feature is, in the opinion of a writer in The *Speaker*, that of his remark to his sister, the first Lady Houghton, as they stood watching the fire which all but destroyed his noble ancestral home, "Well, Annabel, you have often said Crewe was a cold house, but you can't call it that now." Crewe was restored at enormous cost by its owner, and it is now one of the most beautiful houses in the world.

——The historic fresco which is to encircle the rotunda of the Capitol has stopped short. The Columbus commences the historic work and the Mexican war ends it. The artist finds that he has not enough history to complete the circle. Brumidi, the famous artist, whose handiwork adorns almost every portion of the great edifice, died and left his sketches and plans to Costaggini. The killing of Indians, making treaties with them, the battle of Lexington and Yorktown, and other prominent features of our national life were well portrayed before Brumidi died. Now Costaggini finds that he has used up all the Indians, whipped England twice, killed all of the soldiers, discovered gold in California, and exhausted himself. Scenes from the war of the rebellion won't do, for some of our people don't like them

The southern half of the country would not like to be depicted on the run, nor will the time ever come when such a scene must be painted. That period belongs in oblivion. Some one proposed a picture of driving the last spike in the Pacific Railroad, but the virtuous opponents of corporations objected, although Costaggini expressed a willingness to make a good picture of "laying zee corner-stone of ze rail." The assassinations of Lincoln and Garfield have been suggested; but those scenes must not be perpetuated in the rotunda. Poor Costaggini is short of history to go around.

——It is not uncommon for one railway to be carried across another at an elevation, but it is uncommon for one canal to cross another so. A feature of the Manchestership canal is a crossing of this kind. Where it meets the old Bridgewater canal that is lifted into an aqueduct and sent across the larger canal. But a fixed aqueduct would have interfered with the masts, if not with the smokestacks, of big ships, and, therefore a swinging span, like that of an ordinary drawbridge, was resorted to. Obviously, the stationary ends of the severed waterway needed to be, and they are, equipped with gates, which must be closed before the swinging span is opened. So when a ship is to pass, the old canal is cut in two, so to speak, and each end turned back out of the way.

——The fall of Erastus Winman from the position of supposed wealth and great influence to a prison cell is indeed a mighty one, and notwithstanding his deserving of it fills everyone with regret. The greater a man's capabilities and possibilities the greater the regret when he misuses or neglects them, and Wiman's early success proves he was a brilliant man. His fate should be a warning to the young men who believe because they have had a little success they are the most wonderful men in the World. Wiman's fall was largely due to his immoderate self confidence and his feeling of superiority over his fellow business men.

——The Scandinavian hell is freezing cold. It consists of a vast structure made of the backs and scales of serpents.

——The cruel weed catches moths by the head and strangles them. It does not release its grip until the insect is dead.

——It is claimed that in order to sleep soundly it is better to put a pillow under the feet rather than under the head.

——It is said that those in charge of a particular kind of animals grow to be like them in future.

——The tallow tree, which produces a kind of fat, is one of the most useful trees in China.

Business Notice.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

When baby was sick, we gave her Castoria,
When she was a Child, she cried for Castoria,
When she became Miss, she clung to Castoria,
When she had Children, she gave them Castoria. 38-43-2y

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