

Democratic Watchman

Belleville, Pa., Feb. 28, 1896.

Farm Notes.

—Careful examination of fruit trees, rose and berry bushes have shown the San Jose scale to have been located in many new centres, but those who have taken the trouble to look for it have, in most instances, taken the trouble to use the whale oil soap wash thoroughly, and have the pleasure of finding it effective.

The possibility of frost and hard freezing weather is not by any means over, and because there are dandelions in bloom, and the crocus and snowdrops are trying to make us believe spring is coming, it may be long in getting here and a spell of real winter come in between. Careful farmers and fruit growers are adding to the mulch and to keep the frost in the ground, and thus retard the growth likely to be made in the warm sunshine in unprotected, thawed-out, moist soil.

—Jas. Peters, Camden county, says "leached wood ashes, contain three valuable plant foods, namely, phosphoric acid, potash and lime, and besides being in themselves useful as foods they have the effect on the soil of unlocking any latent fertility it may contain.

"For the orchard loosen the soil and work the ashes in. Do not feed near to the trunk of a tree. The feeding roots are not there, but mark the shadow the tree casts at noon, and if you cannot do more feed well for three feet within that line all around."

—For a market garden a rocky soil should be avoided, as deep cultivation is necessary, and a clay subsoil is a drawback, and, unless underdrained, the land will be cold and late. The proper soil will have a sandy or gravelly bottom, and the location, if one may have a choice, will be with an eastern or southern exposure. The difference between a southern and northern exposure is often a crop a year, and because the land to the south is available earlier, and a first crop can be gotten out of the way in time to have a second follow.

—More than the usual amount of grape grafting is now in progress, and in some cases the work is being hurried so it shall all be done before the flow of sap begins. And, in spite of the pleasant weather, there must be kept in mind the possibility of severe weather to come, and there must be the protection of a heavy mulch. It is not that extreme cold will do the cion or stock harm, as both are dormant, but in the heaving of the frost the cion will be thrown out of place and the possible union hoped for will be spoiled. The heavy mulch will prevent immediate effects upon the soil of either extreme cold or a sudden rise in temperature.

The Fuller way of protecting grafts made below the surface is to place an inverted flower pot over the cion, having the bottom with the surface of the soil; fill the excavation with earth, cover with six inches of straw, then cover with about eight inches of soil. Where there is no danger from frost this protection is unnecessary.

—A question those to whom spraying is new are asking is: "Will not London purple and Paris green and arsenious acid poison the pasture under the trees sprayed with them—won't the animals feeding on the grass in sprayed orchards be affected?"

Professor Cook, of the Michigan experiment station, had a similar question asked him years ago, when spraying with poisons was a new thing to all of us, and in the main considered a "book-farming" fad. Dr. Cook was sure no harm would result, but, to have facts with which to bolster up his faith, sprayed a tree thoroughly with double strength mixture, that is, one pound of the poison to 100 gallons of water. Under one-half of the tree experimented upon was placed a thick paper large enough to collect the drippings from 72 square feet. When the drops ceased to fall the catch was analyzed and yielded the chemist for his trouble four-tenths of a grain of the poison. This amount, scattered over 72 square feet of grass, would hardly have proven injurious even to the insects hidden there.

Another experiment was with a large tree with very thick foliage, underneath which was a thick carpet of clover, blue grass and timothy just in bloom. The space upon which the spray and the drippings fell was about 16 feet square. As soon as the dripping ceased the grass, etc., under the trees was cut as close to the ground as could be, and all the poison the chemist could get from it was 2.2 grains. "Now," says Professor Cook, "as the authorities say one grain is a poisonous dose for a dog, 2 for a man, 10 for a cow and 20 for a horse, there would seem to be but small danger from pasturing our orchards during and immediately after spraying, especially as no animal would eat the sprayed grass exclusively. To test this fully I sprayed a large tree over some bright tender grass and clover, I then cut the clover close to the ground and fed it to my horse. He ate it in course of an hour, but there were no ill effects to show for it.

"I next secured three sheep and kept them until they were hungry, then put them in a pen about a recently sprayed tree, under which was a rich growth of juicy June grass and clover. The sheep soon ate the grass, but there were no ill effects from it. These experiments were repeated several times, but, although with each the spraying with a double quantity of the poison, there were never evil results."

"Thus, we have it demonstrated that the arsenites are effective against the insects, but there is no danger in their use of poisoning the fruit or the stock that may be pastured in the orchards.

Spontaneous Combustion of Hay.

An Interesting Bulletin on a Subject of Importance to Farmers.

The question of spontaneous combustion in fodder stuffs has received considerable attention from agriculturists from time to time and has been discussed in the agricultural literature of the day as supposed cases have arisen. Nearly all the supposed cases have originated where considerable quantities of clover hay have been stored, either in stacks or barns, and in nearly every case the stacks or buildings have been consumed, so it was impossible to sufficiently understand the circumstances of the cases to determine whether they were of spontaneous or incendiary origin. A recent fire, supposed to be of spontaneous origin occurred in a hay mow in one of the College barns, without damaging the barn to any great extent and without consuming very much of the hay. The following detailed account will enable the reader to form some opinion as to the origin of this fire:

In the evening of October 16th, 1895, fire was seen to be dropping from the ceiling of the cow stable underneath the east wing of the College barn. A general alarm of fire was sounded and immediately a sufficient force of men assembled to prevent the fire from breaking out. Investigation soon proved the fire to be confined to a mow of hay 18 x 23 feet and about 23 feet high which occupied a part of the wing over the cow stable mentioned. Precautions were taken to exclude all drafts of air from the hay mow by filling the holes burned through the floor over the cow stable with wet blankets and clothes, and also keeping the top of the mow covered with wet blankets. It was believed at this time that the only means of saving the whole barn from burning was to remove the mow of hay that was already on fire. Consequently openings were made in the side of the barn and the whole mow of hay, about thirty tons, was pitched out. While removing the hay, which all through the centre of the mow was smouldering and ready to burst out in flames when exposed to a draft of air, it was found necessary to keep the top of it constantly wet. Fortunately, a hose from a nearby hydrant and pails in the hands of students afforded ample means of keeping the top of the mow constantly saturated, which prevented the hay in the barn from bursting into flames, also prevented the hay that was thrown out of the mow from burning. All of the central portion of the mow was thoroughly compacted, hot and smoking. The high temperature of the hay made it decidedly uncomfortable for those who were working to save the barn from burning by removing this smouldering fodder. The continued application of water on the surface of the mow alone made this possible on account of the excessive heat. Not until all this lot of hay was removed from the barn was the danger from fire thought to be over. The floor of the barn on which this mow of hay rested is constructed of two thicknesses of wide inch boards so placed as to perfectly break joints. This floor forms the ceiling over the cow stable and is about eleven feet high. The holes burned through the floor were over the middle of the stable and not near partitions or posts. From the position of these holes burned through the floor, it would seem improbable if not impossible for the origin of the fire to have been either accidental or incendiary. The side of the barn is of matched lumber; this undoubtedly averted a serious loss by preventing anything like a draft to supply air to the hay already on fire.

There was corn fodder to the depth of about a foot at the bottom of the mow underneath the hay. The hay was second growth clover and timothy, mostly clover, quite fine, and when harvested was thought to be in unusually fine condition. The fine quality of the hay, height of the mow and the fact that nearly all of this hay was put in the mow with a horse fork and dropped from a considerable height, all were potent factors in thoroughly compressing this mow of hay. Adjoining this mow was another filled with corn fodder, the two being separated only by a cross beam and the divisions that would naturally be made by filling at different times. An examination of the pile of damaged hay after being thrown out of the barn showed that a large portion of it was so thoroughly charred that it would crumble when handled. Some of the hay had not been subjected to so great a heat and was only brown in color, but wholly unfit for stock food. The larger portion of this body of hay was subjected to so great a heat that the whole amount was nearly a total loss. It was thought to be impracticable to separate the small amount of bright hay from the damaged portion as the two were pretty thoroughly mixed in removing the hay from the barn. The insurance company paid for 23 tons at \$11.00 per ton.

For several days previous to the fire, a peculiar odor had been noticed about the barn, and a somewhat careful examination was made to ascertain its source. The result of this examination seemed to indicate that the cowen in this mow was heating but no indication of fire was seen or even suspected. This odor was

noticed not only by men working about the barn but by other persons who had occasion to pass on the leeward side with in forty or fifty rods of the barn. The odor was so strong that it was observed by many people and compared by some to that of burning grain. While positive proof as to the origin of this fire may be lacking, the circumstances are such that it seems safe to consider it of spontaneous origin.

GEO. C. WATSON.

Don'ts for Mothers.

Follow These Instructions if You Would Have Your Child Healthy.

Don't cover a child's head so that it will inhale the air of its own lungs, no matter how cold the sleeping room is. Don't allow the youngster who is "surprisingly strong upon its feet" to bear its weight long at a time, no matter how anxious the proud parent may be to show it off. Remember the danger of weakened and twisted little legs.

Don't allow smoking in the room where there is a very young or sick baby. The thoughtful father will never smoke in the same room with the children, but even the thoughtless ones should be made to realize its harmfulness in the former cases.

Don't fail to keep the children's feet dry and warmly clad in winter and wet weather, for the circulation is feeble at the extremities than elsewhere.

Don't forget that protecting the chest is also important at this season, if we would ward off troublesome colds from the little tots. And their habits of life should be regular—the meals, the hours of rest and the hour of rising should all be timed.

Don't neglect the baby's scalp. It should never be allowed to become scurfy. If it should become very dirty or scaly apply yolk of egg thoroughly with the fingers, and after leaving it on for a time wash with warm soapy water, use a fine-tooth comb very gently and then brush until thoroughly clean.

Don't forget to air the children's night garments and their bed clothes with great thoroughness every day, and to turn their day clothes inside out and hang them up to air at night, so that they will be fresh and sweet in the morning.

Trout Fry Application.

We are requested to remind the people of this neighborhood who are interested in trout fry propagation that applications for trout fry should be sent in without delay to James A. Dale, secretary of the commissioners of fisheries, York, Pa. There is a very heavy demand for trout fry this year, and as the applications have been pouring in for some time it behooves our people to act promptly. Don't wait, but give the matter your immediate attention. The low water of last summer was very disastrous to our trout streams, killing off many of the "speckled beauties" in little pools that after wards went dry, and hence there is greater necessity that the streams should be replenished.

Compulsory Education.

The attorney general has decided that the compulsory education law will go into effect with the opening of the school term next fall. This spring the assessors will get a list of all the children of school age, and the boards will then see that the act is properly enforced. The employment of attendance officers rests with the boards, and will doubtless be found necessary in Philadelphia.

—Hoax—"I hear Wigwag's little girl is blind." Joak—"Yes, but her father is quite apparent to her."

Sechler & Co.

The Preacher's Slight Mistake.

An old writer tells us that "To err is human," and he struck a weak spot in man's make-up when he wrote that truth.

A few months ago, in one of Maine's county seats, a lawyer and a clergyman were chatting together. In the course of conversation the subject of mistakes and miscalculations came up.

"Do you ever make mistakes?" asked the minister of the lawyer.

"Why, yes, sometimes," was the answer.

"I suppose you rectify them, don't you?" inquired the clergyman.

"No, not always. If it is a large mistake I correct it, but if it's a small one I let it go. How about yourself, Brother B—I suppose you sometimes make mistakes?"

"Oh, yes, sometimes," answered the minister, "but I treat them as you do. For instance, in my sermon a few Sundays ago, I said: 'The devil is the father of all lawyers,' but it was such a slight mistake that I let it go." *Leicester Journal.*

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Startling, If True.

St. PETERSBURG, February 13.—A dispatch received here to-day from Irkutsk, Siberia, says that a Siberian named Kouchnareff, who is an agent of Dr. Nansen, the Norwegian explorer, who sailed in the *Frau*, June 24, 1893, for the Arctic regions, has received information that Nansen has reached the north pole and found land there, and that he is now returning towards civilization.

—Impoverished blood causes that tired feeling. Hood's Sarsaparilla purifies, enriches and vitalizes the blood and gives vigor and vitality.

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Sechler & Co.

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SECHLER & CO'S OPEN LETTER.

Belleville, Pa., Jan. 1st, 1896.

As the Holiday Season is now over we wish to remind our friends and the public, generally, that we are well prepared to supply all demands in our line.

Almost all kinds of goods are now so low in price that a good American Dinner is within the reach of all.

While giving careful attention to securing a fine stock of fruits and luxuries we have not overlooked the every day substantial.

We have Pillsbury's "best" Minnesota Flour and the leading brands of home manufacture. Bradford Co., pure Buckwheat Flour, new kiln dried Corn Meal, extra fine sugar cured Hams, breakfast Bacon and dried Beef, white, fat, new Mackerel, rich mild Cream Cheese, genuine Maple Syrup, pure-sugar table Syrups, fine roll dairy and creamery Butter.

We have just received a lot of bright clean New York state Beans that we are selling at the low price of five cents per quart. The entire lot of twenty-two bushels will go at that price (no advance) but we can hardly get any more as good as these to sell at the same price. Don't miss them. They are fine.

One of the most satisfactory lots of goods we have to offer is our own Mince Meat. Every ounce of material in it is sound, clean and of the finest quality, nothing equal to it has ever been obtainable. Price, ten cents per pound.

It has been almost impossible to get satisfactory Oranges this season, but we have secured some fine Floridas, also some Mexican fruit that is equally as fine as the Floridas and quite reasonable in price. Our stock of Cranberries, (at 10cts per quart,) white Almeria Grapes, New York Catawbas, (2 baskets for 25cts), Lemons, Bananas, and Sweet Potatoes have received careful attention. Also Raisins, Prunes, Citron, Figs, cleaned Currants, California evaporated fruits, fine mixed table Nuts at 15cts and 20cts per pound, soft shell Almonds 20cts per pound, finest Princess paper shells at 25cts per pound, finest Java, Mocha and Rio Coffees, Extracts, Sauces, Pickles, Capers, Mushrooms, Truffles, Etc., but we cannot enumerate further.

We keep a large and well selected stock. It will pay any house-keeper to visit our store once a week. The first principle of economy is not alone in saving, but in making a good investment.

Trust you will act on the suggestion.

We remain yours very respectfully,

SECHLER & CO.

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OF BLANKETS.

NOW IS THE TIME

FOR BARGAINS.

—To-day Prices have Dropped—

on every thing in our store. We must make room for Spring stock and solicit your orders. Don't delay them.

THE LARGEST STOCK OF HORSE COLLARS IN THE COUNTY.

JAMES SCHOFIELD, BELLEVILLE, PA.

Miscellaneous Advs.

LICENSE PETITIONS.—The following petitions for License have been filed with the Clerk of the Court and will be presented at License Court the First Tuesday of March 1896.

TAXMEN LICENSE
James S. Reish, Potter Twp.
Martha Ashcroft, Philadelphia 2nd W.
Jno. M. Neubauer, Belleville South W.
D. C. Keller, Belleville South W.
Jas. Passmore, Philadelphia 2d W.
W. S. Musser, Millheim Boro.
R. O. Branch, Penn Twp.
Willis Weaver, Millheim Boro.
D. H. Rubi, Gregg Twp.
Dorsey P. Meyer, Philadelphia 2d W.
Tattersall Ingraham, Philadelphia 2d W.
Jacob D. DeHass, Howard Boro.
David L. Barges, Centre Hall Boro.
Tempest Slinger, Philadelphia 2d W.
A. S. & C. M. Gaitman, Belleville South W.
Geo. E. Lester, Philadelphia 1st W.
John A. Erb, Philadelphia 2d W.
Joseph Pickering, Philadelphia 2d W.
Geo. B. Uzzle, Snow Shoe Twp.
Edwin Ruhl, Potter Twp.
W. L. Daggett, Belleville West W.
A. Kohlbecker, Rogers Twp.
John G. Uzzle, Snow Shoe Twp.
Jeffrey Hayes, Rush Twp.
Henry C. Yeager, Belleville South W.
Jacob Truby, Philadelphia 2d W.
J. A. Gramley, Miles Twp.
Lawrence Bedding, Snow Shoe Twp.

WHOLESALE LIQUOR LICENSE.
W. R. Haynes, Snow Shoe Twp.
George E. Chandler, Philadelphia 2d W.
Orin Yall, Philadelphia 2d W.

WHOLESALE BEER LICENSE.
George E. Lamb, Philadelphia 2d W.
Samuel Rodgers, Philadelphia 2d W.
Wm. Riley, Philadelphia 2d W.
John Anderson, Belleville West W.

WHOLESALE LIQUOR AS BREWER OR MANUFACTURER
Lottis Doll, Denner Twp.

WHOLESALE LIQUOR LICENSE AS DISTILLERS.
John C. Mulhager, Spring Twp.
N. W. Ely, Haines Twp.

RESTAURANT LICENSE.
Thomas Deakin, Philadelphia 2d W.
Feb. 11, 1896. W. F. SMITH, Clerk.

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