

# Democrat Watchman

Belleville, Pa., Jan. 29, 1897.

## FARM NOTES.

—When clover and manure do not seem to improve the land then resort should be had to mineral fertilizers, which contain phosphates and potash. Lime will sometimes effect a wonderful change also and should be applied at least once in three years.

—It is not desirable to have plants start off too early in the spring, as sometimes happens when the weather becomes mild, for the reason that a cold spell may follow and damage result. The best preventive of loss is to mulch the plants, so as to keep the ground at an uniform temperature as possible.

—Grapes should be trimmed now, while the weather is cold. If they are trimmed in the spring they will bleed; that is, sap will run from the ends of the shoots that have been cut and the vines will be weakened. If cut now these ends will be healed by the time sap begins to flow and the liability of damage will be reduced.

—Permanent pastures should be sown to mixed grasses, and very early in the spring is the time. Have the top soil fine and lightly brush the seed in of the birds will get a large proportion. Do not be tempted to use the pasture for stock until a good sod has formed. Give the grass an opportunity to become well rooted and established.

—Handle the cow's teats gently these cold mornings. Many a milk has been kicked over by a gentle cow because he grabbed her teats like a pump handle when they were cold. If the teats chap or get scratched, there is nothing better than vaseline for keeping them soft and healing them. Keep a small can of it in the stable, and apply a little whenever the teats feel hard or rough.

—An ice house is a necessary adjunct to every creamery. It should be built separate from the creamery. A house 20 feet long, 16 feet wide and 10 feet high will hold about 100 tons of ice. If an abundance of very cold water is at hand less ice will be needed. It is always best, however, to have plenty of ice, and for the ordinary creamery 100 tons is a safe quantity.

—It costs only about 10 per cent. more to keep a fresh winter cow than a dry one, that is if the dry cow is kept as well as she ought to be in order to do well the following summer. Add to this that the winter milk is worth on the average 30 per cent. more than the summer milk, and we see the superior economy of making the cow do her best work at that portion of the year when it costs the most to keep her.

—Professor Plum, of Purdue University, in his work on corn culture, says he finds it satisfactory to put seed corn in the ear in common brown coffee sacks, which are hung from the rafters to cure, away from rats and mice. The essentials in preserving seed corn are to dry it thoroughly before freezing weather and to keep it away from rats and mice. Any plan that secures this will be satisfactory.

—The old wells on many farms may be regarded in the nature of an incubator. If every man that sells a farm would reserve the well and remove it with the personal property it would often be fortunate for his successor. It has always remained where it was first located. Successive owners have re-arranged the buildings but never disturbed the well. What was once a good location may now be a very poor one.

—A correspondent of an exchange says the best method of killing Canada thistles is to cut the thistle when it is in blossom, one foot or more from the ground; take one-third salt and two-thirds saltpetre, grand fine, take a pinch with finger and thumb, and place on top of each thistle stalk. After they are well withered, set the fire to the patch. The fire will go as far as the saltpetre has gone, which is known to be 10 to 12 feet deep.

—Whenever the weather becomes warm more eggs are secured from the hens. This demonstrates that warmth is very important in winter if the hens are expected to lay. In addition to a mess of corn at night the fowls should be given meat in the morning. One of the best foods for producing eggs is blood. It is mixed with cornmeal, cooked in a bag, in water, and given twice or three times a week. It can frequently be had from slaughter houses at small cost.

—Whenever farmers begin a policy of crossing different breeds of fowls there is a speedy tendency in their flocks to run out. The reason is because the cross-bred fowls are mongrels, and unless always bred to a pure breed of some kind, their progeny cannot be depended on for either of the good qualities of the varieties crossed. In all cases where crosses have been made, the males for breeding should be pure bred of the breed that seems to predominate in the first cross of chickens.

—Maryland has a law requiring the horticulturist of the State experiment station to inspect all nurseries in the State once a year, and oftener if necessary. The object is to prevent the dissemination of insect pests and diseases upon nursery stock. The law prohibits the sale of trees or plants without a certificate from the inspector, under a penalty of \$100 for each tree, vine or plant so disposed of. Infected stock must be destroyed. The law works well, and it is believed that other States will enact similar legislation.

—When cattle, horses or sheep, are fed very concentrated and nitrogenous foods they will often show a decided liking for grain straw, which if fed on alone could not be eaten in sufficient quantities to sustain life. What this fattening stock seeks in the straw is first, more of the carbonaceous element of food, and, secondly, something that will distend their stomachs while furnishing little nutrition. In this respect the domestic animals are wiser than man, who, when he can get it, overloads his stomach with indigestible food and then resorts to drugs instead of to more bulky food for relief.

—There are already very small farms where the expense of keeping two horses is greater than the profit from the land will stand. As population becomes more condensed the number of such farmers is sure to increase. With light plows suitable to be drawn by one horse a good deal of plowing may be done. If still faster plowing is desired two farmers, each working a single horse, may unite their forces. This is the way that French farmers do. And we have seen the same practice near some American cities. It is chiefly in drawing manure that the two-horse team is most essential, for it is the practice to make the manure box very large, so that two goop horses are required to draw it.

## Mystery of Genes.

The mass of superstition about jewels died out among cultured people in the seventeenth century. Half way through the eighteenth century we find the learned congratulating themselves on their escape from the thralldom. There is an old work on the subject by Camillus Leonardus that is delightful reading; the list of genes includes many we do not have to-day and others that never existed outside of the author's imagination. The aleora, for example, makes a man invisible. Then, "being held in the mouth, it allays thirst and therefore is proper for wrestlers." It is said that Milo, the famous wrestler, owed his success to the fact that he wore this stone. This stone is to be found but in one place, the intestines of a capon that has lived seven years. "When the stone has become perfect in the capon," says this old writer, "he doesn't drink." However, "it is never bigger than a large bean."

The virtues of coral are many. It keeps off ghosts, bad dreams, storms and "every incursion of wild beasts." It cures a long list of diseases. "I have it from a creditable person," says Leonardus, "and have often experienced it myself, that it will prevent infants, just born, from falling into epilepsy. Let there be put in the mouth of the child, before it has tasted anything, half a scruple of the powder of red coral and let it be swallowed; for it is a wonderful preserver."

Another curious stone of which Leonardus speaks is the bezoar, which was a "red, dusty, brittle and light stone," taken from the body of some animal, and said to be a preventive of melancholy. Queen Elizabeth had one of these stones; Charles V. had four of them.

Superstition still lingered at the time George III was crowned. One of the jewels fell from the coronation crown and the king reproved the master of ceremonies. "It was true, sir, there was some neglect," replied the unfortunate earl of Ethingham, "but I have taken care that the next coronation shall be regulated in the exactest manner possible." The falling of the jewel was taken as a bad omen and the superstitions said some had lost would befall England. Sure enough, she lost the North American colonies.

The Romans tied little bunches of coral around the necks of their children, and to this day coral necklaces and ornaments are given children. The superstition about opals is modern. No ill omen was attached to these stones before the present century. On the contrary, the ancients esteemed no stone more highly. The stone is supposed to be good for the eyesight. The opal is a treacherous stone and experts are often deceived if they buy stones before they are polished. The opal is liable to go "off color" and of a sudden become opaque and ugly. Hungary, Queensland and Mexico supply most of the opals, the best coming from Hungary. Opals are sensitive and vary in brilliance according to the temperature.

Engraved gems in the middle ages were supposed to possess all kinds of virtues. A "bird with an olive leaf in bill, cut in pyrites and set in a silver ring—having this on thy right hand, thou shalt be invited to every feast and those present shall not eat but gaze on thee." More useful from a commercial point of view is the design of a man standing on a dragon and holding a sword, set in a leaden ring, which will then all the spirits that dwell in darkness shall obey the wearer and shall reveal unto him in a low-toned song the place of hidden treasure and the mode of winning the same."

## Caught Starting a Fire.

Adolph Meyer Found Trying to Burn a Big Tenement House.

Adolph Meyer, a tailor, 39 years old, who lives with his wife and family on the second floor of a big tenement at East One Hundred and Thirteenth street, in New York, was caught by a neighbor starting a kerosene fire at the bottom of a dumbwaiter shaft in the cellar of his home recently. He was arrested by policeman Murtha, as he was trying to escape along the street, chased by the man who surprised him.

The tenement house is occupied by twenty families, four on each floor. Frederick Biddle, who lives on the third floor, went down stairs to the cellar for a pair of oaks about 9 o'clock. As he opened the cellar door, smoke, mingled with the fumes of kerosene, poured into his face. He rushed down the stairs, and, groping his way through a hall that leads from the front to the rear of the building, saw flames at the bottom of the dumbwaiter shaft that runs from the cellar to the roof along the back wall. In the glow of the flames he saw a man rushing away into the shadow of a lot of coal bins.

He gave a shout up through the hall to his brother-in-law, Albert McMullen, who was standing in the hallway, McMullen ran down in answer to his call but the man in the cellar had become alarmed, and rushing past Biddle, escaped through a back door to the street. McMullen followed the sound of Biddle's voice down to the cellar, and discovering for himself what was the matter, turned his attention to the fire.

Biddle had followed the incendiary out to the street, and, calling at the top of his voice for some one to stop him, went in hot chase after him himself. A number of passers-by joined him, but the man would have escaped had not policeman Murtha, hearing the noise, rushed to meet the fleeing man, who was so excited that he ran directly into the policeman's arms.

The prisoner was taken to the East One Hundred and Fourth street station house, where he gave his name. Neither Biddle nor McMullen, who had put out the fire and had followed, were known to him. When searched, a pint bottle that still contained some kerosene, was found upon him. He had been so excited that he had forgotten to throw it away.

Meyer confessed to Captain Moynihan that he had tried to fire the building. "I don't know what possessed me to do this," he said. "I have a good home and a good wife, and I am not in want." He told the captain that he had \$500 insurance on his furniture, and, considering the character of the building, the loss he would have sustained in a complete burning out would have been fully covered.

—How did Buffalo scenery affect you? asked the newspaper native of his visitor, who had just come in from a trolley ride on the avenues.

"I was very much impressed, was the reply. "I thought you'd be, said the native, proudly. What impressed you the most?" That fat woman who was standing on my toe most of the way down."

"Bridget, how does yer like that lady yer lives wit'?" "Lady! She's no lady. She comes out an' helps me git ther brekfuss."

## "I Pulled a Rail."

Samuel Palatka Confesses that He Caused the Cahaba Disaster.

Samuel Palatka has confessed to having caused the Cahaba bridge disaster, which occurred three weeks ago near Blocton, Ala., and in which thirty-five persons were killed.

"I pulled a rail," he said, "put it across the track and the whole business seemed to fall. There were plenty of dead folks with money—one man had \$500—but before I could get it the lives ones got up and the crowds came I skipped out then."

The wreck was caused by the removal of a rail on the middle span of the bridge. The train plunged into the shallow river, 110 feet below. It took fire after the fall and burned to the edge of the water, which was between three and four feet deep.

After the crash one or more robbers rushed to the scene and plundered the dead and dying.

This hardened criminal, a Hungarian tramp, as no individual but one schooled in crime could have carried out such a bloody deed, tells of how he accomplished his purpose to wreck the train and rob the dead, in the coolest manner and seems not to regret his action in the least. He has confessed to the deed and, should his statements prove true, speedy justice, to its fullest extent, should be meted out to this most daring and cruel of recent murderers.

The fact of this man being a foreigner is but another instance where we have admitted and harbored a man who, from his actions, has proven that he is a sample of the class that is undesirable in his native land and is dumped upon our shores to be a menace to the life and safety of American citizens. The immigration laws cannot be made too severe upon men of this character.

## Is the Militia Needed?

We see that Governor Hastings has accepted an invitation to have the Pennsylvania militia go to Washington on the occasion of the inauguration of Mr. McKinley. We would like to ask this question, does it serve any useful purpose to crown the national capital with soldiers when the chief magistrate of the republic is inducted into office? As far as we can discern there is not the least bit of good in a parade of military once every four years in Washington, and, besides, the spectacle of men marching around with guns and bayonets is quite as variance with the spirit of anti-American ideas that has begun to excite the disapprobation, we are pleased to note, of not a few persons and members of the press.

The proposition, when first announced, of sending the Pennsylvania militia to Washington on March 4th, did not meet with an outburst of approval. Never before, as far as we are aware, was so dissent expressed to the state's soldier, participating in such a pageant, and from these facts we conclude that the people are acquiring views on the matter that may result in making the present inaugural trip to Washington the last our National Guard will take.—E.P.

## Canada in a Quandary.

She Must Have Reciprocity With the United States or Press Closer to England.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18.—John Charlton, of 26 years a liberal member of the Canadian House of Commons, said to-day that Canada will attempt in the near future to obtain a treaty of reciprocity in trade with the United States, a treaty that will admit to freedom of interchange all natural products, and will cover in addition as wide a list of manufactured articles as the just equilibrium of mutual interests shall require. Mr. Charlton added that Canada is now standing at the parting of the ways. On the one hand are more friendly and business relations with the United States and the gradual closing of the gap which has been widening since 1866. On the other hand are imperial confederation, and a British system embracing the motherland and all of her colonies; improved steamship and cable service, differential duties in England in favor of the colonies, and in the colonies in favor of England, colonial representation in the imperial government, and a movement for the consolidation and unification of all scattered outposts of Britain in the world. The Canadian shall present her overtures to the government of the United States for more extended trade relations the latter will decide upon which of these ways she shall enter.

## Altoona Barber's Suicide.

ALTOONA, Pa., Jan. 19th.—Teufel, a barber of the city, attempted suicide last night by cutting his throat with a razor. At a late hour to-night he was slowly dying in great agony, with no possible hope of recovery. Teufel is 42 years of age. He has a wife, four sons and one daughter.

## Not Even That.

"Ducky?" "Whytay?" "Do you think I am making any progress in courting you?" "No; you are not even holding your own." Tableau!—From the Texas Sifter.

## A New Woman Lawyer.

Miss Sophrona Breckinridge, daughter of Colonel W. C. Breckinridge, a graduate of Wellesley college and a wonderfully bright girl was admitted to the bar of Frankfort, Ky., last week by the court of appeals.

—Three more banks, two in Kentucky and one in Minnesota, failed on Monday. No doubt they subscribed liberally to maintain the existing gold standard and their directors probably imagined at the time they were really in the financial swim.

—When Alva Adams, the new Democrat Governor of Colorado was inaugurated. He proceeded on foot to the state house and the whole affair cost the state only five dollars. There's Jacksonian simplicity for you.

—He—Can you tell me the difference between an Irishman frozen to death and a Highlander on a cold day? She—No.

—He—Well, one's kilt with the cold, and t'other's cold with the kilt.

—Hood's Pills for the liver and bowels act promptly, easily and effectively.

—Subscribe for the WATCHMAN.

## Mother McKinley Going Too.

President-elect McKinley has made his wants known relative to how he wishes to go to Washington. His mother, brother and niece will accompany him. On account of the age of his mother, Mr. McKinley has made a special request of the Pennsylvania company that the train bearing the presidential party to Washington will run on a slow schedule, in order not to have too great a strain on the old lady.

Major McKinley's escort will leave about four or five hours before the presidential train, in order that the former may arrive in Washington in time to get off the dust of travel and make a presentable appearance when they escort Major McKinley from the Ebbitt house where his quarters have been engaged.

Chairman Hanna will leave Cleveland for Washington two or three days before Major McKinley and will be on hand to ride with him to the latter's hotel. The infantry escort, the 8th regiment, will leave Canton four hours ahead of Major McKinley on a special train, while the Cleveland troop will do the same thing at Cleveland, both arriving in Washington about the same time.

Mr. McKinley's train will consist of two private cars, one of which will be used for himself and family, two sleeping cars, one baggage car, a dining car and a car for the transportation of the committee and newspaper correspondents.

## Subtle Flattery.

A certain rector in a Suffolk village, who was disliked in the parish, had a curate who was very popular, and, on his leaving, was presented with a testimonial. This excited the envious wrath of the rector, and meeting with an old lady one day, he said: "I am surprised, Mrs. Bloom, that you should have subscribed to this testimonial."

"Why, sir," said the old lady, "if you'd bin a-goin, I'd 'ave subscribed double!"—London Tit-Bits.

—There is a lady in Augusta, says the Augusta News, who has never been from under the old Confederate flag. Her name is known, but by request it is withheld. Whether walking, eating or sleeping there is always a Confederate flag over her head. While walking on the street there is always a flag in her hat; and no matter how many hats or bonnets she has, there is always to be found a flag pinned on the inside of the crown. On the headpost of her bed is securely fastened a large flag of the Confederate States. The flag is as necessary for her as three meals a day.

—Previous to the election the proprietors of the Reynoldsville wooden mill were showing a big stack of orders that had received, conditional on McKinley's election. The orders were said to be sufficient to keep the mill running day and night for months. But for some reason or other the mill has been shut down and the conditional orders is out on the road looking for business. What struck the boom?

—The advance agent of prosperity has finally gotten a move on. Last week he gave an order to a Chicago manufacturing firm for three carriages which are to cost \$5,000. They are to be finished in time for the inauguration of the advance agent aforesaid. Most people would be satisfied with one carriage costing \$100, but as McKinley has set the pace, nothing less than the \$5,000 article will likely be manufactured while the "wave of prosperity" continues.

## The Methodist Conference.

A Clearfield correspondent says the 29th session of the Central Pennsylvania Methodist Conference will convene in the Opera House Wednesday, March 17th. Bishop Nindé will preside and about 300 ministers will be present. A great number of laymen are also expected, and preparations are already being made to take care of the visitors.

—The National Defender, of Norristown, calls attention to the fact that under a Democratic tariff since July 1, 1896, 100,000 tons of pig iron have been shipped abroad from southern furnaces. By placing a high protective tariff on the raw ores, the Republicans now propose to destroy this market, thereby curtailing production and the employment of labor.

## An Explanation.

The marriage service commands that a man be faithful until death. We make this explanation because the women are accusing a man of unfaithfulness whose wife has been dead six months.

## Just What He Wanted.

Van Duder—"I want to know something, Miss Amy." Amy—"I have thought for years, Mr. Van Duder, that was just what you wanted."

—Tenderfoot—"Is Slippery Sam hanging around here nowadays?" Alkali Abe—"Naw. He was, but the mayor had him cut down yis'day mornin'."

—The Cambria iron company has declared a dividend of nine per cent. This under the much berated Wilson bill, too.

## 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.

## Alas! Poor King.

Of all the boys in the world it is difficult to point out one who is more to be pitied than the little King of Spain. He is a monarch yet a prisoner. To him freedom of the real boyish sort is a thing unknown. He is the slave of tutors and courtiers. He can do nothing without the solemn approval beforehand, of his teachers and mentors. The delight of secret raids upon the "cookie" jar is to him a thing undreamed of; he never knows the joy of pillow fighting, hockey, foot ball or any of the juvenile sports that other boys engage in, and his daily life is a dismal routine of lessons, ceremonies and debilitating flummery which veyr sound-bodied American lad would vote a heart breaking bore. The little king is a mild mannered, generous lad who is greatly beloved by those who surround him, but he chafes under the restraints and envies the freedom of his little daughter. Her mother overheard her expounding the origin of sex to her family of dolls.

## Her Version.

Our Poet, who has been known to now and then tell the truth, tells this story of his little daughter. Her mother overheard her expounding the origin of sex to her family of dolls.

## The Accommodating Doctor.

While escorting a lady home the other evening, a popular doctor attempted to relieve her cough and sore throat by giving her a lozenge. He told her to allow it to dissolve gradually in her mouth. No relief was experienced; and the doctor felt quite chagrined the next day when the lady sent him a coat button, with a note saying that he must have given her the wrong kind of lozenge, and that he might have need of this one.

## Valuable Fur.

While hunting in Mineral township, Venango county, one day recently, John Eiseleman killed a black fox, an animal generally supposed to have become extinct. It is the first of its kind seen in this part of the country for years. The hide of this animal weighed but four pounds, unskinned, and was sold to a man in Allegheny City for \$50.

## Only His Due.

Mr. Carver—Now, frens, who shall give de fust helpin ob dis turkey—huh? Mr. Cutter—I luv de gentleman on mah lef' should receive dat honah, as he wuz de las' one to leabe de henhouse, an de doctah's statistics goes to show dat he received de mos' shot.

—Major McKinley will be the third Methodist among the Presidents of the United States. There have been eight Protestant Episcopalians and six Presbyterians at the White House. The Civilian Catholics say there are 240,000,000 Catholics in the world.

—In Russia teachers are none too well paid. At a scholastic meeting some proposed the toast: "Long live our school teachers." "What on?" asked a cadaverous looking specimen, rising in his seat.

—Delaware is not one of the largest or most important States in the Union, but the Democrats there are keeping in the middle of the road in a manner that will be sure to elicit commendation.

## Schomacker Piano.

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