

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., January 10, 1908.

FARM NOTES.

—Pastures need drainage as well as the meadows.

—Farmers are becoming more interested in horticulture.

—Some one says that horticulture is the poetry of agriculture.

—The farmer's garden is one of the most profitable spots on the farm.

—A man should have cool judgment to run a gasoline engine properly.

—A pasture properly handled is one of the most profitable parts of the farm.

—Bad management teaches bad habits and lessens the value of breeding stock.

—It does not pay to have the pastures fed too closely, as that produces a thin sod.

—An acre of potatoes well cultivated is more profitable than two acres half neglected.

—No practical farmer can succeed when the entire spirit of the family is for fun and easy living.

—A thin sod in the pasture means that the grass is drawing plant food only from the soil near the surface.

—The Secretary of Agriculture Wilson says the United States has the healthiest cattle of any nation on the face of the earth.

—Kentucky blue grass and Canadian blue grass make a good mixture for pasture, as they mature at different times.

—Try barley next spring as a nurse crop for grass or clover. Those who have used it the past season are much pleased with the results.

—Alfalfa has shown this season that it will stand all kinds of weather and still make a big crop. Those who were lucky enough to have a few acres of it are preparing to sow more next spring.

—To eradicate worms, placing a lump of rock salt where the hives may lick it at will, is often useful. Oil of turpentine, one-half ounce, to be followed by the raw oil purge, will dislodge the parasites.

—It never pays to use a cheap grade of salt in butter. If you have barrel salt for table use, buy a little fine salt to be used, especially in salting the butter. Barrel salt is too coarse and dissolves too slowly to make good butter salt.

—Book wheat has been a very profitable crop this year. Quite a large acreage was sown last spring, and it is now coming in to the market. The yield is around twenty bushels per acre, and the price runs from \$1.50 to \$1.75 per hundred.

—Salt should be kept where the animals can obtain it at all times, but it should never be mixed with the feed. The animals can tell better than the owner how much salt they need and if it is mixed with the feed, there is a liability of getting too much.

—Breeding animals need an abundance of exercise. Feeding animals also need exercise, but not so much as should be given breeding animals. It is best to promote the tendency toward laziness, allowing just enough exercise to maintain the health of the body.

—The air penetrates as deep as we plow. The deeper we plow the more plant food is prepared by the action of the air and more moisture is carried in the soil to withstand droughts. Deep fall plowing then is a great rid in breaking up the compounds of the soil, in preparing plant food, in storing moisture and in warming the soil for early planting.

—An acre contains 6,272,640 square inches of surface, and an inch of rain means, therefore, the same number of cubic inches of water. A gallon contains 231 cubic inches of water, and an inch of rainfall means 29,622 gallons of water to the acre, and, as a gallon of water weighs ten pounds, the rainfall of an acre is 296,220 pounds.

—Artichokes are recommended for hog feeding by F. A. Elford, of Holmesville, Ont. He plants them the same as potatoes and roots, and the pigs harvest the crop, enough seed being left below the reach of the hogs for the next year's crop. He claims that 600 to 2000 bushels should be grown per acre. The only cultivation given is to go over the land in the spring with a spring-tooth cultivator, working the surface level.

—Professor Rane, of the New Hampshire station, recommends the American purple top rutabaga for the following reasons: It is a fine market sort, often selling in the markets for double the price of the early white turnip. It is also a splendid keeper and is usually free from all sponginess. While it cannot be planted as late as the early turnips, it can be used as a follow crop after early peas, provided the seed is sown not later than July 10th.

—A wagon left to the weather and sun is old when one year has passed. A wagon well cared for and protected is not old in five years. The cost of a new wagon will build the wagon shed. Tools left to the weather are soon out of shape, and the wood ruined. The tool shed is not so essential as the dwelling or the barn, but it is expensive to do without it. The only people who are to be excused are those who are "too poor to be economical." We have heard of them before.

—It is claimed by best authorities that an acre of apple trees in twenty years, counting ten crops of fruit to that period, will consume 1336 pounds of nitrogen, 310 pounds phosphoric acid, and 1895 pounds of potash. To restore the potash alone would require more than twenty-one tons of high grade ashes, containing five per cent, potash. How much of this does the average fruit grower return to the soil? If we were fattening a steer for market and should give it only half rations, how much profit would that steer return?

—When coarse stable manure is plowed under and there is moisture enough in the soil and manure to cause its fermentation, it immediately begins to furnish food for crops. It does this all the better in early spring, as the manure under the furrow holds it up and admits warm air from above, which is just what is required to cause active fermentation. The release of ammonia as the manure ferments enriches all the soil above it, as the constant tendency of warm air is to rise. Hence there is good reason for applying manure as a top dressing during the winter on land that is to be plowed or hoed for crops in the spring.

PATRICK HENRY.

His Pale Face and Glaring Eyes During His Great Oration.

The most overwhelming of Patrick Henry's great orations is that which he pronounced before the convention which met in St. John's church at Richmond March 23, 1775. Already the mutterings of war were so distinct that Henry, instead of concealing the facts, declared that war was even then on foot.

"We must fight!" he said. "An appeal to arms and to the God of hosts is all that is left us!"

Curiously enough, even of this oration there is no authentic record. Certain sentences, certain stirring phrases, were remembered by many who were there, but the speech as we have it is almost surely a restoration by William Wirt, himself an eloquent and brilliant orator. He supplied the gaps in what his informants repeated to him, piecing out their recollections with his own vivid fancy. But the spirit of Henry flames all through it, and to Henry may be safely ascribed such burning sentences as these:

"I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience. I know of no way of judging the future but by the past."

"Three millions of people armed in the holy cause of liberty and in such a country as that which we possess are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against us."

"Gentlemen may cry peace, peace, but there is no peace."

"Is life so dear or peace so sweet as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take, but, as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

As in the case of all orators of the very first rank, the physical impression made by Henry was as strong as the intellectual. There exists a description of his appearance while delivering this last great speech—a description that came from one who was present at the time. It tells how, when Henry rose and claimed the floor, there was an "unearthly fire burning in his eyes. He commenced somewhat calmly, but his smothered excitement began more and more to play upon his features and thrill in the tones of his voice. The tendons of his neck stood out white and rigid like whiplashes. Finally his pale face and glaring eyes became terrible to look upon." The witness of the scene who gave this vivid picture said that he himself "felt sick with excitement." When the orator had finished his speech "it seemed as if a word from him would have led to any wild explosion of violence. Men looked beside themselves."—Lyn-don Orr in Munsey's.

Discreet Silence.

An excellent piece of advice was that once given to George Gray, a young Methodist preacher, who was a mere boy when he began his work. Within a few days of the time he was fifteen and a half years old his name was on the records of an annual conference as a traveling preacher—the youngest candidate ever received in the Methodist Episcopal church. He was sent to the Barre circuit in Vermont. As he mounted his horse to set out for his appointed field of labor, a jaunt of more than 200 miles, his uncle, a Methodist of much shrewdness and humor, gave him a parting address which he never forgot and to which he often referred in later years.

"Never pretend that you know much, George," said he, looking up at the youthful rider from under his shaggy eyebrows. "For if you do so pretend the people will soon find out that you are sadly mistaken, but neither," he added after a moment's pause, "need you tell them how little you know, for this they will find out soon enough."

Strainers Made of Men's Hair.

The barber as his patron rose shook from the apron to the floor the short locks that he had clipped from the man's head, and at the same time a boy appeared, swept up the hair and placed it carefully in a large bag.

"Has it got any use?" asked the patron, with an interested and pleased smile.

"Of course it has," said the barber. "Would I save it otherwise?"

"But it is so short."

"No matter. It has its uses."

"What is it used for?" said the man.

"What will become of that short hair which I have been carrying about so long under my hat?"

"Well," said the barber, "some of it will go into mortar, some of it will stuff furniture, but most of it will be made into those fine strainers which are used to clarify the best sirups. There are no strainers equal to those woven of short human hair, and for all the hair that we barbers can supply the strainer makers keep up a steady demand."—Los Angeles Times.

HE SAW THE SIGN.

Cause of the Smashup as Told by the Old Darky Driver.

The old darky was using the railroad company for damages. The man contended that, not being warned by whistle or engine bell, he had started to drive his rig across the company's track when a shunted box car of said company crashed into his outfit, causing the death of the horse, loss of the wagon and minor injuries to himself. After the prosecution had closed its side of the case the company's lawyer called the old darky to the stand and went at him.

"Mr. Lamson," he began, "your rig was struck by the box car in full daylight, was it not?"

"I fink dar was some clouds ovahead, sub," answered the caviling witness.

"Never mind the clouds! And only a few days before this accident the railroad company had put a new sign

at that crossing?"

"Dar was a sign dar; yass, suh!"

"And didn't that sign say: 'Stop! Look! Listen?'"

"Now, dar am de whole accusation ub de trouble?" declared the darky, with animation. "If dat 'Stop' sign hadn't caught dis chille's eye jes' 's Ah war square on dat track, dar wouldn't 'a' been no smashup!"—Bohemian.

THE DEADLY UNDERTOW.

What to Do When Caught in the Treacherous Currents.

Those deadly undertows which so often prove fatal to swimmers are produced by tides and coast currents. The former only carry out at ebb tide; the latter usually zigzag along the shore.

"If you are a robust swimmer," said a professor of the art, "you can generally overcome them by quick, alert strokes. If, however, you do not at once succeed don't persevere, for this is one of the exceptions to the rule about perseverance. Stop fighting before exhaustion comes and go with the tide or current. By resting a short time, floating or swimming leisurely, you will have time to take your bearings and either make another attempt or call for assistance.

"Sometimes you will find the undertow runs parallel to the shore. You may then let yourself be carried along with the certainty that before long it will twist inshore, when a short spurt will bring you to safety."—Cassell's Journal.

—Queen Alexandra's private library is one of the most remarkable in the kingdom. Her kindness to budding and full-blown authors is as well known and genuine as her love of good works, and consequently few days pass unmarked by the arrival of a number of sumptuously bound and beautifully printed books and magazines, accompanied by requests for her Majesty's gracious acceptance. Her Majesty always accepts, and always sees that a civilly worded note of thanks is despatched to the aspiring author in return.

—Dr. O. P. Bennett, Macon, Ill., has a bunch of artichokes planted in each of his poultry yards. These make a dense shade during the summer and spring up vigorously year after year. They require no cultivation and frost does not injure them.

—Census Man—"Now, little boy, run upstairs and tell your mother I forgot to ask her when your baby brother was born."

Little Boy—"She doesn't know, sir. She was away on a visit."

—In Massachusetts the illegal sale of street railway transfers is made punishable by a fine not exceeding \$50 or imprisonment for not more than thirty days.

—The first thing the model hired man does is to wipe his feet on the door mat.

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