

Democratic Watchman.

Bellefonte, Pa., April 23, 1909.

FARM NOTES.

—Try basking the earth to kill insect life and weed seeds before you start seeds in the window box.

—Both sweet peas and vegetable peas like deep, cool soil. Plant them just as early as you can get them into the ground.

—If the horses are taken off dry feed, allowed to run to grass and work hard on hot days look out for colic. The horse that sweats freely is in good condition.

—By placing a half barrel with top and bottom removed over clumps of rhubarb will give you early pie-plant for the table. Superphosphates work best in the garden.

—Don't be in a hurry to remove the mulch from the strawberry patch. Wait until all danger of early frost is past. When you do remove rake it between the rows.

—The world's production of sugar within the last 20 years has nearly doubled. In 1887, 17,000,000,000 pounds were produced, while in 1907 32,000,000,000 pounds were placed on the market.

—Plant potatoes as early as possible for the early crop. A friend of ours in Maine writes that he put in his potatoes last year before the frost went out of the ground, and "I got a big crop and was first on the market to boot."

—New York alone has nearly 5,000,000 acres of meadow land upon which upward of 6,000,000 tons of hay are raised every year. In the United States approximately 60,000,000 tons of timothy hay are grown on about 40,000,000 acres of meadow land.

—Coburn, Agricultural Commissioner of Kansas, declares that the Kansas hens produced more money than those of Oregon, Vermont, North Dakota, New Hampshire, Florida, Colorado, Delaware, Rhode Island and nine additional States and Territories.

—Professor R. A. Moore says that painstaking in breeding corn has raised the average corn production of Wisconsin from 25 bushels per acre in 1901 to 41.2 bushels per acre in 1907. This increase is worth striving for in every State and on every farm.

—The average dairy cow is at her best between the ages of 7 and 10 years. There is a gradual increase in the milk yield up to about 7 years of age, and a slow, gradual decline after the ninth or tenth until the twelfth year. After their period of profitable milk production has passed dairy cows should be kept dry and fattened for beef.

—Do not dehorn dairy stock after the middle of March in central latitudes. As soon as green beer comes they are almost sure to lay eggs in the wounds which hatch maggots. The dehorning itself is a severe enough shock to the cow, and the ravages of maggots will almost finish the animal. Dehorn as cold weather comes on, rather than at its close.

—Start sweet potatoes in hot beds this month.

—There's a heap of satisfaction in knowing that you've done your best, even if the thing didn't "pan out" well.

—Don't be in a hurry. When ground is wet it is not good to work it.

—The first seeds to grow in the garden are weeds. Get after them early.

—It is best to prune shade trees in summer. Never leave a ragged wound. Such is likely to cause decay. Summer pruning includes fruit bearing, while winter pruning encourages a heavy growth of wood.

—To hasten germination, make the soil very fine and compact it well about the seeds for close moisture contact.

—Animals of the same variety are not alike, and scarcely any two will do equally well on the same food. Each animal's wants should be well supplied, if possible. Cattle of different ages should be separated for feeding, as the weak ones will not do well with the strong. Cows are weak and shy; it takes them longer to eat their meals and they should therefore be put where they can not be dominated by superiors in strength.

—It has been found by practical experience that properly fertilized land will continue to grow large crops of hay for many years. Professor Voorhees says that an acre of land treated with 100 pounds of sulphate of potash, 100 pounds ground bone and 50 pounds nitrate of soda, each year since 1890. This acre yielded one ton of hay in 1890. In 1908 it yielded three tons.

—State Economic Zoologist Surface, of Harrisburg, has received reports showing that the San Jose scale is working its destruction in every part of this State, and that scarcely a single tree has escaped. Yet he has proof that where intelligent spraying has been tried the pest has been checked. It would seem that ordinary self-preservation ought to be sufficient incentive to urge the orchardists to spray their trees.

—Representative Scott, of Kansas, is author of a bill which provides for Government inspection of nursery stock at points of entry to be designated by the Secretary of Agriculture. An appropriation of \$100,000 is carried by the bill, which also authorizes the Secretary to establish a quarantine against the importation or transportation in interstate commerce of diseased or infected nursery stock. The bill has been favorably acted upon by the House committee.

—It is not to be wondered that there are so many failures made in preparing turkeys for market, when it is taken into consideration the course so many breeders take in fattening their birds. It is a mistake to pen up a flock of turkeys for the purpose of fattening them. Turkeys are of a wild nature, and as soon as they are cooped begin chasing one another about and constantly worrying for freedom. They soon tire of their food, grow thin, and will, when killing time comes, weigh less than when first cooped with the expectation of fattening them.

—Carefully-conducted experiments at several different experiment stations show that an acre of rape, when grazed by pigs, will save from 1500 to 2500 pounds of grain and some cases have been reported in which the amount saved was even greater than that last mentioned. With grain at a cent a pound, as it will average now, an acre of rape, when grazed by the coming summer will be worth about \$20 when fed to pigs. The cost of producing the acre of rape and harvesting it is less than that of almost every other crop grown on the farm.

Forty Years in Iowa.

[Written especially for the WATCHMAN.]
CHAPTER IX.

A six weeks' vacation for an Iowa farmer of twenty-five years ago, and more especially of one in the prime of life, and not endowed with a surplus of this world's goods, was considered in the nature of a blessing, and he who could afford to leave his work and stand the expense, was looked upon as a favored one; as much so as the ordinary eastern man that could take a similar advantage and make a tour of the "west;" and to the Iowa, who not only appreciated the respite from care and labor, but added thereto the real enjoyment and pleasure of personal contact with friends of boyhood days, the satisfaction that came to the writer, when again on his own camp ground, can be made known to none but those of like experience, and the irksome and laborious part of the farm operations were greatly appreciated by the memory of recent associations.

During the months of September and October the Iowa farmer should be all activity. The stubble ground should all be turned over after the manure spreader has disposed of everything of the nature of fertilizer that had, during the year, accumulated about the yards, barn and straw-piles. Forty years ago the idea prevailed among the first settlers that the soil needed no replenishing, and in fact *did* produce heavily from year to year, with no fertilizing whatever and when on our arrival we hauled 125 loads of manure from about the horse stable alone, done in the process of a general clean up, were told that the crop growth would be so rank that it would fall over before maturing. To some extent and to some kinds of planting this was true, but we followed up the practice from year to year and were well repaid in increased production, and better still, the Baker farm has always been kept in a high state of cultivation and never failed to give a remunerative return. Today fertilizing is hauled and in some cases shipped from the barns in this city.

The potato crop, not a "patch" but a field, had to be taken care of before frost, not by a digging process but with a machine drawn by four horses, the steel point of which passes under the row, raising both ground and tubers above the surface and, by a sprinkling device leaves the crop scattered over the ground and the labor is in picking. If not marketed from the field the cellar or cave protects them from freezing. They are always free from dirt. If the ground is not wet they come out clean and if wet, an hour in the air pulverizes whatever clings fast.

Frost usually gets down to business about November first, when corn picking or husking begins and continues up to Christmas or later. The old way of three or more hands around one wagon has been abandoned and now each man has his own team and wagon, the latter of sufficient capacity to hold a half day's work of twenty-five to forty bushels of corn, (not corn and cobs,) and with such an outfit to every thirty or forty acres. Today, with the price at 75 cents, the old practice of having the horses on the unhusked row they are placed to one side, the workman taking two rows, working around the field as in plowing. With plenty of barn and cribroom, the old practice of using uncovered rail pens has been abandoned, yet in many places huge piles may be seen in the husking season, but marketed as soon as the field work is completed. Horses and cattle are turned into the stockfields and to the straw-piles from which they feed almost entirely, except through March, when they are yarded and fed hay and corn. Stock should not be permitted in the fields when the frost is coming out. The only cloddy ground Iowa has is when such carelessness is practiced.

The winter months are by many considered as a recess or time of leisure, but the successful farmer can always find plenty of necessary work to occupy the time, and the village store never finds him swapping yarns with neighbors or discussing the political issues of the day. This leisurely, and to some extent, not a very unpleasant way of "visiting" during the winter, has been almost entirely relegated to the past.

The telephone in the larger percentage of the farm homes enables him to converse with not only his neighbor but with all cities and towns within his territorial scope when clad not beyond his slippers and "wamons," and with the R.F. D. depositing his mail and daily paper at the door, six days out of the seven leaves the need of a spool of thread, a pound of coffee or nails, too flimsy an excuse to be gone every day, especially when his horse must be satisfied with post hay. It is not a misnomer, neither is it idle talk to say that the Iowa farmer of today is a king in his own right. With the price of every one of his products soaring almost out of sight, raising three-fourths of his own requirements, he can well afford and in some instances does sit back in his automobile and look on at the efforts of we town people striving to make both ends meet. Fortunate is the man with an Iowa farm. Getting up from the breakfast table, the morning of January 28th, 1903, a glance through the morning paper gave us, in the head lines, "Death of an aged couple within an hour," the news of the passing away of two well known Centre county people; Daniel W., and Lucinda Kliese Hall. The former was born in Bellefonte, November 7th, 1821, and the latter in Union county, October 9th, 1824.

They died at their farm home two miles south of West Union, Iowa, at 6:10 and 7:00 p. m., January 26th, 1903.

They moved west from Howard in the fall of 1864, and though living but a half

day's ride distant, no visits had ever been exchanged. An hour after reading the news of the death of these two people, who were schoolmates and associates of his parents, the writer boarded a train and was in attendance at the double funeral of the parents of nine grown children who in turn were schoolmates and had partially grown up side by side with the Baker boys and girls. A peculiar coincidence was the parallel that existed in the two families.

There were first, two boys, then two girls and again two boys. George K. Hall and Samuel W. Baker, first opened their eyes within two months of each other and the succeeding five, in each family appearing simultaneously during the following ten years.

The entire family of nine children all grown to man and womanhood were at the old home. Though in their caskets side by side, and with a lapse of thirty-nine years, the faces of uncle Dan and aunt Lucinda were still familiar and though glad to meet again it was sorrowful as the six men and women associates of younger days gathered around and shook hands with their unexpected and almost stranger

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