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TERMS.

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Lancaster Intelligencer.

TUESDAY EVENING, MAY 4, 1880.

FARM AND GARDEN.

MEETING OF AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY

Crops Reports—Essay on Poultry—Seed Potatoes—Hilling and Drilling Corn—About Tobacco, &c., &c.

PRACTICAL POLITICS.

How the Insurance System of New York is Made the Engine of Party Purposes—A Bad Showing for the Republican Leaders.

Meeting of the Agriculturists.

The Lancaster county agricultural and horticultural society met in their room in city hall, this city, yesterday afternoon, at 2 o'clock.

The following members and visitors were present:

Messrs. Joseph F. Witmer, president, Paradise; M. D. Kendig, secretary, Manor; H. M. Engle, Marietta; Frank R. Diffenderffer, city; Peter S. Reist, Lititz; Calvin Cooper, Bird-in-Hand; John C. Linville, Salisbury; Levi S. Reist, Oregon; Jacob Bollinger, Manheim; Johnson Miller, Warwick; Dr. Wm. Compton, city; J. G. Rush, Pequea; Dr. C. A. Greene, city; S. S. Rathvon, city; Wm. H. Brosius, Drumore; Elias Hershey, Paradise; J. Hoffman Hershey, East Hempfield; Israel L. Landis, East Hempfield; Peter Hershey, city; Ephraim S. Hoover, Manheim; Amos Eshleman, Paradise; Jacob B. Garber, Columbia; Jonas Buckwalter, East Lampeter; John H. Landis, Manor; James Collins, Colerain: A. D. Hostetter, Millersville; J. M. Johnston, city.

President Witmer, from the board of managers, reported that the board had held two sessions for the purpose of preparing a list of premiums for the proposed county fair, and had completed the list so far as fruits, flowers, domestic products and some other departments. The board would hold another session this afternoon and endeavor to complete the list.

The committee appointed to audit the books of ex-Treasurer Groff, reported that they had attended to their duties and found there remains a balance in Mr. Groff's hands of $68.99.

Crop Reports.

Levi S. Reist, of Oregon, Manheim township, reported that crops in general are about ten days ahead of their usual appearance at this date; wheat looks very promising; apples, cherries and peaches are uninjured and in very full bloom; pears promise a fair crop; it is too early yet to predict the condition of small fruits.

Mr. Engle never saw the wheat crop more promising than at present; grass and oats look well; it is too early as yet to form a correct estimate of the fruit crop. The apple and cherry trees are very full of blossoms, and if one-tenth of them come to perfection there will be a very full crop. The pears do not promise so well, and, as the crop last year was very large, the probability is that this year's crop would not be so fine. The rainfall for April was 2¼ inches, and for March 3 1-16.

Mr. Linville said the early planted wheat looks very rank, and is beginning to fall down, while the later planted and more backward wheat has been helped by the continued wet weather, that of earlier and stronger growth has been damaged. In his neighborhood the peach crop will be a failure, the young fruit having been killed by the frost. Many of the young cherries, also, have been killed, but there are enough left to make a good crop; there will be only a partial crop of pears. The two-year-old grass looks well; of last year's grass there is none. It is a curious fact that wherever the clover fields were closely cropped last fall the clover now looks well, while in those fields or patches where the dead grass was allowed to remain, the roots have died out.

Mr. Engle had noticed the same fact.

Johnson Miller reported that with continued favorable weather there is promise of the largest crop of wheat in Warwick ever harvested; the young clover looks well; grass is short and indicates a short crop of hay. The old clover was badly damaged by the dearth of last summer, and much of it is dead; some farmers have already planted corn; potatoes are up; fruit trees are in bloom and promise an abundant crop.

Calvin Cooper and W. L. Hershey reported favorably from their respective neighborhoods.

M. D. Kendig reported as a somewhat remarkable fact that during the cold weather of last month when ice formed to the thickness of three-quarters of an inch, young tobacco plants, with no other protection than the bristles with which they were covered, escaped injury.

Mr. Rush reported tobacco plants as small and backward in growth; they will not be fit to set out for two or three weeks hence.

Dr. C. A. Greene read an essay on poultry, as follows:

For forty years, with occasional interruptions, it has been my fortune (as boy and man) to care for poultry, and some experiences I have gathered during these years I propose now to make public for all who are interested in the matter; and for convenience sake I will arrange the facts under different heads.

1. Hens, if properly kept, are a source of profit and comfort to the owner.

2. The eggs can be increased in size and richness by proper feeding of the fowls.

3. They require a variety of food, and get excessivly fond of one kind.

4. The egg contains almost all the constituents of the human body, and hence the hen must have a variety of food to construct it.

5. No other product of animal or vegetable life contains substances exactly like the albumen and yolk of an egg.

6. The hen ceases laying when improperly fed or when in a diseased condition.

7. They require a warm, clean, properly ventilated house for winter months.

8. If by neglect vermin infest the bird roosts and house they should at once be removed, as they are deleterious to the health of these friends of man.

9. The droppings of the hens should be occasionally removed. They should not be allowed to accumulate. The floors should be covered with loam or sand.

10. As hens require a deal of water, drinking only a small quantity at a time, it should be supplied abundantly and kept clean and fresh.

11. As they require and must have, carbonate and phosphate of lime for their shells, it must be given them pure, in unstinted quantities, and in the most convenient manner for them to pick up and swallow into their crops.

12. These requirements will be found in old plastering, broken oyster shells and best of all in fresh bones, with some of the gristle and meat attached. It should be cut up on a log with a hatchet every day, the strike made by the fowls to get at it when offered them will plainly prove to you that they like and need it. The instincts of the hen in summer, with a proper range, will teach it what and where to collect the variety of food required. In winter when housed men must supply it to them.

13. As hens have no teeth, and drop their food into their craws unmasticated, in order to digest it they must have access to stones and gravel, which being swallowed takes the place of teeth in their stomach, hence they must have a liberal supply of gravel.

14. The application of sulphur sprinkled upon the fowls while roosting or otherwise with a pepper box, will destroy vermin. Coal oil applied to their roosts in small quantities will also kill parasitis. Two or three drops of whale oil, dropped occasionally on the back of a hen or any other bird will kill the lice.

15. The nests must be occasionally renewed and kept clean. Tobacco stems covered with straw is an excellent prevention of insects breeding, especially when they are setting.

16. When clucking and not needed for mothers, the quickest way to stop their chicken-raising desire is to put them in boxes or cages without anything to lay upon except the board.

17. A few fowls in separate pens are much more profitable and easier kept healthy than in larger numbers.

18. They require and must have in winter green food, such as grass, turnips, beet or cabbage leaves.

19. The temperature of a coop should not be allowed to be lower than 45 degrees in winter and should be most of the time up to 60 degrees.

20. Corn and wheat middlings, corn unground, oats, bread and other slops from the house should all be fed, changing as often as twice a week.

21. Like cows, horses and other stock harsh treatment injuries them. They like a kind master, and know his voice as quick as heard.

22. Hens should be killed when three years old, as they lay less eggs every year after the third, and besides they naturally become diseased and are not so good eating when older.

23. The sooner in the spring you commence setting the hens for the purpose of raising the chickens the better; late chickens generally fair badly.

24. Pullets rarely make good mothers; three and four-year old hens are best.

25. The best layers are the white, black and red Leghorns, and light Brahmas.

Dr. Greene also stated that black pepper sprinkled freely from a pepper-box on cabbage plants will rid them of all varieties of insects. It should be sprinkled on early in the morning while the dew is on the plants, and if one dose don't drive off the bugs give them another.

Mr. Engle's method was to kill the cabbage moth which begins to fly about this time of the year. He sometimes hires boys to kill them, paying 50 cents per hundred for them. They can be easily knocked down by switches, especially in the cool of the morning. To kill the yellow striped bug that infests cucumber wines he uses paris green, put on the vines when wet. To destroy the circulio, various devices are recommended, as the burning of coal tar under the trees, sprinkling the leaves with ashes, &c. His mode of destroying the codling moth is to scrape off the rough bark of the apple tree and wrap the trunk a short distance above the ground with bands of hay, straw or canvas. In this way great numbers of them may be caught and killed.

Donation of Books.

John H. Landis donated to the society the annual reports of the state agricultural society of Illinois for the years 1877, 1878 and 1878, and was voted the thanks of the society for the same.

Small Potatoes.

"Should potatoes be cut into small pieces for seeding?" was the question that led to a long discussion, participated in by H. M. Engle, J. G. Rush, W. H. Brosius, J. C. Linville, John H. Landis, Dr. C. A. Greene, Johnson Miller and others, a majority of whom favored raising for seed large potatoes, cut so that there should be not more than one or two eyes to each cut. On the other hand it was shown that excellent crops had been grown from small potatoes planted whole, as also from potato parings and sprouts.

Hilling and Drilling Corn.

"Which is the better way to plant corn—in hills or drills?" This question was answered by J. G. Rush of Pequea, who favored drilling in the seed in rows, the grains to be placed about 18 inches apart in the rows, and the rows three feet apart.

M. D. Kendig favored planting in hills two or tree grains to the hill, and the hills three feet apart. By this plan the field can be cultivated it both directions—cross-wise as well as length-wise, which he thought to be a great advantage to the corn and an effective mode of destroying the weeds.

Johnson Miller had always favored hill planting until, about six years ago, by way of experiment, he was induced to plant three acres drilled in rows, and alongside of it three acres planted in hill. The soil and cultivation was the same in both cases, but when he came to measure the corn he found that he had grown forty-five bushels more on the drilled than on the hilled field. He has since that time drilled in his corn and has had from ten to twelve bushels per acre more than by the old plan.

Mr. H. M. Engle favored hilling. Mr. Jacob Bollinger drilling; Levi S. Hoover, hilling; Wm. H. Brosius, drilling, especially on hill-sides, as the drill could be run across the hill-side and prevent washing; Amos Eshleman favored drilling and President Witmer hilling, and each speaker was sure his own plan was best; Mr. J. C. Linville thought that where corn was to be followed by wheat the corn stubble could be more easily plowed under when in drills than in hills.

About Tobacco.

"What proportion of tobacco should be cultivated by our farmers?" was the next question discussed.

Israel L. Landis thought that from 5 to 6 per cent of the clear farm land might be profitably devoted to tobacco, which is the best paying crop a Lancaster county farmer can cultivate. Some farmers who feed a great deal of stock can grow a still larger percentage, without interfering with other crops or running down their land. The danger is, if too much be attempted, the land may deteriorate as has been the case in the Connecticut valley, and elsewhere.

Eph. S. Hoover took much the same view.

Wm. H. Brosius thought there was not much danger of either running down the land or producing too much tobacco, the production of which has added vastly to the wealth of the county, and given good homes to hundreds of families who otherwise would not have a home.

Mr. Engle thought that while gentlemen were showing the great advantage obtained by the growers of tobacco, they ought to be able to point out some advantage, if there is any, to the user of it. Many a family is in want of bread because the husband and father spends his earnings, to gratify his taste for tobacco.

Johnson Miller thought not more than three per cent. of a farm should be devoted to tobacco; Amos Eshleman thought that two per cent. was enough.

After some further discussion Peter S. Reist moved, as the sense of this society, that not more than five per cent. of the farm should be devoted to tobacco, and the motion was agreed to.

Questions for Next Meeting.

"Does fermentation increase the nutritive properties of feed?" Referred to H M. Engle.

"At what stage of the growth of corn should the stirring of the soil cease?" Referred to Jacob Bollinger.

"What are the relative values of timothy and clover hay as feed?" Referred to Peter Hershey.

"At what period of its growth is it best to cut grass for hay?" Referred to Calvin Cooper.

Several packages of rye, oats, barley, spring wheat and cloverseed were presented to the society—the seed having been received from friends in Germany.

Amendment to By-Laws.

An amendment to the by-laws making all the officers of the society (thirteen in number) ex-officio members of the board of managers, was unanimously adopted.

The president appointed Peter S. Reist and Dr. S. S. Rathvon members of the board of managers vice Casper Hiller and Israel L. Landis, resigned.

J. C. Linville, presented to the society a few very fine Romanite apples.

Adjourned.

New York's Insurance Bureau.

Irregular Practices for Republican Profit.

New York Cor. Philadelphia Times.

There never was a better illustration of the possibilities of politics than that afforded by the Smyth developments of the current week. I presume that the country at large regards the fight between the Mutual life insurance company and Smyth as the simple outgrowth of a personal desire on the part of the insurance superintendent to feather his own nest and the very natural disinclination of the corporation to have it feathered at their expense. Nothing can be further from the fact; and when I tell you that the denouement is one of the most serious blows that the Republican party in this state has received in some time you will see that its proportions are much greater and its bearing much more significant than they would be were the quarrel simply a personal one. As a matter of fact I believe it is one of the most pronounced and vigorous blows that the Grant party in this state, and therefore in the country, has received. As near as I can get at it, Mr. Smyth, who is an extremely wide-awake, quick-witted and audacious Republican, has been of more practical service to his party during the past five years than any twenty men in the state. His faculty for organization, for manipulation of men, for the conduct and successful issue of legislation, and, above all, his faculty for raising money for campaign purposes, are not only above the average, but are really remarkable. That more or less legislation affecting great corporations is attempted at every session I need hardly tell you. Impecunious members of the city and the country look with great anxiety for the list of committees, each hoping for a good place on the committee of cities, the judiciary committee and the ways and means committee.

In those three committees centre the hopes and about them circle the fears of the managers of our railroads and our various moneyed institutions. So careful do they have to be that all of them find it necessary to employ and keep on hand experts, ex-legislators and lobbyists, who are constantly on the alert for jobs which may be neatly tucked in the belly of a bill without any exposure of the danger which their presence really implies. Experience with the Tweed ring—but why we should always stop and go no further back than the Tweed ring is one of the marvels of the age; this sort of thing has been going on ever since human society had its organization, but it is the fashion to date all corruption and all demagogism back to the era of poor old Tweed, and unconsciously I have fallen into that habit—has taught the managers of our larger corporations that it is cheaper in the long run to pay for honest legislation, for legislation which is based in equity and which conscientious lawmakers will be supposed to secure without compensation, than it is to be put in peril by legislation which may be put through by designing men for their own corrupt ends. A gentleman said to me this very morning, in speaking of the discrimination bill, that "Vanderbilt might very much better have contributed $50,000 to the Republican campaign fund, out and out, than to be put to the expense of an army of lobbyists and the annoyance, not to say illegality of influencing legislation in the ways that are common in our state capital." That bribery and corruption have been rife in Albany for years is no secret to anybody. That men have gone from their humble homes glad to get the per diem allowed by the state as a means of support is equally well known, and that they have returned after one or two sessions rubicund of face, comfortable in paunch and well lined as to pocket with bonds and real estate galore is painfully evident to the man who keeps au courant with affairs. Now what may be the very inside fact in relation to Smyth's personal honesty I eave nothing to say. He stands very well so far as I know, in that regard. Of course there are reports about him, as there are about all public men, but it is generally conceded that he is an honest man. Nevertheless that Smyth is looked upon as the raiser of great campaign funds is a certainty.

In order that you may exactly understand the pretent situation I will briefly recapitulate the points. The Mutual life insurance company has loaned upon, in round numbers, some 8,000 pieces of city property. Its assets, as you know, are $88,000,000. Of this a large, a very large, proportion, of course, is constantly loaned upon bonds and mortgages and such securities as the law permits. Now it is fair to assume that this or any other company in making loans upon real estate is careful first of all, to see that it can read the titles clear, and searches, involving large expenditures, are necessarily made by experts and lawyers, whose signatures are appended to the documents. Notwithstanding this, it is customary, once in many years, to have these searches indorsed. This was done a year or two ago, and a few weeks ago Mr. Smyth went through the literal, tangible evidence of the existence of the securities. In other words, they were all counted literally in the presence of the officers of the department. Judge, then of the amazement of the officers of the officers of the three insurance companies in this city who received the notification when they read Mr. Smyth's demand—first, that they should have these titles searched, second, that inasmuch as he was to go out of office in less than a fortnight after the date of his demand it would be necessary to have a report made in season to enable him to make his report to the Legislature, and third, that this examination should be placed in the hands of a law firm in this city, the chief which is General Arthur, the head and front of the Republican party in this state and the recognized leader of the Grant movement, not only in this state, but in the country, so far as financial manipulation is concerned, the second member being District Attorney Phelps a leading Republican lawyer and favorite Republican candidate in this city and county. That this search, if properly made, would occupy the unremitting attention of half a dozen experts during the working hours of six or seven months, involving an expenditure variously estimated at from $15,000 to $20,000, not counting the charges to be made by the firm itself, is of itself a significant fact, rendered still more significant by Smyth's saying that any report that these gentlemen would make in reference to this real estate and these titles would be accepted by him. In other words, if these gentlemen, taking the certificates already signed by Chief Justice Henry E. Davies Judge Palmer and a host of minor lawyers and attorneys, and upon those certificates should give their indorsement that the searches were satisfactory, he (Smyth) would accept it as final. In other words, again, the simple indorsement of this firm would be sufficient to compel the company to pay out this enormous amount of money. Now no one believes, and if they did they would not have the right to say so now, that General Arthur has explicitly put on record his ignorance of this Smyth movement, that the firm per se knew nothing about it. Nevertheless, the fact remains that General Arthur is looked upon as the expender of the Republican funds and Smyth is looked upon as the raiser of Republican funds; and it is at least an unfortunate coincidence that this demand should be made on the eve of a most exciting and expensive campaign. The sequel you know full well: that President Winston simply sat upon the superintendent in behalf of his own company and all the other companies of the city, exposing the charlatanry of the movement, calling the attention of the country to the illegal requests made by the officer of the law, and boldly hoisting the flag of unquenchable defiance.

I chanced to be in Albany at the time and was witness to the consternation with which the Republican leaders were seized upon the presentation of the correspondence in the Legislature. They were routed, horse, foot and dragoons, and Smyth was cursed both loud and deep. But Smyth is a man of resource and a plucky fellow, too. Pondering in the inner recesses of his mind the situation, he recalled the fact that within a few weeks the Mutual life has sold a large amount of foreclosed property, and assuming very naturally, for he had the western experience of the Connecticut Mutual in his mind, doubtless, that there had been heavy losses made by these sales he telegraphed to the president for the information, first, as to what figure represented this property in the last official report, and second, what amount was realized by the sale. It was generally believed that it would show a loss of some $200,000, instead of which the reply came back within half an hour, giving the details and showing a profit of $197,000 on the sale of foreclosed property since the first of January. Thus ends the chapter, to which a paragraph may be added in reference to General Arthur, whose condition has been positively pitiable since the publication of the correspondence. Arthur is a man beyond the ordinary, whose ambition places him in a chair in the United States Senate, who holds in the hollow of his hand the destinies, very largely, of the Republican party in this state, who thereby wields an influence through the entire country, who is regarded by his friends as the soul of honor, who never, apparently, did an unjust or a contemptible deed, but who, nevertheless, is a political leader of infinite resource, and who, necessairly, does many things as a politican which as a gentleman he might shrink from the responsibility of. That the corporations of this city and country hold the legislators of this state and other places absolutely in their grasp so long as they are honest in their intent is made clear by this attitude of the Mutual life; and nothing is more certain than that for five years to come the slightest advance toward blackmail or toward uniust and oppressive taxation, if given at once to the press and to the public, will be squelched and buried beneath a storm of positive indignation and disgust.

Samuel A. Hewitt, Monteray, Mich., writes that Dr. Thomas' Eclectric Oil cannot be beat by any medicine for coughs and colds, and for rheumatism, it works like a charm. It has been thoroughly tried in this place and is in great demand. For sale by H. B. Cochran, druggist, 137 and 139 North Queen street, Lancaster, Pa. 39

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