

Lancaster Intelligencer.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, SEPT. 14, 1881.

About Farm Experiments.

Waldo F. Bowman in Country Gentleman. I have been to some extent for twenty-five years an experimental farmer. By this I do not mean that I have had charge of an experimental farm, but I have really led a year's pass in which I have conducted some experiments, and recorded them in my farm diary. Farm experiments are not very valuable, because by them we may hope to settle some fact, but still more so to the farmer who attempts them in making him more painstaking and careful, and developing in him habits of thought and observation. If I was asked to give advice to a young farmer, which, if followed, would not only make him a better farmer, but a broader and happier man, I should advise him to conduct each year, and keep a record of your experiments.

All agricultural experiments are valuable to the man who makes them by their influence on himself, and whether they are valuable in any point or not, depends on several things: First, the experiments must be perfectly accurate. Farmers are too much given to guess-work, but this will not do in experimental farming. Everything must be accurately weighed and measured, and an account of the cost kept. Second, experiments to be valuable must be often repeated. One experiment proves nothing. The conditions of soil and season vary so greatly, that what is best one year is not best another, and a series of experiments should extend through several years as to his wet and dry, cold and hot, bad and good years. It would add largely to the value of these experiments if there could be several farmers located in different parts of a state who would undertake, under the direction of a single person, the same experiments, and repeat them for a series of years, or until the question was fully settled which of the experimenters should be chosen.

Suppose, for instance, a farmer writes to his agricultural paper that he has raised two stalks of corn in a hill in five rows and three in a hill in five rows adjoining on one side, and four stalks in a hill in five rows on the other side, and that the two stalks gave the largest yield, the statement carries little weight with it. If he says he has raised ten successive years and the result has been the same, it carries a good deal of weight. If, however, ten men in as many different localities in the state, embracing all the varieties of soil and climate, should repeat the same experiment, and the result should enable us to decide with almost absolute certainty as to whether two, three or four stalks would give the most grain. Agricultural experiments, if carried out as they should be, cost more than the ordinary farmer can afford to make, and he is likely to stimulate him to persevere in them, so long as he is alone and gets no pay for his labor.

I hope to live to see the day when in all our great states there shall be one central experimental station, and for the charge of a state secretary, or farm superintendent at the agricultural college of the state, and then a corresponding secretary in each county of the state, and the farm of this corresponding secretary made a subordinate experimental station, to carry out at least one experiment each year under the direction of the state secretary. I should insist that these corresponding secretaries be paid for their work liberally, if it was properly done, and if only a single experiment was attempted at each subordinate station, the expense would be small. A farmer could afford to carry out a single experiment for twenty-five to fifty dollars, and this amount might be taken off the speeding premiums—in most counties—and would hardly be noticed.

In time, as the subordinate stations gained experience, there could more be attempted. These corresponding secretaries should make monthly or semi-monthly crop reports through the growing season, and should make a trip through their counties when the crops are in, to see the return, and should be paid for this service a fair per diem. If the secretary of any state board of agriculture had a trusty man in each county who was pledged to obey his orders, and could send out these men just before wheat harvest or corn planting, and through the growing season, and distributing blanks, we should get from their reports better ideas of the yield and condition of crops than has ever yet been published. The experiments carried out could cover every crop, and be repeated often enough to be of great value. It may be that the plan I suggest is not the best and cheapest for agricultural experiments, but it seems to me to be so. It certainly is a great want of American agriculture, and it is one that should be met by intelligent co-operative experimental farming, and if work is to be done, the press must discuss and agitate the matter until it is brought about.

Fruit in the San Francisco Market.

The wonderful stories of California fruits and vegetables are verified at every corner—pears, peaches, nectarines, apricots, oranges, lemons, and those Lilliputian lemons, the limes; pomegranates, fresh figs, plums, cherries, red and yellow apples from Oregon, and the like. The grapes are white and purple grapes, whose bunches remind one of the old Bible illustration of the two men returning from Ebal and carrying a bunch of grapes between them; and bananas, fifty of them clinging to one stem. Everything is sold by the pound, even prairie.

LANCASTER HOUSEHOLD MARKET.

Table listing various household goods and their prices, including Butter, Eggs, Flour, and other commodities.

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CHEMISTRY AND CHEMICALS.

A Little Inside Chapter That Will Be Read With Interest by the General Public. Railroads, banks and capitalists are the great moving and controlling power of the world now, and there is a rough road, through which all that stands to enhance must pass, and many fall in the fight. Thought, study, mental and brain work, the highway to eminence, and work, thought, worrying, planning, calculating, all feed upon the brain and nervous system, and the result are Nervous Prostration, Heart Disease, Apoplexy, Paralysis, Neuritis, Nervousness, Sleepless Nights, Sick and Stomach, and a host of other ailments, dropping out of the business ranks from overwork and nervousness in some of its forms. This is the natural consequence; but if the nervous system is fed and supported in proportion to the waste and drainage made upon it, these fearful results would not be heard of.

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DR. REIGART'S OLD WINE STORE. Brandy as a Medicine. The following article was voluntarily sent to Mr. H. E. Slaymaker, Agent for Reigart's Old Wine Store, by a prominent practicing physician of this city, who has used the Brandy referred to in his regular practice, and is commended to the attention of those afflicted with Indigestion and Dyspepsia.

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