# AGRICULTURAL

NEWS, FACTS AND SUGGESTIONS. THE TEST OF THE NATIONAL WELFARE IS THE INTELLI-GENCE AND PROSPERITY OF THE FARMER

Every farmer in his annual experience discovers something of value. Write it and send it to the "Agricultural Editor of the DEMOCRAT, Bellefonte, Penn'a," that other farmers may have the benefit of it. Let communications be timely, and be sure that they are brief and well pointed.

#### Agricultural Editor's Table.

THE SPICIEST AND CRISPEST little agricultural paper we know is the Farm Journal published monthly in Philadelphia, by WILMET ATKINSON. The editor seems to have his own ideas of things generally, and has a sharp, terse way of putting them that is quite refreshing. To be brief, the paper is well edited in all its departments, and printed in firstrate style on first-rate paper, which is more than we can say of some of our more pretentious contemporaries, and as it is published at 50 cents per year, we cannot see why it should not have one hundred thousand subscribers in Pennsylvania alone-and we wish it may.

THE SEMI-WEEKLY EDITION of the New York World is a paper which commends itself to every farmer who desires to take a city paper. As a newspaper it is complete and reliable, containing the latest news on all subjects and from all sections of the world, put in the most readable shape. As a family paper it is not to be excelled, devoting a large portion of its immense sheet to select family reading of the best character. In addition to these it has a large and exceedingly well-edited Agricultural Department, at all times replete with sonable information and suggestions. It has found its way regularly to our table for years, and is among the most welcome of our newspaper visitors. Price, \$2 per year. Address, The World, 35 Park Row, New York.

## How Can we Make Farming Pay?

Socrates is credited with having said that "Agriculture is the source of health, strength, plenty and riches, and of a thousand sober delights and honest pleasures; the mistress and school of sobriety, temperance, justice, religion, and, in short, of all virtues, civil and military." While we are glad to believe that in most of this Socrates was right, we sadly fear that in the mind of the average farmer of to-day, compelled to raise money for taxes, insurance and interest, by the sale of wheat at ninety cents per bushel, corn at fifty, barley at sixty, oats at twenty, beef at four cents per pound, and pork at three, there is a tendency to skepticism as to the old gentleman's wisdom in financial matters. We believe that a majority of the farmers of Centre county would find a deal of comfort and satisfaction in the assurance that they, could in this first week of "The glad new year," sit them down, and conclusively show by the figures that their farming operations for the past year had netted them three per cent. on their investment. Surely this is not making very rapid progress towards "riches." The question with the average farmer of the period is not "Can I get rich at farming ?" but "Can I live at it ?" This is the truth, but should it be the truth? Is there any necessity for the continuance of such a state of affairs? Cannot farming be state of affairs? Cannot farming be hay, and only 300 pounds each of the made to pay, and verify the wisdom of the former, and each yielded upwards of grand old scholar and philosopher when 40 lbs. of rough tallow. Salt was he calls it the "source of riches ?" We given once a week, and occasionly a confess our inability to affirm that it tablespoonful of wood ashes. can. We have no sovereign balm to offer for the woes of the toiling, plodding offer for the woes of the toiling, plodding fed dry. farmer, who, at the close of each year. finds himself, after all his planing and finds himself, after all his planing and labor, all his sowing and reaping, but little, if any, nearer the goal of his ambition-"riches." And yet it seems to us that farming should pay. It is not requiring very much of the business which lies at the foundation of all business, and the failure of which, for a ness, and the failure of which, for a single round of seasons, would call the of rough tallow."—Practical Farmer. world to a permanent halt, to demand that it should yield a fair and remuner ative return to him who diligently pursues it. If we ask the average agricul tural writer and trader how to accom-

be better for all concerned to continue and this, in a pecuniary view, is a producing it in such quantities as to powerful argum keep it at or near that figure. Corn at fifty cen's per bushel is not good for us who have it to sell, but it is good for those who have it to buy, and if we can so manage as to produce it for twentyfive cents per bushel, it will be good for us. Can this be done? Perhaps so, perhaps not, but the point we wish to illustrate is that the difference between

profit and loss in farming depends upon our ability to reduce the cost of our crops, rather than upon increased production. It seems to us that in this, if at all, may be found the answer to our query, "How can we make farming pay ?" But we write more for the purpose of stimulating thought upon the subject than to give a didatic answer to the question. This is the farmer's leisure season, if he has any, and now is the time when the prudent and careful man is making his plans and completing his arrangements for the work of the coming years, and it is well worth while for him to consider well our question. In future numbers we shall give the thoughts of some of our leading farmers on the subject, and in the meantime shall be glad to hear from such of our readers as have given it attention

# Transplanting-Balls of Earth.

The papers are discussing the comparative merits and objections of removing trees by carrying with them large balls of earth. Allusion is made more particularly to securing large frozen balls by cutting a circular trench around the tree, and loosening and removing it when the enclosed mass of earth is frozen solid. In the application of this mode, there is not enough discrimination made between deciduous trees, there is little advantage in removing balls of earth on the roots. For large trees of this class, dig circular trench, and then, first with a hoe or a spade remove all the earth not in contact with the roots; next, with a steel rake, comb the earth carefully outwards, and throw it out of the trench. This will give a mass of partly denuded roots larger than would be practicable if all the earth were to be lifted and conveyed. But with evergreens the case is en-tirely different. Those kinds which the most difficult to transplant, are will be sure to die if the roots are denuded, and as sure to live if a good ball of earth is conveyed with them. In our own experience, as we have had occasion to remark before, such trees as the white pine and the hemlock, taken from the borders of woods, all perished if the roots were laid bare, and all lived if plenty of earth was taken, with scarcely an ex-ception out of many hundreds.-

# Meal and Hay for Fattening Live Stock.

Country Gentleman.

"An old Farmer" who has been accustomed to feed and fatten animals, has recorded a small item of practice in regard to feeding raw meal. He writes:

"My practice in fattening beef and swine, as well as feeding cows for milk, has been to use boiling water on as much meal as would not make the animal's bowels move too freely, at night and in the morning; when the mush is cool, give it to the cow or pig. In covering the meal with boiling water in this way, the starch of the grain is dissolved, and the latent nutritive properties extracted, and the animal receives the entire nutriment of the grain. I have for two years past fatted two ordinary sized cows, feeding only meal and In my "Live stock do not, in eating dry knows "who feed from 4 to 8 quarts of meal a day to one beef creature, till they feed from 7 to 10 cwt. of meal to one animal. Those farmers never slaughter an ordinary sized

## Care of Horses.

Horses need especial care this time year, with a view to having them in good plight for the plow. As a general rule farmers feed but twice a day, during winter, and it is enough, unless heavy work is demanded of them. But by the first of March they should be fed a little the third Many farmers commit a mis-here. They will work their time. take here. horses hard from the first, while still SECHLER you have are about worn out, get SECHLER LEMONS, fine new fruit. new ones. You may think it econo-my to use the old ones, but it is SECHLER Table Sauce Olives, Pickles, Her Sardines, Pickles, Her Sauce Aller Mathematical SechLER SechLER Mathematical SechLER Ma not. Rub the horses down well at night as well as in the morning. Be careful not to let the shoulders get careful not to let the shoulders get sore, when first put to work, as they frequently will if not looked after. severely.

#### A Cheap and Novel Smoke-House.

An exchange gives the following directions from a Florida corres-pondent for making a cheap and efficient smoke-house. Dig a narrow pit from twelve to eighteen inches deep, throwing the earth all one side. At the bottom of this pit dig a trench of sufficient length to hold one or two joints of stove-pipe at such an angle as will bring the end away from the pit to the surface of the ground. Over the end of the pipe set a large cask; remove both heads and bank up the earth so that no smoke can escape from the bottom. Hang the hams to be smoked on round sticks, placed across the top of the cask. Throw a cover over the sticks that will leave space enough for draught to let the smoke pass freely. Build a fire of corn-cobs or sawdust in the pit and the work is accomplished.

SAVING SEED CORN .- "To save seed corn successfully in a cold climate, you should not keep it in a warm place, or especially where it is warm but a part of the time, as there is danger that the changes of temper-ature may destroy the germinative power. Continued warmth is almost conducive to decomposition, which will destroy the life of the seed. Corn will destroy the life of the seed. Corn and similar seeds are best kept in a dry, cool room, where the tempera-ture is uniform. When your seed from the 'small pile kept over the living-room,' failed to germinate, the cause was probably due to both dampness and warmth, which incited incinient decay." incipient decay."

## TIMELY TOPICS.

Knowledge is power. It is as much so to the farmer as to any other class. Resolve that you will be an intelligent, thoroughgoing farmer ; and that you do your part towards making farming pay.

Lice which are apt to develop on stock thin in flesh soon after housing may be kept at bay by fre-quent dusting of sulphur.

"Temper the wind to every animal," says some Society-for-the-prevention-of-cruelty-to-animals man. We say keep it from them entirely.

Watering troughs should be cleaned out often, as cattle are "very par-



# Shelter for Stock.

For a permanent fodder for term of years the farmer can hardly find anything more economical than tural writer and trader how to accom-plish this, he will answer, "You must grow larger and better crops." The evident answer to this is, we already have crops too large and too good. Our crops are, and for the past year or two have been, greater, in the aggregate, production is our most serious evil, and every effort of every farmer to "grow larger and better crops" only increases it. Will it not be better for us to try and *lessen the cost of production*. Ninety cents per bushel for wheat is a discour-aging price for the farmer who raises the average amount per acre at the average expenditure, but it is a blessing to the laborer who has to pay for it with labor at seventy-five cents per day, and if we can lessen the cost of producing it to such a figure as will make ninety cents pay us a handsome profit, it will

ticular," and will often suffer from thirst a long time rather than drink filthy water, and thus retard their fattening.

Stormy days can be spent at home more profitably than elsewhere, at this season of the year, looking after the stock and occupying leisure time in reading the Agriculture Depart-ment of the DEMOGRAT, and other cord serieulture Depart good agricultural papers.

Every farmer should look about his premises and ascertain what jobs can be performed conveniently and with satisfactory advantage during the winter months. In mild weather let stones and sticks be removed from meadows and other fields.

STRAWBERRIES .- Anything which STEAWBERRIES.—Anything which will shade the ground and plants without packing heavily and closely on the plants will answer for winter protection. Light, strawy manure, if nothing better is to be had, not only gives protection, but also en-riches the soil, but the covering over the crown of the plants must be very slight or they will be smothered. Evergreen boughs, where available, give the very best winter protection to strawberry plants. FARWERS' HOME-MADE MEASURES

FARMERS' HOME-MADE MEASURES -A box 4 by 4 inches and 2½ inches deep, holds one quart. A box 2 by 8½ inches and 8 inches deep holds one and

A box 2 by 8<sup>±</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches and 8 inches deep, holds one peck. A box 16 by 16<sup>±</sup>/<sub>4</sub> inches and 8 inches deep, holds one bushel. A box 24 by 16 inches and 22 inches deep, holds one barrel. Go to work and make some during the winter leisure, and have them ready for use when needed.

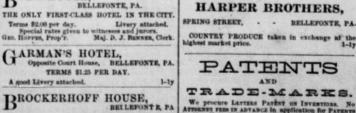
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THE following resolution was pass-ed at last meeting of the School Board: Resolved, That all persons not or regular attend-nice in the Public School are prohibited from free-mesing upon the grounds, and all those attending the school are prohibited from coming on the ground-direr the close of the sessons or during holidays. The resolution, it is existing molitady. ing area bin and a second and a second and a second and the second