

THE VIEW OF THE NATIONAL WELFARE IS THE INTELLIGENT 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.

A BILL extending the act exempting the State and certain County agricultural societies from taxation, to all the counties of the State, has passed the house at Harrisburg on second reading.

A BILL has been introduced into the House of Representatives, at Harrisburg, authorizing the Board of Agriculture to offer a bounty of one cent per pound upon the best sugar manufactured in the State from Pennsylvania beets during the coming ten years, provided the amount so paid shall not exceed \$10,000 per year. This is a move in the right direction—a subsidy we approve of. We hope it will pass.

AFTER a long and spirited debate the house, last week, voted down with considerable emphasis, a bill to prevent stock of all kinds from running at large in this commonwealth. The discussion of the merits and demerits of the bill furnished opportunity for the display of a good deal of demagoguery on the part of a large number of alleged agricultural statesmen.

A COMMISSION on beet sugar in Delaware, appointed two years since, has made a report, and recommends State aid toward the erection of a manufactory. In pursuance of their investigations they have offered three prizes for the best crops, and the first has been awarded to a crop in Kent county, which indicated a sugar-yield of nearly seven thousand pounds per acre. Seven thousand pounds of sugar at, say five cents per pound, would pay somewhat better than fifteen hundred pounds of wheat at one and one-half cents per pound, and yet wheat-growing has not asked for "State aid." There's a little too much "indication" about this.

The dread cattle plague, pleuropneumonia, has invaded our neighboring state, New York, but, on the authority of Secretary Harrison, of the State Agricultural Society, is confined to Staten Island and Kings county. On Thursday last Secretary Harrison and a deputation of Assemblymen waited upon Gov. Robinson in reference to the matter, urging prompt action. The Governor at once "issued an order to Dr. Law, of Cornell University, who has given the disease of cattle special attention, to proceed at once to those points, and after a thorough examination report without delay what steps are necessary to arrest the disease. Senator Pierce was likewise directed to communicate with the Board of Health of Brooklyn to render all needful assistance to Dr. Law in the prosecution of his mission. Chapter 134 of the laws of 1878 gives the Governor power to call upon sheriffs and their assistants and police force wherever it is necessary to break up the disease."

Cultivating Wheat.

Spring approaches rapidly, and we are anxious that the experiment of harrowing wheat should be tried by a large number of Centre county farmers. We shall refer to the subject more at length before the season arrives, but in the meantime should like to have our friends think carefully over the following:

WHY DOES MAIZE YIELD TWICE AS MUCH AS WHEAT?—Referring to a discussion upon this topic in the American Cultivator, Professor Beal says: "The two crops are not treated with equal fairness. The wheat is usually sown (when it yields fifteen bushels to the acre) and allowed to struggle with weeds and a baked soil, while the Indian corn, if we consider workings in both directions, is cultivated from four to six times during its early growth.

Give wheat good cultivation after the plants come up, and we all know by numerous experiments that the yield is very greatly increased. Perhaps Mr. Harris has never seen the experiment tried of planting Indian corn and then allowing it to fight its

own way with grass and weeds, with no hoeing by hand or by horse. In Michigan we have tried this valuable experiment on corn whether by design or shiftlessness it does not matter. The result on the maize was amazing, and far from gratifying. I have not seen the crops measured, but I am certain in some cases there could not have been fifteen bushels of shelled corn to the acre."

Butler to Lecture.

From the New York World. General Butler is soon to lecture to the members of the Granges of Centre county, Pa.

That may be a good and profitable thing for General Butler, but it will be a little hard on the Grangers.

Winter Care of Sheep.

Correspondence of Country Gentleman.

Sheep are, in my experience, the best stock a farmer can keep, considering the amount of labor needed in taking care of them. There is no stock that needs every day the careful eye of the owner, more than sheep, and the better they are kept, and the more care used in watching over them, the better they will pay. I am well satisfied that if there is any profit in keeping stock, it must pay to keep them well. Sheep husbandry has the advantage over dairying of making no extra work for the farmer's wife, and this I consider an advantage of great importance, for as a rule (and there are very few exceptions) farmers' wives have all, and frequently more than they can do well, under the most favorable circumstances.

I have wintered sheep on hay (in fact this was my practice previous to last winter) giving them a little grain in spring at lambing time, but this course, although increasing the milk for the lambs, generally started the wool on the sheep, which often lost all from the belly before shearing time, thereby taking away a large percentage of the profits. Last winter I had thirty sheep, and concluding to make a new department in sheep feeding, I began feeding corn when first shut up, giving them four quarts daily, scattering it in troughs so that all could get some, continuing with this quantity until the first of February, when I doubled it, giving eight quarts, which was their daily ration up to lambing, when I gave sixteen quarts, being a trifle over one pint to each sheep. They had during the whole time as much hay as they would eat in the morning and at night, and they had also about twice a week a feed of either pine or hemlock boughs, generally hemlock, as the sheep seemed to prefer it. They were salted regularly, and had all the water they would drink, the quantity being from six to eight pails daily. These sheep wintered better than any I ever had before, bringing large and very strong lambs, and were covered with a heavy fleece of wool and holding it well until shearing, and were in all respects very profitable.

I now have a flock of forty-eight, and feeding (on account of scarcity of hay) more grain and less hay than last winter. I am giving them hay in the morning, and at night eight quarts of feed, (wheat, bran and corn meal mixed) and as much oats in the sheaf as they will eat clean. But although they are doing well, I can perceive no improvement over last winter's feeding. I think although cattle may be wintered on meal, that sheep really need either hay or straw, as their appetites crave. If fed straw they would need more grain than if fed hay. If I were living where I could not get either pine or hemlock, I would raise ruta bagas for an occasional feed. They can be grown very cheaply with proper care, and I may some time give my method of growing them, as I now raise some quantity of them for feeding my cattle. I give the sheep about one quart each every two or three days, according to the quantity on hand.

Milk for Fattening Fowls.

From the Poultry Yard.

To enable one to fatten fowls or chicks quickly, it is absolutely necessary to give such food as will accomplish the purpose best, and to this end we unhesitatingly recommend plenty of milk in any state, from fresh to thick. This should be fed in connection with a grain diet, for one counteracts any possible deleterious influence of the other. If kept in a darkened place and fed unsparingly on milk, with grain in proper proportions, you will soon have something very choice to offer up on your tables to your friends, as well as to your family. When milk is fed no water is required for fattening fowls.

Two Foolish Farmers.

At an expense of \$60 to the people, besides his own lawyer's fees, a farmer of Jones county, Ia., has recovered 1 cent from a man he sued for fourteen fence rails, worth 10 cents each.

A farmer from Springfield, Ia., went to Cedar Rapids, got into a state of ebullient inebriety and sold his \$250 horse for \$62, which, however, made no difference, for on the road home he was robbed of his money.

The Farm a Machine—The Farmer a Manufacturer.

This caption will be familiar to those who have attended lectures by Prof. Stockbridge. Starting out with this statement, the Professor illustrates it about as follows: You own a machine in the form of land. Into this machine you put a stated amount of stock in the form of plant food, out of which you propose with the help of Nature and your own labor combined to manufacture corn or potatoes or grass as the case may be. In other words, if your machine, the soil, is not burnt up by the scorching sun in the absence of rain, or washed away by too much rain; in short, if the conditions are those of an average season, you will get out of your machine valuable products in proportion as you supplied the necessary stock in the shape of plant food, and faithfully applied your own labor. Yet there is one great advantage which this machine—a farm—has over all others; it only requires that its fortunate owner shall supply from one to five per cent. of the stock necessary for the production of a product like corn, for example, while the balance, ninety-five to ninety-nine per cent., it will generously secure for its owner from the air and sky above and around it. It works for its owner night and day; it never tires; it only says, attend to me skillfully, and I will return for every five per cent. of stock you supply one hundred per cent. of the richest or rarest or most delicious of earth's products.

THE FARMER AS A MANUFACTURER.

A wonderful machine surely, but what of the farmer as a manufacturer? And upon this point we cannot do better than to quote the words of Dr. Sturtevant in the Scientific Farmer for September: "It is here that the idea of manufacture comes in. One farmer will, through the use of machinery, and the best methods, cultivate and harvest cheaper than another, and, through the quality of his harvest, or his own skill, obtain the highest market rates; while another farmer will act so expensively as to have little surplus. It is this difference of skill in the farmer as a manufacturer which causes the different ideas of profit which prevail.

"The farmer who sells the accumulated fertility of his land without thought of replacement is in the condition of the mill-owner who divides his surplus capital as dividend; it may be proper, it may be advisable; but it decreases the future value of the shares.

"The farmer who raises crops smaller than his opportunities admit of is in the condition of the manufacturer who does not use all his capital in his business, but keeps a portion idle in the bank; with this exception, however, that a bank-deposit brings credit, while the deposit left in the soil is neither earning dividends nor bringing credit to the farmer.

"How, then, must the farmer manufacture? In the first place, he has the natural fertility of his soil, as the mill has its water-privilege. Next, he must look out for the wastes of the farm; the getting the most manure from the cattle fed that a judicious knowledge of food and animal growth will allow; the purchase of additional fertilizer if necessary, and of the quality best adapted to the uses for which it is to be applied. Next, he must obtain the most work from his men and machinery, and must apply the labor at the right time and in the proper manner. He must combine all his resources in the best way to accomplish his results,—the best of seed, sufficiency of fertilizer or manure, and the right quantity of labor.

The farmer then has four things to bear in mind: first, to keep his machine, the farm, in good condition; second, to get the most from it, but at the same time to supply it with plant food, in the right form, in proportion to the crops removed; third, to take good care of the growing crops while in the process of manufacture; and, fourth, to sell them to the best advantage. Looking at it in this light, is not the farmer a manufacturer, and his farm a wonderful machine.

Dunghill Fowls.

Correspondence of Practical Farmer. A great many farmers know little or nothing about the more valuable qualities and traits of the improved breeds of poultry. And this is the reason they consider the dunghill fowls to be good enough on the farm. My opinion is that this is a great mistake. No sort of live stock is good enough for the farmer, now-a-days, that is not of the best quality. It costs no more to feed prime poultry, per head, than it does to keep scrubs alive. Many farmers who adhere to the worn-out dunghill fowls that their grandfathers had around the homestead, throw away more grain every year upon a given number of these dunghill stock, than would liberally feed the same number of Cochins, Leghorns, or Poles. A flock of any kind of pure bred fowls, evenly plumed, is a beautiful sight upon any farm. You can purchase a trio for a small outlay, of any variety you may choose, and in one year you can have a handsome flock of thrifty poultry that will give satisfaction and pay liberally for their

keeping, and at the same time you need not be ashamed to show them to city or country friends when they call upon you.

Keeping Potatoes.

The Litchfield Independent says that during a recent cold spell a gentleman "tried an experiment in preserving his cellar vegetables from frost. He simply placed a tub half full of water in the cellar and arranged his apple and potato barrels around it. During one night ice formed in the tub to the thickness of three-fourths of an inch, while the apples and potatoes were not hurt. The philosophical explanation of the fact is that the water absorbs the frost that otherwise would attack the vegetable." This is hardly the philosophical explanation of the phenomenon, since a scientific man would hardly speak of the "absorption of frost." The physical fact to which the preservation of the vegetables was due is that when a liquid is converted into a solid, as water into ice, its "latent heat" is set free to a certain extent and becomes measurable by a thermometer, and in the instance given it went to the potatoes.

HORSES doing little or nothing should be fed sparingly on grain. One bushel of cut straw and two quarts of meal is equivalent to good timothy hay, and horses lying idle will hold their own on good hay. A week or two before working time commences increase the feed and they will be more benefited than when kept filled with stimulating and fever-producing food.

WHAT all agriculture requires, is the thinking farmer,—he who will accept facts, and accept his own reasoning thereon; who is never satisfied with his present knowledge, but is ever reaching after more; who holds on to success, and learns from failure.

It is time now to set hens for early chickens. Where it can be done the best place to set them is on a cellar floor, but the hens must be allowed to go out of doors for exercise and dust bath when they come out for these purposes.

NINE TENTHS of all losses of young stock that occur during the winter are animals that are in low flesh at the beginning of cold weather. Nothing affords a more perfect protection from cold than a good supply of fat.

NO FARMER can hope to keep up to the times—and he must do this to be successful—if he neglects to read some good agricultural paper.

Advertisement for Harry K. Hicks, Hardware, Paints and Stoves, located at 1879 The Patriot. The ad lists various goods like hardware, saddlery, oils, and stoves, and offers them at bottom prices. It also includes information about the Patriot newspaper and a list of items like boots, shoes, hats, and caps.

Advertisement for Wilson, McFarlane & Co., Dealers in Stoves and Ranges, Paints, Oils, Glass, Rakes, Forks, Cradles & Scythes. They are sole agents for Johnson's Kalsomine.

Advertisement for Bellefonte & Snow Shoe, listing train schedules and arrival/departure times for various routes.

Advertisement for Bald Eagle Valley Railroad, listing train schedules and arrival/departure times for various routes.

Advertisement for Pennsylvania Railroad, listing train schedules and arrival/departure times for various routes.

Advertisement for Harper Brothers, listing various goods like boots, shoes, hats, caps, and clothing, and offering them at bottom prices.

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