

THE TEST OF THE NATIONAL WELFARE IS THE INTELLIGENCE 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, Belleville, Penna., that other farmers may have the benefit of it. Let communications be timely, and be sure that they are brief and well pointed.

Notes of our Contemporaries.

The Poultry World for March is fresh and vigorous, and contains much matter of the greatest value to every ordinary farmer.

For terseness and crispness the Farm Journal exceeds all the agricultural periodicals. Always wide-awake, sometimes erratic, and generally speaking, a very good thing to have in the house and read.

We have long been admirers of the American Agriculturist, and our admiration grows as it advances in years. Its epitome of the report of the Massachusetts Agricultural College Experiment Station is well worth the careful perusal of every thinking farmer.

Good words for the Scientific Farmer, are "like apples of gold on trees of silver" because they are always "fitly spoken." The number for March is before us, and, as usual, is filled with agricultural wisdom and knowledge, which are only synonyms for agricultural science. We gladly avail ourselves of the privilege of transferring some of its good things to our columns.

To every farmer the World is worth many times its cost as an agricultural paper, to say nothing of its many other valuable features. Its agricultural department is under the special management of an experienced editor, with a large corps of special contributors. It is thoroughly practical, wide-awake and progressive, and keeps its farmer readers promptly advised of all improvements in which they are interested. No farmer can afford to be without it.

One of the prominent features of the Rural New Yorker, peculiar to it alone, so far as our observation extends, is the devoting an entire number, now and then, to some special seasonable subject. Last week's issue, for instance, was devoted entirely to corn, and contains, besides a column of "Brevities," another of "Receipts for Cooking Corn," and five illustrations, all pertaining to the subject, no less than twenty-one separate and distinct articles all of which were prepared expressly for this "Corn number," by such writers as Dr. Sturtevant, Professor Roberts, Conrad Wilson, L. S. Hardin, Col. Curtis, Henry Stewart, and others equally capable. We shall give our readers an idea of their excellence by quoting paragraphs from some of them between this and corn-planting.

Mules vs. Horses.

We observe that some of our contemporaries are passing around the periodical paragraph about the superiority of mules for farm purposes. For their edification we make room for the following:

He was showing the man the new bay mule that he was working in a team with the old gray. "You warrant him sound, and perfectly kind and gentle?" the man said. "Perfectly," said farmer John; "my wife and children drive him and he is a perfect pet. Comes in to the house like a dog." "Easy to shoe?" asked the man. "Well, I guess so; fact is I never had him shod; don't believe in it; he works better without it," said farmer John. "How does he act when you put the crowder on?" asked the man. Farmer John hesitated. "Well, pretty good I guess," he said; "fact is, I never put it on." "How does it get on?" asked the man; "who does put it on?" "Well, I kind of don't know," said farmer John; "fact is he had the harness on when I got him, and it fit him so well 'n' he seemed to be so kind of contented in it, like, that I sort of never took it off 'n' him." "And how long have you had him?" asked the man. Farmer John chewed a wheat straw very meditatively. "Well," he said, "not to exceed more'n two year, mebbe." And the man backed a little further away, and said he would "sort of look round a little further before he bought, like." And farmer John never saw him again, not even to this day.

If a farm is badly drained, the best thing the farmer can do is to adopt a policy of retrenchment.

Table with columns for months (Jan to Dec) and various agricultural data points.

Spring Harrowing of Winter Grain.

Mr. Wm. M. Singlerly of the Philadelphia Record gives the following advice, based, as will be seen, on noteworthy experience: "Just as soon as the ground is dry enough to get on in the Spring, run the harrow across the wheat and the rye-fields. Don't be afraid of harrowing too much or pulling the grain out. Run the harrow along the drill rows, and then back again; or, if you run first down and then across, so much the better. The tilling of both wheat and rye will more than make up for any plants destroyed. After harrowing, sow the grass seed, clover and timothy, of the usual quantities; after which go over your fields with the roller, and you will not only be surprised at your grain crop, but will be even more so at your Fall clover in the stubble. If the Record could only induce every farmer in Pennsylvania to harrow his wheat this Spring, it would by that one item of knowledge increase the grain product of this State to the extent of hundreds of thousands of dollars this year and forever after. Our own experience in harrowing the past two years has been a yield of seventy-five bushels of wheat on two and a half acres in 1877, and three hundred bushels on eight acres in 1878. This plan of culture will increase the yield all the way from three to ten bushels to the acres."

The Scientific Farmer on Corn Culture.

From the experience at Waushakum Farm and from a rather close observation of other fields, and from testimony gained from others, we feel disposed to claim that if an economical corn-crop is desired to be raised, the manure or fertilizer must be placed near the surface of a shallow-ploughed field, the undersoil having been brought into a condition permeable to roots by the ploughings for previous crops. The corn is a shallow-feeding plant we feel convinced, although it is also a deep rooter; but, being a lover of heat, the root-lets near the surface of the ground, where the temperature is highest, seem to act as feeders. Now, in shallow ploughing, the richest portions of the field and the decaying turf or roots are left near the surface; and here, where the warmth is, do the corn-roots extend, divide into root-lets, and feed with the most vigor.

Early Potatoes.

S. Miller in the Journal of Agriculture, says that all who desire to have potatoes as early as possible will gain considerable time by placing them in a warm place about the middle of February. They will begin to sprout and be well started by planting time. When planting, however, care must be taken to not rub off or bruise the sprouts. The potato can be cut into pieces so as to allow two sprouts to each piece, which will yield as well as if a whole potato were planted in a hill. We would advise all those who have potatoes on hand now to take good care of them, for there may be a scarcity in the spring, as Jack Frost has entered many a cellar and ruined all that people had.

LESSEN your work and expenses, and increase the value of your crop.

Concentration.

From the New York Tribune. A day or two of transportation by rail in some direction will always find a market for concentrated products, which cost for freight a small percentage of their value. Corn is a drug at one point at 20 cts. a bushel, at another quick at \$1—the common carrier and the greedy middlemen getting the 80 cts. difference. How much corn whiskey is sold at a presumably advanced age—really it may be prematurely old while still young—at \$1 or more per gallon! How suggestive is this abyss of time and value that lies between the ten-cent corn and four-dollar whiskey—one dime of product and thirty-nine compounded of middleman, freight and interest! It is no wonder that beef, pork and wool are preferred for marketing. Were the cost of corn in these forms the same as in the bag for shipment, the advantage of feeding would be immense. The handling, shelling, some hours of the best part of a day of man and team in getting to market take a considerable slice of the value. Nor is that all. The unconsidered manual value of fed corn is often a larger item of profit than can be figured from its sale as grain. It may be unregarded by the multitude of settlers upon cheap lands, but it will not be necessary to wait to inquire the result to their children. In a very few years the difference between farmers who starve and those who feed their lands will be obvious enough in every neighborhood.

Even Western farmers are beginning to understand the importance of the concentration of raw products to save expense of freight. Much of such transportation is unnecessary. It is neither profitable to farmers nor to railroads. In the future there will be proportionally less of this heavy and profitless hauling. Gross products will be mostly used at home. Not that we would force Nature, and attempt to grow our own dates and pineapples in every State of the Union; but where corn and wheat and potatoes can be grown as well as anything else, we would never pay the value of two bushels for moving one. This rule will apply to Maine as well as to Texas and Illinois. It is waste of words to talk of independence and reciprocity in this connection. Two farmers shut up in a room with two jack-knives can just as quickly get rich by swapping as by paying freights upon the produce of each other which both can grow equally well. The cost of freight in every such case is a positive loss, adding not a cent to the production of the country, and wasting labor that could be put to some profitable use. Carrying produce easily grown in one locality, to another in which it can scarcely be produced at all, is one form of production, and in this sense the carrier and middleman are virtually producers. This principle does not apply to the Southerner who follows his mule in scraping out grass all the Spring, and feeds the same mule in Winter with dried grass brought from the West. Fraternity and reciprocity are too dear when purchased at the cost of so ridiculous a violation of political economy.

Grafting Wax.

NONE BETTER THAN THIS. To four pounds resin and one of beeswax add one pint of linseed oil; put in an iron pot, heat slowly and mix well. Pour out into cold water and pull by hand until it assumes a light color, work into sticks and put into a cool place till wanted. In using, oil the hands, work the wax until soft and press it tightly around the graft and over the cracks. If the day be warm it is sometimes better to occasionally moisten the hands with cold water.

A Talk on Water-Farming.

MR. ROBERT B. ROOSEVELT GIVES A HINT TO TILLERS OF THE SOIL. From the New York World.

The Farmers' Club, which meets in room 24, Cooper institute, had an unusual treat Tuesday—a speech from the venerable Peter Cooper and a paper by Robert B. Roosevelt, one of the State Fish Commissioners, on "Land Farming and Water Farming." Mr. Roosevelt, who believes that birds are given to men to shoot and fish to catch, provided both can be turned to account as human food, and that there is no more harm in carrying a gun or fishing-rod than in wielding an axe or a spade, encouraged the idea of wisely developing the sporting privileges of persons convenient to our cities and removing the idea that any revenue from it is degrading. "Trout," he said, "are sold in New York market during their season as high as \$1 a pound, a price which is brought by scarcely any other kind of animal food, and if their supply can be increased a benefit will be conferred upon the community and a legitimate profit returned to those who produce them, while in many places inland and not accessible to the sea, the great store-house of fish food, there is difficulty in obtaining even the commonest sort of fish. If the farmer can add to his usual crops a crop of fish he will be benefiting his neighbors as well as himself. To do so may seem to many at first glance a difficult operation, but not half as much so as making the broad acres 'laugh with a harvest' seems to the unexperienced. Fish-farming has its rules and limits, precisely as land farming has, but is simpler and far more productive. From a single mature fish millions of young may be produced. A sturgeon contains nearly ten millions of eggs, cod and herring millions, shad hundreds of thousands, and even trout and bass several thousands. With good management these can all be hatched, and in some cases in a very few days. Once hatched, and fish provide for themselves; they need no food or care, they convert worthless insects or waste water-grasses into human food. The trout or bass from a farmer's pond costs him nothing but the trouble of catching and compares in excellence on his table with his best poultry, to say nothing of pork that has been fed twice a day for months. The only loss of time or labor is in the catching, and to reduce that it is only necessary to make the fish abundant." Mr. Roosevelt did not advise farmers, except in rare cases where they have unusual facilities, to undertake the artificial hatching of fish, but he urged them to utilize such ponds and streams as they can without labor or expense. This might not yield the greatest possible profit, but it would bring fair returns, and in no wise interferes with other occupations. "It would be irksome," he said, "for the farmer to watch over the incubation of trout eggs, which require months to produce the young, nor is it necessary, so long as the States take this labor upon themselves and furnish, to all who need them, trout fry already hatched. If gentlemen owning suitable streams or ponds desire to stock them with trout they have only to apply at the State hatching-house, and where a number combine, the expense to each is trifling. After the trout fry are placed in their proper element—and it must not be forgotten that only cold spring-water is suited to them—they will take care of themselves. In the course of a year or two they will have attained an edible size and can then be caught. Nothing is simpler than this, and yet how many streams and fine fresh brooks there are that perhaps once abounded with trout which are wholly depopulated. There is, however, another kind of fish known as the fresh-water bass, which is possibly even more valuable than the trout for the farmer's use. It is not so exacting in the character of the water in which it will live, and will grow more rapidly; more important still, it needs no culture or care whatever, or any time. The parents, which are fairly prolific, lay their eggs in a sort of nest and watch over them till they are hatched. Bass have never failed to increase rapidly where they have been introduced, and they are suited to almost any pond. These are especially the fish to be used where water farming is to be combined with land farming in the simplest and easiest way. Nothing is required but to place a few pair of mature fish, which can be easily transported in any water they are expected to populate, and will attend to the rest themselves. They can hold their own with any other species, even against the dreaded pickerel; they increase rapidly and grow quickly, and as human food they are excellent."

Mr. Roosevelt explained in answer to many questions, that there are two kinds of bass suited to different waters, but so alike in appearance as frequently to be confounded. What is commonly known as "big mouthed" bass thrives in muddy or stagnant water, while the little-mouthed fish require clean water running over pebbly bottoms. The latter are numbered among the sporting fish, as are the trout, which until the past three years were not protected by the New York State Commission.

HARDWARE. WILSON, McFARLANE & CO. DEALERS IN STOVES AND RANGES, PAINTS, OILS, GLASS, RAKES, FORKS, CRADLES & SCYTHES. SOLE AGENTS FOR JOHNSON'S KALSOMINE. ALLEGHENY STREET, HUME'S BLOCK, BELLEVILLE, PA.

THE CENTRE DEMOCRAT BOOK and JOB OFFICE BUSH HOUSE BLOCK, BELLEVILLE, PA. IS NOW OFFERING GREAT INDUCEMENTS TO THOSE WISHING FIRST-CLASS Plain or Fancy Printing.

WE have unusual facilities for printing LAW BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, CATALOGUES, PROGRAMMES, STATEMENTS, CIRCULARS, BILL HEADS, NOTE HEADS, BUSINESS CARDS, INVITATION CARDS, CARTES DE VISITE, CARDS ON ENVELOPES, AND ALL KINDS OF BLANKS.

REMEMBER THE PLACE! CENTRE DEMOCRAT OFFICE, Bush House Block, HIGH STREET, BELLEVILLE, PA. PATENTS AND TRADE-MARKS.

THE SCIENTIFIC RECORD. All Patents obtained through our agency are noticed in the Scientific Record, a monthly paper of large circulation, published by us, and devoted to Scientific and Mechanical matters. It cost nine full lists of all Patent Agents, Superintendents, Inventors, etc., etc., etc., sent free on postal card. Send us your address on postal card.

INVENTORS. Send us a description of your invention, giving your name in your own language, and we will give our opinion as to patentability, with full instructions, regarding nothing for our advice. Our book, "How to procure Patents," also, Patent Law, Patents, Caveats, Trade Marks, their costs, etc., sent free on request. ADDRESS: R. S. & A. P. LACEY, PATENT ATTORNEYS, No. 604 F Street, WASHINGTON, D. C., Nearly Opposite Patent Office.

GREAT REDUCTION. ECONOMY IS WEALTH. The usual \$70 Machines reduced to only \$25. \$1.50 PER WEEK. Horse & Wagon Free to Agents. "THE FAMILY" SHUTTLE \$25 SEWING MACHINE.

Mounted upon fine polished or oiled black-walnut top table and treadle, complete with a LARGEST ASSORTMENT of FIFTEEN different machines, and Reduced to only \$25. Each machine thoroughly warranted with WRITTEN GUARANTEE for five years. Kept in order FREE OF CHARGE, money refunded at once if not satisfactory. The most solid, reliable, and satisfactory machine ever invented for all kinds of family work. An acknowledged unqualified mechanical success, thoroughly tested, and used in thousands of homes. An efficient, silent, rapid, reliable, and ever-ready helper to the weary wife or seamstress, that will do the work of a lifetime, or it will earn from \$4 to \$10 per day for any one who wishes to see for a living, and costs less than half the price of any new machine of like quality. Has extra long, large-sized Shuttle, easily removed. Extra-large-sized Bobbins, holding 100 yards of thread, going away with the frequent re-winding of bobbins. It makes the shuttle, double-thread, lock-stitch (the same on both sides of the work), which received the highest award at the Centennial. The strongest, surest, and most lasting stitch ever produced. It is built for strength and constant hard work. Interchangeable working parts. Manufactured of fine polished steel. Will run for years without repair; is simple to learn, easy to manage, understood perfectly in an hour, and always ready in a moment to do every description of heavy or fine work at less cost, more easily, smoothly and faster, and with less labor or trouble than any other machine, at ANY PRICE, ever did or can do. It will sew anything a needle can pierce, with a strong, straight needle, and never breaks thread. It cannot miss or drop a stitch, never breaks the thread. The money cheerfully refunded if it will not outwork and outlast any machine ever invented. If you have any other machine, buy this one, and have a better one. The ease and rapidity of the motion and quality of its work is its best recommendation. It will hem, fill, tuck, braid, cord, bind, gather, quilt, ruffle, pleat, fold, scallop, shirr, roll, buste, embroider, run up breeches, etc., with elegance, ease and quickness, unsurpassed by any machine ever invented. The price of our new machine are less than those asked by dealers in second-hand, rebuilt and re-finished machines, or those selling out Old Stock to close up business, many such inferior and old-style machines, being offered as new at reduced prices. Beware of imitations and only buy the genuine. There are no new first-class machines offered as low as the "Family" by any dealer. For best descriptive books, mailed free with samples of work. Goods shipped to any part of the country, no matter how remote the place may be, and safe delivery guaranteed, with privileges of a thousand seasons before payment of bill, or on receipt of price by Registered Letter, Money order, or Draft. Agents wanted throughout the country for this, the cheapest, most satisfactory and rapid-selling machine in the world. For liberal terms, address FAMILIAR SHUTTLE MACHINE CO., 1-17 7th Broadway, New York.

BELLEVILLE & SNOW SHOE R. R.—Time-Table in effect on and after Dec. 31, 1877: Leaves Snow Shoe 7.30 A. M., arrives in Belleville 9.20 A. M. Leaves Belleville 10.20 A. M., arrives at Snow Shoe 11.27 A. M. Leaves Snow Shoe 2.42 P. M., arrives in Belleville 4.12 P. M. Leaves Belleville 4.55 P. M., arrives at Snow Shoe 6.27 P. M. DANIEL RHODES, General Superintendent.

BALD EAGLE VALLEY RAILROAD.—Time-Table, December 31, 1877: Exp. Mat. WESTWARD. EASTWARD. Exp. Mail. 8 05 6 10 Arrive at Tyrone Leave... 7 05 8 20 8 55 6 05 Leave East Tyrone Leave... 7 15 8 27 9 34 5 40 Hannab... 7 35 9 02 10 34 5 40 Port Matilda... 7 44 9 11 11 26 5 21 Marion... 7 52 9 29 10 59 5 10 Julian... 8 01 9 30 11 00 4 58 Unionville... 8 11 9 42 11 18 4 48 Snow Shoe Is... 8 21 9 51 11 26 4 45 Millburg... 8 30 10 00 11 34 4 45 Bellefonte... 8 32 10 03 11 42 4 45 Millburg... 8 45 10 15 11 53 4 45 Curtin... 8 55 10 25 12 03 4 45 Mount Eagle... 9 00 10 30 12 08 4 45 Howard... 9 08 10 40 12 16 4 45 Beech Creek... 9 18 10 52 12 26 4 45 Mill Hill... 9 24 11 10 12 32 4 45 Flemington... 9 27 11 14 12 35 4 45 Lock Haven... 9 42 11 18

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.—(Philadelphia and Erie Division.)—On and after December 12, 1877. WESTWARD. ERIE MAIL leaves Philadelphia... 11 55 p.m. " Harrisburg... 12 55 " " Lock Haven... 1 40 " " Renovo... 2 40 " NIAGARA EXPRESS leaves Philadelphia... 7 30 p.m. " Harrisburg... 10 50 " " Williamsport... 12 20 " " arrives at Lock Haven... 4 40 p.m. Passengers by this train arrive at Belleville at 4 35 p.m. FAST LINE leaves Philadelphia... 11 45 a.m. " Harrisburg... 12 45 " " Williamsport... 1 30 " " arrives at Lock Haven... 8 40 p.m.

PACIFIC EXPRESS leaves Lock Haven... 6 40 a.m. " Williamsport... 7 40 " " arrives at Harrisburg... 11 56 a.m. DAY EXPRESS leaves Renovo... 5 45 p.m. " Lock Haven... 11 20 " " Williamsport... 12 40 " " arrives at Harrisburg... 4 10 p.m. ERIE MAIL leaves Renovo... 8 55 p.m. " Lock Haven... 9 45 p.m. " Williamsport... 11 05 p.m. " arrives at Harrisburg... 2 45 a.m. FAST LINE leaves Williamsport... 12 25 p.m. " arrives at Philadelphia... 7 25 a.m. " Philadelphia... 7 25 a.m. Errie Mail West, Niagara Express West, Lock Haven Accommodation West, and Day Express East, make close connections at Northumberland with L. & E. R. R. train for Williamsport and Scranton. Errie Mail West, Niagara Express West, and Erie Express West, and Lock Haven Accommodation West, make close connection at Williamsport with R. C. N. W. trains north. Errie Mail West, Niagara Express West, and Day Express East, make close connection at Lock Haven with B. & E. V. R. R. trains. Errie Mail East and West connect at Erie with trains on L. & E. R. R. R. R., at Corry with O. P. C. R., and at Driftwood with A. V. R. R. Parlor cars will run between Philadelphia and Williamsport on Niagara Express West, Erie Express West, Philadelphia Express East and Day Express East, and Sunday Express East. Sleeping cars on all night trains. W. A. BALDWIN, Gen'l Superintendent.

HARPER BROTHERS, SPRING STREET, BELLEVILLE, PA. Have their counters and shelves filled with NEW GOODS, Purchased at BANKRUPT RATES, BANKRUPT RATES, BANKRUPT RATES WHICH THEY OFFER AT BOTTOM PRICES, BOTTOM PRICES, BOTTOM PRICES. CONSISTING OF Dry Goods, Millinery Goods, Clothing, Fancy Goods, Notions, &c. BOOTS and SHOES at very low prices. BOOTS and SHOES HATS and CAPS Latest styles of HATS and CAPS HATS and CAPS Carpet Bags, Umbrellas, Parasols, Ladies' Cloaks, Carpeting, Groceries, Queensware, &c. Comprising every thing that can be found in a first-class store.

HARPER BROTHERS, SPRING STREET, BELLEVILLE, PA. COUNTRY PRODUCE taken in exchange at the highest market price. 1-17 R. C. HUNTER, Pres't. J. P. HARPER, Cash'r.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BELLEVILLE, ALLEGHENY STREET, BELLEVILLE, PA. 4-17

CENTRE COUNTY BANKING COMPANY. Receive Deposits and Allow Interest, Discount Notes, Buy and Sell Gov. Securities, Gold and Coupons. JAMES A. HEAVER, President. J. D. BUCKNER, Cashier. 4-17

BROCKERHOFF HOUSE, BELLEVILLE, PA. HOUSE & TELLER, Proprietors. Good Sample Room on First Floor. Free Beer and from all Trains. Special rate to wives and jurors. 1-17