The Centre Democrat.

BELLEFONTE, PA.

AGRICULTURAL.

NEWS, FACTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

THE TEST OF THE NATIONAL WELFARE IS THE INTELL GENCE AND PROSPERITY OF THE FARMER.

Every farmer in his annual experience beerg 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 arg brief and well pointed.

WHILST horses are carefully groomed and brushed, cattle are entirely neglected; and in such a state they cannot thrive or do as well as they would in a state of cleanliness. Look at a lot of cattle when released from their bonds, and they find a rubbing post, or when they approach each other, and, in bucolic language, say, "Lick me, and I'll lick you." The offer is seldom declined.

MR. W. H. SHELMIRE, of Philadelphia, has been appointed Superintendent of the Eastern Experimental Farm, connected with the State College, in place of Mr. Carter, resigned. The Executive committee of the Board of Trustees of the College have requested that the supervisory committee of the Experimental Farm club should confer and advise with the Superintendent of the farm on points tending to promote the end for which it was established.

THE tent caterpillar which builds its house in our apple trees, though often doing an immense amount of damage when neglected, is one of the most easily managed insects with which the orchardist has to contend. Go over the orchards when the young caterpillars are just coming from the eggs and beginning to spin webs for their nests, and a single stroke of the finger drawn across the nest will roll them out of existence. When they first hatch, a whole colony of two or three hundred may be crushed between the thumb and finger, leaving hardly a stain.

In all the principal towns and cities where railways pass or terminate, responsible parties can constantly be found who are ready, with cash in hand, to take all the good dead poultry that is offered within striking distance of such principal places. There is never a glut in the market for prime stock of this kind in said markets, and the best will always command a good price and a certain sale. With these facilities and these facts before them, we are inclined to think that our distant farmer friends will find it to their advantage to give more attention to the multiplying of good marketable poultry-stock, which, when dressed in good condition, will always command the dollars promptly, as we hinted. Farmers will consult their advantages by substituting some regular breed for the common stock.

will not be disturbed by any of the or-dinary pests of the farmer, and will go a great way towards stopping the wholesale destruction of birds, which in reality are friends and helpers to the farmer. M. Theodore King, of this place, is a more may be believes in the old say.

young man who believes in the old say-ing that "to do a thing twice do it well once," and has adopted it in his busi-

He is engaged in the mercantile busi-ness. He is engaged in the mercantile busi-ness and also works a small farm, and as a general thing his crops are the best of any in the region. When as a general thing his crops are the ocst paying of any in the region. When the season for planting corn arrives he makes a compost of "night soil," hen manure and ashes—two to three parts a handful of this compost dropped in the hill and the corn on the top of it. Last year he purposely left one row o corn without the compost, and the dif ference between this particular row and the others was remarkable and showed in a decided manner the value of the

The Cattle Plague.

compost.

PREVENTION BETTER THAN CURE.

We make the following extract from a letter to the Tribune by Geo. Shepard Page, of New Jersey, in the hope that its suggestions will be heeded by our Centre county farmers. Perhaps there is no better way of applying carbolic acid than by mixing it with whitewash, and thoroughly coating with it the inside of all stables, pig pens and poultry houses about the premises. This has been our habit for years, and we give it much credit for the uniformly good health of all our stock.

In 1858 the Legislature of New York, in response to petitions from every quarter, appointed a commission and appropriated funds to investigate the causes of the disease and to eradicate the terrible scourge. Millions of dollars had hear lost to the country. The ram the terrible scourge. Millions of dollars had been lost to the country. The rap-jid spread of the plague threatened an-nihilation to the herds. The commis-sioners appointed were admirably fitted to execute the important and respon-sible duties of the office. They were General Marcena R. Patrick, Lewis F. Allen and John Stanton Gould. The work was entered upon with energy. Texas was visited by commissioners from various States; the raising and care of cattle on the great ranches were care of cattle on the great ranches were observed; the manner of sending them to the stock market of Kansas; the rail and steam transportation examinchicago, Buffalo, Albany and New York visited. The commissioners called to their aid the ablest scientific talent, and were cordially seconded by the Metro-politan Board of Health. Thousands of infected cattle in the stock yards, on dairy and other farms, were exam-ined and destroyed. Barns, stables and yards were cleaned and disinfected. The press was active in presenting to the public the recommendations of the commission. their aid the ablest scientific talent, and

It was speedily discovered that by the use of the same agent first brought into notice by the distinguished scientist, William Crookes, of England, who stamped out the cattle plague or "rind-erpest" by its aid in the United King-dom, equally gratifying results were achieved here. Carbolic acid adminis-tered in a ware dibute state in the achieved here. Carbolic acid adminis-tered in a very dilute state, in the drinking water, and sprinkled about the barns, stables and yards, quickly and thoroughly destroyed the infection. In the preliminary report, page 33, the commissioners stated that "carbolic acid is an absolute and perfect disinfec-tant. It not only destroys the oder, but acid is an absolute and perfect disinfec-tant. It not only destroys the oder, but kills the virus of the disease. We ad-vise all farmers or drovers, who have reason to suspect that their cattle have reason to suspect that their cattle have been exposed to infection, to sprinkle crude carbolic acid abundantly about the yard where they are confined, and to put some carbolic acid into the water they drink, in the proportion of one part of pure acid with thrice its weight of sal soda to 1,000 parts of wa-ter." In the circular, "Suggestions to Farmers," under the head of "Means of Prevention." they say: "When the dis-

 Sale of Shorthorns.
 Prevention," they say: "When the discasse is present in any neighborhood every owner of cattle should be provided with a barrel of 10 per cent. crude carbolic acid, and a quart of 90 per cent.

 Farlane that on Friday, the 28th incashed a carbolic acid, and a quart of 90 per cent.

Farlane that on Friday, the 28th in-stant, he will offer at public sale, at his home near Reedsville, Mifflin county, his entire herd of Kentucky Shorthorns, numbering some seven-teen head. Visitors at our fair last Fall will remember with pleasure the herd Major McF. exhibited there, and some of the most of man a discut discoveries in sanitary science have been achieved. Pleuro-pneumonia has been successfully treated, and a reme-dial agent of incalculable value has been brought into common use among the flocks and herds of the State. With the hoeks and herds of the State. With reasonable care on the part of stock owners in keeping themselves supplied with carbolic acid, and using it freely on their premises, there appears to be a perfect immunity from diseases that have hitherto carried inevitable des-truction wherever they appeared truction wherever they appeared. Further than this, the observations of the commission warrant the belief that the commission warrant the belief that this same agent possesses certain prop-erties of the greatest value when ap-plied to "footrot" in sheep. From the fact that carbolic acid acts specifically upon all germs or seeds of disease that are propagated in a manner similar to the spores or fungus parasites of the Texas disease, it is not too much to hope that it may be used successfully in the treatment of many diseases in ani-mals heretofore regarded as incurable, especially the "glanders" in horses.

Harrowing the Wheat in Spring. ce of Country Gentler

P. Y. wanted to know if wheat or

rye would be benefitted by harrowing in the spring, if it was sowed broad-cast and covered with either the harrow or shovel plow? If I have not heretofore occupied too much of your space on this subject, will you allow me to say to him that it will not hurt either the wheat or the rye, however sowed or however covered. Only two precautions I have found desirable to observe. Do not harrow when wet; and harrow before the stalk is formed.

I have no hesitation in offering P. Y. this advice, as I have done the same thing myself, and with only good results. After experimenting sufficiently to satisfy myself on this point, I (two years ago) harrowed a field of wheat and rye which had been sowed broadcast and covered partly with the harrow and partly with shovel plows. The result was most satisfactory. One other item is of importance-

harrow thoroughly-lap sufficiently to break and pulverize the whole surface. Advice given by the editors of a paper like this should above all other things be safe ; and in this case, as in others, that given P. Y. is eminently so when you say "provided such a harrow is used as will not in-jure the plants." Will you allow me to say to him, and to all others thinking of harrowing their fall grain this spring, it is not necessary to get a "smoothing" or sloping-tooth harrow to do this work.

A proper harrow for this purpose is a sharp, ppright, square-toothed one, of medium weight, with teeth three-quarters of an inch or one-inch iron, and projecting six to eight inches below the frame. If found too light for thorough work, it can be weighed enough to do it. I mention this kind first because it is the one I have used, and which has served me well. Second, the sloping-toothed harrows. These have been so widely recommended and advertised for this special purpose as to need no words I have, however, seen from me. grain fields so crusted in the spring that an ordinary smoothing harrow would not thoroughly break up the surface," and it is just at this time thorough harrowing is most that a beneficial.

The fact I would like to impress is that harrowing need not be omitted for lack of a certain kind of harrow. Nine times in ten the same harrow used to prepare the ground for sowing the grain will be equally useful in cultivating the grain in the spring. The proper time for this work is approaching, and if every farmer could be induced to harrow one land across his wheat field and note the result carefully, I think the practice would become universal in two years.

Lambs For Early Market.

From the New York World.

In all localities where there is a market for them, the sale of an early lamb will bring its possessor more money than that of its mother with her fleece. The winter having been destructive to sheep, especially at the West, lambs will be in active demand at fair prices during the coming spring. It remains therefore with the flock-masters who feed for mutton to look carefully after both ewes and lambs if they desire to make this what it should be, one of the most profitable of crops.

It is well to bear in mind that April, May and June are the months which bring the golden prices. Af-ter this time the distinction made between the flesh of lamb and mutton is no longer marked, and prices come more nearly together.

The breed with marketmen matters

from poverty to flesh—the sudden change causing the shedding of wool, which rightfully is attributed to the WILS corn.

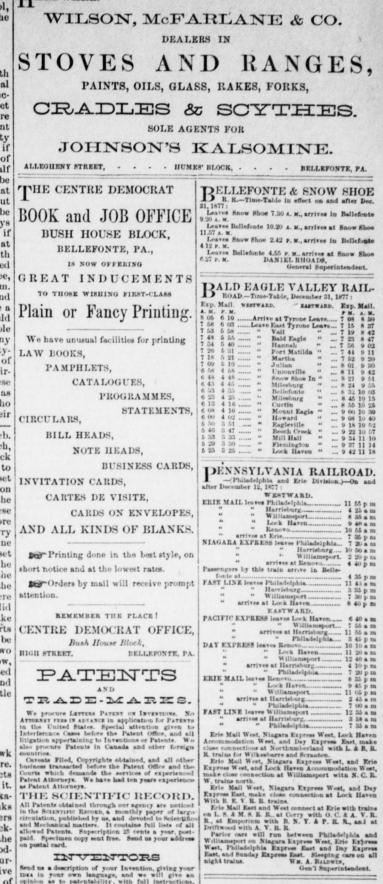
A Grafting Lesson for Boys. respondence of New York Tribune.

The Spring that I was sixteen, with a little showing by a good practical grafter—which is the best instruction a young grafter can have-I set about twenty-five grafts, half or more of which grew. The first experiment should be made on some thrifty stocks that can well be spared, if you fail; or, you can set plenty of grafts so that if not more than half of them grow there will still be enough. But if you do so well that they all grow do not hesitate to cut half of them off or your tree will be too thick. Parents, give your boys a chance, and let them try; and if they succeed they will always look at and speak of their first grafting with nut speak of their first gratching with pride. And if you are kind-hearted you will present to them the tree, which will greatly encourage them. Remember, you were once boys, and do not call it wasting time to make a do not call it wasting time to make a tree that bears apples that would make a pig squeal bear any desirable kind. The next Spring, without any assistance whatever, I set twenty-four apple and cherry grafts (some of them under set your (averable of them under not very favorable cir-cumstances); twenty-one of these grew, which was about as well as most professional grafters do, who charge three cents each for their grafts. Four of these were cherryabout as difficult as any-cut Feb. 23, a warm, wet day, tied in a bunch, labelled, the buts evened and stuck two inches in the wet dirt, close to the north side of a building, and set March 28, on surviving stocks, on which a good grafter had failed the previous Spring. Every one of these grew. I think the reason I was more successful than he, with the cherry grafts, was that I cut and set mine much earlier, for not one that he set for us the previous Spring, when he set the apple grafts, grew, while the apple grafts did well. Most of the apple grafts I set that Spring were cut the day they were set, and did better than those cut earlier. I make my wax by first melting four parts resin (thoroughly, or there will be lumps in the wax), then add two parts bees wax, and one part tallow, and when it is all thoroughly melted pour it into a pail of cold water and work it up into rolls, with a little grease on the hands.

The Farmers' Friends. From the Springfield Republican.

The swallow, swift and nighthawk are the guardians of the atmosphere. They check the increase of insects that otherwise would overload it. Woodpeckers, creepers and chicka-dees are the guardians of the trunks of trees. Warblers and fly-catchers protect the foliage. Thrushes, black-birds, crows and larks protect the surface of the soil; snipe and woodcock protect the soil under the sur-Each tribe has its respective face. duties to perform in the economy of nature; and it is an undoubted fact that if the birds were all swept away from off the earth, man could not live upon it, vegetation would wither and die, and insects would become so numerous that no living thing could withstand their sttacks.

The wholesale destruction occasioned by the grasshoppers, which have lately devastated the West, is undoubtedly caused by the thinning out of the birds, such as grouse, prairie hens, etc., which feed upon them. The great and inestimable service done to the farmer, gardener and florist by the birds is only becoming known by sad experience. Spare the birds and save your fruit. The little corn and fruit taken by



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join with us in hoping that some of Centre county's attendants at the sale will return with the prizes we kdow they will find there.

Coal Tar and Compost for Corn.

A private letter from a very intelligent and deserving gentleman in Morris county, N. J., contains a couple of items of interest to corn farmers, and we give them for the benefit of our readers. We have repeatedly proven the value of the compost spoken of on our own farm, but have never used the tar for the purpose mentioned. We shall experiment with it the coming season, but recommend caution, fearing that in bad weather it might possibly rot the corn :

Corn: A small quantity of coal tar mixed with the corn before planting will in-sure it against the depredatons of birds, squirrels, etc. A tablespoonful of coal tar is enough to mix with a bushel of corn. The tar is first mixed thoroughly with the corn, water is next added, af-ter which plaster enough to absorb the water and prevent the kernels from sticking together is mixed in. Corn prepared in this manner tor planting

HORSES should be watered in the morning before they are fed. A full drink of water immediately after be-ing fed is a sure way of producing indigestion, if not inflammation.

Is the cows are milked a few days before they come in, when the udder becomes reasonably full, we do not think they will be troubled with milk fever.

little, provided the lambs are offered in good condition.

Ewes that have lost their lambs should be made to foster another lamb or at least forced to help feed it, as milk from the ewe is attended with better results than the most judicious hand feeding. Ewes induced to serve as foster-mothers soon accept the situation and readily adopt the second lamb.

While early lambs, as has been already said, bring the highest prices, late lambs, particularly in cold backward seasons, often prove most profit-able, being less costly and trouble-some to rear. In any event, the packing of the animals for shipment, though the distance be short, is one demanding careful consideration. The farmer cannot afford loss of weight which will occur if the lambs are forced to suffer much inconvenience. box made of lath for each lamb and large enough to allow the ani-mal to both stand and lie down, while not absolutely necessary, pays in the end.

TO MAKE WOOL UNIFORM .- Sheep must be kept in a uniform condition to produce good wool. When the condition of the sheep is kept uni-form the wool will be uniform. If the sheep are allowed to grow poor and then suddenly fatted, or vice versa, the staple of the wool changes in the same way. Combing wool in-jures it materially, as where the weak places occur it gives way. Fat sheep Jures it materially, as where the weak places occur it gives way. Fat sheep make fat wool. I have heard it said that feeding corn to sheep made them shed their wool. No doubt it is true, as the corn brought them rapidly

them is more than compensated by the vast quantities of noxious insects destroyed. The long persecut-ed crow has been found, by actual experiment, to do far more good by the vast quantity of grubs and in-sects he devours than the little harm he does in a few grains of corn he pulls up. He is one of the farmer's best friends.

Hog vs. Hen.

Farmers will feed a bushel of corn to produce six pounds of pork, while the same amount of corn will keep a good laying hen one year, and she will produce at least twelve dozen eggs, averaging eighteen cents per dozen, which would equal \$2.16; in addition she would rear a brood of chickens worth as much more, making a total of nearly five dollars, against six pounds of pork at ten cents, equalling sixty cents; or, in other words, the hen will yield seven times as much as the pig on the same quantity of food.

And it Will Help the Wheat Too.

ce of Pre

If you want to get a good stand of If you want to get a good stand of clover, in the spring as soon as the ground is settled, go on to it with a two-horse harrow; have the teeth per-fectly sharp so that they will cut the ground up pretty well; then sow at the rate of one bushel to five acres. Some farmers do not sow thick enough; that is the reason why the clover don't stand the winter better.

rown path to meet the c at brow.

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