BELLEFONTE, PA.

AGRICULTURAL.

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

Every farmer in his annual experience 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 timety, and be sure that they are brief and well pointed.

"WHERE to strike an attacking dog" is elaborately discussed by one of our exchanges. We don't care develop whatever of the architect where, but in the interest of sheep owners, we counsel striking very on the other hand those who make hard.

THERE seems to be no room left for doubt that the cattle plague not only exists within our State, but that it is spreading rapidly. We again urge our readers to take precautionary measures, among which none will prove more efficacious than ab. sive, go-ahead, live farmer, and it solute cleanliness and a free use of would seem that this combination is

A COTEMPORARY, in giving hints for rainy days, advises cleaning up tools on such occasions. We beg to disagree. Never put away your tools dirty. Clean them when you are done with them, whether it rains or shines, then be sure to put them in their place at once. These two points, carefully attended to, will go far toward making farming pay.

WE ARE indebted to Commissioner Le Duc for a copy of his report on flections by reading a couple of cir-Sheep Husbandry in the United cular descriptions of plans of a mod-States, furnished to the Senate in el milk house and model farm stable, compliance with a resolution passed by Prof. J. Wilkinson, the veteran in June last. It is quite voluminous, rural architect and ventilating engicovering one hundred and thirty neer, of Havard, Ill. Prof. W. is an pages. One of the most suggestive old farmer, and an agricultural writthings we have noticed in the cursory er, editor and architect of an experiexamination we have been able to ence of much more than an average circumstances. give it, is the universal complaint of life time. The plan, of course, we dogs by sheep growers. Tabulated have not seen, as Mr. Wilkinson sells statements of correspondents are them, making this a part of his busigiven, showing the loss of over a half ness, but the circulars describing million sheep annually, killed by the them embrace much that is new and worthless curs which roam the country unchallenged and undisturbed.

IN THE third and fourth weeks fifty acres of wheat thoroughly, sowing the cloverseed by hand, immediately behind the harrow. We believe it would be better and cheaper to have some implement constructed especially, working between the drillrows of wheat, and sowing the seed hand. One of our harrows was a time to send for them. large, heavy one, with sharp teeth, and gave the ground a pretty effectual scratching. The other was a Thomas smoothing harrow, heavily weighted with chains, and on account of its round teeth, the work was not quite so effective. Last year's experiment of the same sort was entirely satisfactory, resulting in a marked increase in the wheat crop and a splendid "catch" of clover. If this should do as well, we shall be fully established in the practice.

Now that "grass has come again" No one would think of permitting the and the cows are getting a taste of garden which surrounds his dwelling to pasture, we presume that the old-fashioned butter makers who yet ob-ject to the artificial coloring of butter ject to the artificial coloring of butter will rejoice in the return of the "gen-uine dandelion tint" to their weekuine dandelion tint" to their weekly churnings. Well, we rejoice with them, but not nearly so heartily as we would if it were not quite possible to have the "dandelion tint" all the year round, by the judicious and proper use of a good coloring material. We are not of those who fear to "improve upon nature" by the exercise of a little "art," and we have no hesitation whatever in using and advocating the use of artificial color for butter, when the dried-and therefore artificial-food of winter robs it of its "natural" June tint. Of course, there are objectionable coloring materials, and some of those which are least so, grated carrots, for nstance, are troublesome to use. Our own preference is for the "Perected Butter Color" of Wells, Richrdson & Co., Burlington, Vt. It is ure, odorless and tasteless, very heap, and very effective, giving winer butter, made from cornstalks, and aturally very white and "lardy" in ppearance, the fine, rich, golden colof first quality June butter. it ourselves, and commend its se to others.

Farm Buildings.

Perhaps no other class of buildings in the world are put up with more care, in porportion to their cost, as to substantiality and permanence, than the barns, milk houses, &c., of the well to do farmer, and yet they are, as a rule inconvenient, often badly located, and too frequently but illyadapted to the purposes for which they were designed. And this, perhaps, is not to be wondered at. The work of the practical farmer leaves him but little time to devote to the study of building plans, and his life of manual labor is not calculated to there may possibly be in him. And the study of architecture and the erection of buildings their life work, have no practical knowledge of the requirements of farm buildings. In other words it is seldom that the successful and intelligent architect is found in the person of the progresrequired to plan perfect farm buildings. That there are such men is proven by the number of really good farm buildings to be found throughout the country, but they are so few as to constitute only the exceptions which prove the rule. This is one of the many things in life in which thought, skill and experience will tell with great effect, and make a tell with great effect, and tell with great ef the many things in life in which given expenditure of money produce greatly better results. We have been led to pen these re-

novel, and indicate that the permanent objects sought by the plans are usefulness and economy in the fullest of last month we harrowed about possible degree. By sending ten cents to Prof. W. either circular may be obtained, and the matter in them will be found worth many times the cost, whether one desires to build either of the structures or not. Their length forbids their reproduction in the DEMOCRAT, but their cost is small, at the same time, but having nothing and we particularly advise all who of this kind we used the means at contemplate building at any future

Setting out Trees.

Now that the season for transplanting fruit trees is upon us, we give the following good practical directions furnished by P. Barry of the Mount Hope Nurseries, to the Rochester Democrat:

The Soil for Fruit Trees.—The average soil to be found in the garden of any part of our city, is good enough in its natural state. All it needs is good deep plowing or spading, to fit it for the

It must be free from stagnant water.

to the other extreme and cram it into the ground as they would a bean pole. Very common errors are planting too deeply and applying manure around the roots. No manure is needed at time of planting—wait till the tree gets to growing and then apply the manure, if needed, on the surface of the ground over the roots.

over the roots.

Dig a hole large enough and deep enough to receive the roots; spread out in their natural way, and so that the tree will stand no deeper in the ground then it did in the tree will stand no deeper in the ground than it did in the nursery; then fill in good surface earth among the roots carefully, filling every space. When the spaces are all filled and the roots covered, then begin to pack the earth as it goes in, and keep packing firmly till the work is complete. To the errors I have already mentioned—deep planting and manure at the roots—I will add the other—loose planting, which is very general and very fatal. which is very general and very fatal.

Do not be afraid of making the earth too firm about the roots.

The Use of Water in Planting.—It is

very common to pour water around the roots of a tree at planting without stopping to inquire why. Unless the soil roots of a tree at planting without stopping to inquire why. Unless the soil is extremely dry, in the spring, and the tree has already commenced to grow, water does more harm than good. And right here it may as well be said, if dry weather ensues after planting so as to effect the tree, do not sprinkle every day, but remove two inches of the surface over the roots and pour on water enough to go clear down to the lowest roots—replace the earth and mulch with a little hay, or grass, or straw, or tan bark, or something to prevent rapid

Seldom will any more

evaporation. Seldom will any more water be needed. What kind of Trees to Plant.—Most pec-What kind of Trees to Plant.—Most pec-ple want large trees, must have large trees; when the planting humor comes patience seems to be lost—must have trees that will bear right away. Look-ing at trees just of the proper size they will exclaim "Who could wait for such whips to bear?" "We all may be in our-graves before that time." True enough, there may be exceptional cases when a few large trees, removed and planted with extraordinary care, may be a success, but in a general way the trees that plant most successfully and thrive best after planting and ultimately make the most healthy, productive and long-lived trees, are those transplanted young—say apples three to four years, cherries two years, peaches one year. The age means the growth of bud or graft, end has no reference to the age of the stock grafted or budded upon. The older the tree the greater the check in transplanting, and this is why the young trees will overtake and pass the older and larger tree in the race of growth. But whatever may be in the age, size

or character of your tree look well to its roots. Have them all, or as many of them as may be possible, preserved from mutilation or injury of any kind and protect them from the air, so that they will not be dried to death before you get them in the ground. I see peo-ple every year handling trees as if they were dry brush, and it should be an inlictable offence

What about Pruning at the time of Trans-unting.—This is a mooted question, but long experience shows that whatever theory may teach, it is safe to shorten back the branches at time of planting: this by reducing the number of leaf buds, and consequently leaves, reduces their evaporting power while the tree is forming new roots and getting used to its new home. A good rule, as far as we can make a rule, is to cut back the

oung shoots two or three buds at the

as follow: Standard trees—Apples 30 feet, pears and cherries 20 feet, the smaller class of cherries will do very well at 15 to 18 feet; plums, peaches, apricots and nectarines 15 to 18 feet, quinces 10 12 feet. Dwarf trees—Apples on paradise stock six feet apart pies on paraise stock six feet apart, and nothing in the whole range of fruit culture is more interesting than these miniature apple trees, three or four feet in height and the same in diameter,

hether in blossom or fruit.
Pears, cherries and plums 10 to 12 feet. Currents, gooseberries and rasp-berries three to four feet. These distances can of course be varied to suit

WE HAVE for some days past been giving the South Bend Plow the 'further tests" which we promised poses for which a plow is intended it seems practically perfect, and does its work in the best possible manner. Indeed, it would seem difficult to do a man less excuse for slovenly plowing than any other we have ever tried. Of course we do not mean that it will compensate for lack of judgment or experience, or for any plowman. It will not regulate itself, the chicks out of the wet, and the nor hitch up its own team, nor set gapes will not be very formidable. the stakes by which to strike a "straight ridge," any more than it will milk the cows or feed the pigs; and the man who buys one as a panacea for all the ills to which farmer pocket, or as a cure-all for poor farming, will probably find himself in error. more of it, and with less hard labor expensive methods. of man and team, than any other ulating it are excellent-it will cut a furrow of uniform width and depth, considered as trustworthy, such difference in crop would be shown. almost without holding. We cannot, equal to the best, and will make further report upon this point.

just about the time the young sprouts appear above ground, relates the following experience in The Connecticut Farmer, showing that there is a risk unless the conditions are favorable: Some few years since a field was treated in this way, when the soil was rea-sonably moist, and with the exception of destroying a few hills the operation was very successful, killing the weeds and assisting in smoothing the surface. On another occasion however, another field was similarly treated but with this ofference, that in the second case the Spring was very dry from the time of planting, and consequently the soil was very dry; the young plants were just beginning to grow themselves, and on account of the disturbance of the young plants, together with the extreme heat

Borers in Apple Trees.

Now is a good time, says a writer in the Rural Sun, to cut out these pests where they have not been at tended to.

A few days ago I went over an orchard that has fallen into my hands, and in one day's work think many valuable trees have been saved. As many as five full grown borers were cut out of one tree five inches in diameter. In some instances these were found running up the trunk six inches, and not over an inch apart parallel. It takes very close searching some times to find them. Some times a thin wire can be used with good effect, when the knife and chisel can hardly reach them. In quite a number of instances I found that the spotted woodpecker had done the work for me. They seem to know just where to find them when above ground, and rarely fail to bring them out. They need not peck a large place at all times, as their hard pointed, barbed tongue can be inserted and haul them out. It should be a rule among all to let these useful birds live undisturbed. They are tame, and boys are prone to them, or, when beginning to shoot, practice on the poor fellows.

When a tree is completely girdled by the borer or mice, it can often be saved by taking twigs of last year's growth, cutting wedge shape at both ends, and inserting in the bark below and above the injury, thus conveying the sap through them. have we saved many a valuable tree that would otherwise not have survived the summer. After cutting out borers fill up with earth over the wound, and they will heal up if not

Spring Chickens.

The best way to overcome the gape trouble is to have clean, comfortable coops, place them on ground not recently occupied by chickens, and at some distance from such ground. The edge of a corn-field or potatofield, or a piece of timber-if it be not too far from the buildings-is a good place to put them. Coops must be kept clean by removing them a short distance each day and sprinkling them and their immediate surroundings with coal oil or diluted carbolic acid. A few drops of coal oil may be mixed in their feed once a day, and a morsel of gum camphor put in their drinking water once a two weeks ago, and are confirmed in day. These precautions will serve our good opinion of it. For all pur- as a protection and will not injure the chicks. Ordinary hen lice do not produce the gape worm, as some seem to think; but they must be kept off the chicks. A small quantity of carbolic acid mixed with melted lard poor work with it—at least it affords and rubbed on the brood hen and the chicks when they are first put out in the coop, and once a fortnight afterwards, will destroy lice and not injure the chicks. Keep the chicks and their coops clean, spade or plough all the ground to which they have acof the other deficiencies of a poor as directed, feed with judgment, keep

Seasonable Suggestions.

A few quarts of soaked corn scattered every few days until the grow-ing crop is too large for the crows to pull, is a better and cheaper proflesh is heir, either in body, mind or tection than any scarecrow; and it encourages the crows to visit the field to hunt for worms, grubs, and noxious insects later in the season. What we do mean is, that with the If all of our insectivorous birds were same skill, experience and judgment, encouraged to visit the grain fields this plow will do better work, and and orchards, there would be less occasion to fight insect pests by more

If we should give tables of differseed, our figures could considered as trustworthy, such a

A correspondent says that no bird. as yet, speak as to its durability and rat, or mouse will eat any vegetable wearing qualifications, but from what substance that is well coated with we have seen believe them to be red lead. He says he just damps the seeds, and then stirs a little of the lead among them until they get quite

How many of our young readers Mr. W. H. YEOMANS, writing of who have comforted themselves with the practice of harrowing potatoes apples all Winter ever observed which end of the seed points toward the stem?

Shear your sheep at the season when you shed your coat for the sea-Then be careful that some son. smart "traveling agent" does not pull the wool over your eyes and shear you.

Eggs hatch much better if the nests are made by placing a cut turf and a shovel of mould sand, or ashes in the box or basket, and on this a little straw, than if straw only is used.

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