

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, 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.

IN OUR opinion the sweetest and best of the many varieties of sweet corn is the Black Mexican, or as some of the catalogues have it, the Black Sugar. Its color will probably prevent it from becoming popular as a market variety, but for home use we advise every reader of the DEMOCRAT to plant at least a few hills and give it a trial. It is early, quite prolific and its flavor is delicious.

THE cold, drying winds which prevailed during the greater part of April, and at this writing are unabated in force, have perceptibly injured winter wheat, and done much to increase the shortage of this crop already assured by last Fall's drouth. It is possible that warm showers yet to come may improve its chances, but, while we disclaim any intention to "croak," we prophesy there will be no ninety cent wheat this year.

ONE of the most annoying pests of the farm is rats, and all the more so, because it sometimes seems impossible to get rid of, or circumvent them. In the midst of the plenty generally to be found about the barn and crib it is with difficulty that they can be baited into traps, or induced to eat any of the extraordinary poisons. We have just succeeded in completely ridding our premises of the "varmints" by the use of "Glentworth's Pest Exterminator," made at 817 Race St., Philadelphia. We saw it highly commended by a correspondent in some of our exchanges, and tried it with such success that we believe we do our readers a kindness by commending it to them. Remember it is highly poisonous, and must be kept away from poultry, cats, or anything else but the rats and mice you want to kill. It seems to have an attraction for them, and they eat it readily.

IN REMAGING among the old files of our agricultural exchanges, we find an advertisement of a patent fence, illustrated by a wood cut "showing the security of the new fence against the insecurity of the old-fashioned post and rail fence." The new fence is one of three rails, and the improvement consists in having the under side of the rails grooved, with wires passing through the grooves, the use of which is to strengthen the rails, that they may not break when climbed over. The illustration is a double one, representing on one side the new fence, bearing up nobly its load of trespassers, who seem to be a family party in search of fruit and flowers. On the other side a couple of gunners with their dogs have mounted the ordinary "old-fashioned post and rail fence," which in sheer disgust at their impudence and lawlessness in attempting to enter the field which it has been erected to guard, breaks down and spills the loafers to the ground, who in their tumble discharge both guns, blowing the hat off from one, and a couple of fingers off the other. Serves 'em right, we say, and we would rather have the old fence than the new. If a fence could be invented that would break down every time a gunning loafer attempts to cross it, and scare him badly enough to send him back with his gun and dogs, we have no doubt it would find immense favor with the farmers. In the vicinity of large towns, and small ones, too, this thing of having the farms overrun, and the farmers best friends, the insectivorous birds, destroyed wholesale, by a pack of loafing, half-grown boys and young men of idle and dissolute habits, has come to be an unbearable nuisance, and the sooner it is abated the better it will be for all concerned. To call such people sportsmen, is to dignify them by a title to which they have no claim, and the true sportsmen should join the farmers in their

efforts to put a stop to their maraudings. Let the farmers avail themselves of their rights under the law, and treat as a trespasser any man who, without permission, dares to set a foot on the premises with a gun on his shoulder and a dog at his heels.

SOME ONE, in writing home from the Paris Exposition of last year, and speaking of the plows to be seen there, remarked that the American plowman wanted, and the American manufacturers were making plows which, when properly regulated, would, in a stiff, smooth sod, run across a forty-acre field without holding. At the time we thought this simply an American extravagance, but one day last week we saw the thing done—in fact did it ourselves. The land was nice, smooth sod, three years old, and without large stones, and the plows were of the South Bend Chilled pattern, sold by H. K. Hicks, of whom we purchased them. After carefully regulating we tried the experiment of letting them run themselves, and off they went, with the plowman walking out on the sod, and simply holding the line, for twenty, thirty and forty rods at a time, turning as handsome and true a furrow as one could wish to see, with no assistance whatever, excepting, of course, that of the team in drawing. The more we use these plows, the better we like them, and the farmers of Centre county should tender a vote of thanks to Mr. Hicks, for introducing so valuable an implement. A large number have been sold throughout the country, and we would be glad if those who are using them would write us, giving us their opinion of the plow and its work.

The Farmer's Vegetable Garden.

This subject seems to be, year by year, commanding more of the attention it deserves. In confirmation of our own views as expressed two or three weeks ago, we transfer to our columns, with our hearty endorsement, the following which we find in the current number of the Country Gentleman:

There is no patch of land on the farm that yields so much comfort to the family, and shows so much profit on the ledger, as the garden, provided it is properly managed. Few farmers apparently believe this; certainly the great majority do not give such attention to their gardens as will secure the best results. They seem to regard gardening as fancy work, suitable for women and children, but too small business for men; and it must be confessed that the old-fashioned farmer's garden was a pent-up Utopia that contracted his powers. With a hundred acres around him, the farmer's fashion was—and is still in many places—to fence off a little patch five or six rods square, with a high picket fence so as to keep out the hens, plant some current bushes by this fence, and lay out the remainder in small plots for vegetables, with walks running between them, that occupied a good share of the ground, and required no small share of attention. A fraction of the garden was devoted to flowers, and here was displayed much fancy work, the flower beds being made in the form of triangles, circles, crescents, ellipses, &c., as though they were intended to teach the children geometry.

In all this there was much work and little profit. Such a garden may answer for a village amateur, but the farmer needs a garden of more size—an acre or more—with no fence around it, in that he can cultivate it by horse power, and change the location occasionally. It should be strictly a vegetable garden, and the vegetables should be cultivated in long, straight rows, with no walks between them, except footpaths for the horse. Flowers are all right in their place, but this place is on the lawn. There the wife can show her taste and knowledge of geometry without intruding upon the province of the husbandman. It was the extra labor upon the walks and flower beds, which was necessarily done by hand, as horses cannot work well in a contracted triangle, that disgusted our fathers with gardening. Let the flower and the vegetable gardens be divorced, and let the latter be so located that the vegetables can be cultivated as field crops commonly are, and the housewife will not have to complain that she has nothing to grace her table. In the old style garden there was little opportunity for a rotation of crops, and that little chance was poorly improved. Cabbages and potatoes were raised on the same ground year after year, the former became clubfooted, and the latter few in a hill, and small at that. The farmers wandered that with garden cultivation the crops were so light. The trouble was, there was no exchange of locality among the few vegetables cultivated, and the land became exhausted of the peculiar food which each crop demanded. Locate the garden in the field where there is plenty of room for a variety of vegetables, and let corn, beans, potatoes, &c., follow each other in rotation, and exhaustion will ensue more slowly, even with the same quantity of fertilizers. Such a location may necessitate a little more travel for the housewife, but she will be compensated for her trouble by better vegetables and plenty of them. The hens, also, will seldom trouble a garden located in the field; certainly not if it is hedged

around with a luxuriant crop of grass. After an experience of years with a little, contracted, fenced-in garden near the house, and with a longer experience with a large one in the field, I am satisfied that an acre of vegetables can be cultivated more economically by horse-power, than can twenty square rods by manual labor.

Farmers should cultivate a greater variety of vegetables than has been their custom. They will find that a large garden will go far towards the support of a large family. Not only so, but they will find the health of the family improved by a diet composed more of vegetables and fruit and less of beef and pork. It is not to the credit of tillers of the soil that the denizens of cities should enjoy the comforts of fruit and vegetables to a much larger extent than the producers of these things. The farmer is content with half a dozen messes of green peas, one sowing of lettuce and one planting of corn, while the citizen has a supply of these vegetables, raised by market gardeners, for six months, and while the well-to-do farmer has one or two varieties of vegetables on his table, the well-to-do citizen has a half a dozen. It is a mistake to suppose that the farmer can afford nothing to his family but potatoes, cabbages and the more common vegetables. Vegetables are far cheaper than meat. The latter is made from the former, and it requires a pile of the one to make a little of the other. It is estimated that one hundred pounds of pork are the result of feeding fifteen bushels of corn, or the equivalent of this corn in some other form of vegetable food, but were this vegetable food fed directly to man it would sustain life four times as long and in a much healthier condition than the pork. With a little pains in sowing a succession of crops of lettuce, peas, corn, &c., the farmer can have green vegetables on his table for half the year, and with a little more pains in canning them, they can adorn his table in the winter as well as in summer.

Keep the Young Chickens Eating.

From the Massachusetts Flewman.

The great point in raising chickens is to keep them eating all the time, or, at any rate, to keep their digestive organs continually well supplied. "Short commons" are not economical in chicken raising.

The common custom is to keep a dish of "Indian meal dough" mixed up, and two or three times a day a lot is thrown down to the chickens. If they eat it, well and good; if not, and the chances are they will not, they become having tired of one single article of diet set before them day after day, it stands and sours. If a quantity is thus found uneaten, the next feed is like to be a light one, and the chickens, driven by hunger, finally devour the sour stuff; the result is, cholera or some other fatal disease sets in, and their owner wonders "why my chickens are all dying off." In our own practice, we find that small quantities of varied food if given to the chickens often produce vastly better results than any other method of feeding.

Indian meal dough was banished from our poultry-yards long ago, and on no conditions would we permit young chickens to be fed with it. For the morning-meal we give all our young poultry stock boiled potatoes mashed up fine. We find nothing so good and acceptable; and as we use only the small potatoes, those which are unmarketable and not large enough for the table, they prove to be more profitable than any other article of food.

When in days gone by, we used to feed the chickens with the traditional Indian meal dough, we always counted on losing a large percentage of them, and the numbers that died from cholera, diarrhea, and kindred diseases were very great. Now a sick chicken is unknown to our yards, and we lay our success entirely to the disuse of Indian meal dough. After the potatoes are disposed of, we give our chickens all the fine-cracked corn they will eat up clean. We can not find in the grain stores corn cracked to the proper degree of fineness, and we have as a fixture in our poultry-house a large-sized coffee-mill, such as grocers have, and we run the corn through that.

Of course large chickens, those which are ten or twelve weeks old, do not need such fine-ground corn, but the young birds do. In about two hours after the cracked corn is eaten, we give all the wheat screenings that the chickens will eat, and in another two hours spread before them a fresh meal of boiled potatoes. For supper they have all the cracked corn and wheat they can eat.

The best systems of feeding, however, will not avail if the young birds are permitted to become overrun with vermin. They should be anointed on their heads and under their wings and on their backs once a week with a mixture of equal parts of lard and kerosene-oil; and if the hens are anointed in the same way the additional labor will prove remunerative. Unless proper management is exercised, chicken raising is one of the most unsatisfactory of employments; but, if it is done systematically, it is as profitable and pleasant as any other business.

A solution of whale-oil soap and hellebore rids plants of most insects, including scale, mealy-bug and slug but to be effective against the greenfly a dash of Persian insect powder must be added.

SATURATE corn cobs with kerosene and hang them on the plum trees in order to get rid of the "curculio."

How to Wash Sheep.

My Scotch friend called his method the plan of washing by rolling. Having got his sheep into water of proper depth as quietly as possible, the washer turns it upon his back, passes his arm under the sheep's head, and grasps its nose firmly with his right hand. With the left he takes hold of both of the fore-legs, and swaying his person slightly to the left he rolls the sheep over to the left side; then he rolls it to the right, and so on, till the water comes from the sheep perfectly clear. The motion will be found a very easy one for the washer and a kindly one for the sheep. Fifty or sixty rolls will thoroughly wash any sheep; forty or fifty usually is enough. As the sheep is rolled backward and forward, the water is forced freely through the natural partings and through all parts of the fleece, and as the wool is not matted so as to obstruct the flow of the water, it becomes thoroughly cleansed.

To Prevent Crows from Pulling Corn.

G. W. L., Homeworth, O., writes: When I am shelling my seed corn I shell off the small end of the ear in a vessel by itself, as I do not plant that part of the ear. When I am ready to plant I put whatever quantity I may have of this refuse corn in a vessel to soak. When I have finished planting I throw this corn in two or three spots in my field of planted corn. Whenever I have done this at the time I mention, I have never had a hill of corn pulled up by the crows. But when I have neglected it until my corn was up they would continue to pull it if I did not give them soaked corn. I have often seen other birds as well as crows come to get the soaked corn until they would form a path around the heap.

THE FIRST FARMER.—Ralph Waldo Emerson says the first farmer was the first man, and all historic nobility rests on possession and use of land. Men do not like hard work, but every man has an exceptional respect for tillage, and a feeling that it is the original calling of his race; that he himself is only excused from some circumstances which made him delegate it for a time to other hands. If he have not some skill which recommends him to the farmer, some product for which the farmer will give him corn, then he must himself return into his due place among the planters. And the profession has, in all eyes, its ancient charm as stand nearest to God, the first cause of all things, is true, good, noble and honorable.

A VALUABLE mixture to keep on hand at this season is one of coal ashes, sulphur, and hellebore. The ashes should be very fine. It is best after passing them through the ordinary coal-ash sieve. To one paifful of ashes thus sifted, add a quart each of four of sulphur and hellebore and mix together. For currant worms, plant lice, cabbage fleas, slugs on pear trees, melon bugs, we found this so effective last season that we confidently recommend it to our readers. It is always best to use it in the cool of the morning, while the dew is upon the leaf.

It is necessary to have plenty of nests for the hens, so that one will not drive off or annoy another. If the hens are not suited in this particular, they will seek nests for themselves in some out-of-the-way place. The fact that a hen will, when choosing a nest, take to some secret or quiet place should serve as a hint as to the proper method of building nests. A nest egg of some kind is necessary. Take this away and leave no eggs, and Biddy will desert the best of nests.

PLANTING POTATOES.—I discard the seed ends and then cut the potato in as many pieces as the size of it will admit, each piece not smaller than a hen's egg. If there are more than two eyes in a piece cut them out. Let them wilt a few days and plant in rows three feet apart and fifteen inches in the row. In this way I can raise more marketable potatoes than in any way I have ever tried.

In starting squashes, Mr. J. C. Chandler, Everett, Mass., places a liberal quantity of manure in a hole for each hill, adds an inch or two of fine soil, levels up with coal ashes, puts in the seed or sets the plants, and after each hoeing scatters on the surface a fresh supply of the ashes. In this way his patch is kept entirely free from grubs, while in his experience every hill planted without ashes will be destroyed.

Finely-ground plaster of Paris, dusted over the infested foliage when moist with dew or rain, is, according to a writer in The N. E. Homestead, sure death to the current worm. During a three years' experience one application generally made a clean sweep, and in the worst cases only two were required.

MONTVUE POULTRY YARDS, WILL spare a limited number of strings from choice Light Brahma, Houdans, Game, Leghorns, BULFANS, Polands, Dominiques, Hamburgs, Bantams, Turkeys and Ducks. Circular sent for stamp. Address, GEO. O. BROWN, BROOKLANDVILLE, Md. 17-54

HARDWARE.

WILSON, McFARLANE & CO.

DEALERS IN

STOVES AND RANGES,

PAINTS, OILS, GLASS, RAKES, FORKS,

CRADLES & SCYTHES.

SOLE AGENTS FOR

JOHNSON'S KALSOMINE.

ALLEGHENY STREET, HUMES' BLOCK, BELLEFONTE, PA.

THE CENTRE DEMOCRAT

BOOK AND JOB OFFICE

BUSH HOUSE BLOCK,

BELLEFONTE, 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.

Printing done in the best style, on short notice and at the lowest rates.

Orders by mail will receive prompt attention.

REMEMBER THE PLACE!

CENTRE DEMOCRAT OFFICE,

Bush House Block,

HIGH STREET, BELLEFONTE, PA.

PATENTS

AND TRADE-MARKS.

We procure Letters Patent on Inventions. No Agency Fees in Advance in application for Patents in the United States. Special attention given to Interference Cases before the Patent Office, and all litigation pertaining to Inventions or Patents. We also procure Patents in Canada and other foreign countries. Caveats Filed, Copyrights obtained, and all other business transacted before the Patent Office and the Courts which demands the services of experienced Patent Attorneys. We have had ten years experience as Patent Attorneys.

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 contains full lists of all allowed Patents. Subscription 25 cents a year, post-paid. Specimen copy sent free. Send us your address on postal card.

INVENTORS

Send us a description of your Invention, giving your idea in your own language, and we will give our opinion as to patentability, with full instructions, charging nothing for our advice. Our book, "How to procure Patents," about the Patent Laws, Patents, Caveats, Trade Marks, their costs, &c., sent free on request.

ADDRESS: R. S. & A. P. LACEY,

PATENT ATTORNEYS,

No. 604 F Street, WASHINGTON, D. C.,

Nearly Opposite Patent Office.

ARRANGERS OF PAY, BOUNTY AND PENSIONS.

We have a Bureau in charge of experienced lawyers and clerks, for prosecution of all Soldier's Claims, Pay, Bounty and Pensions. As we charge no fee unless successful, stamps for return postage should be sent us. R. S. & A. P. LACEY.

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 the polished or oiled black-walnut top table and treadle, complete with a LANTERN ASSEMBLY OF FIFTEEN than any other machine, and reduced to only \$25. Each machine thoroughly warranted with a WRITING 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 any kind of family work. An acknowledged unqualified mechanical success, the only 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 family for a life-time, or it will earn from \$4 to \$8 per day for any one who wishes to sew for a living, and whose hands may be tired, or who is unable to do the work like quality. Has extra long, large-sized Shuttle, easily removed. Extra large-sized Bobbins, holding 100 yards of thread, doing 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 AWARDS at the Centennial. The strongest, finest, and most lasting stitch ever produced. It is built for strength and constant hard work. Inter-changeable working parts. Manufactured of the polished steel. Will run for years without repairs; 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 \$25.00, over did or can do. It will sew anything a needle can pierce, from lace or cambric to heavy cloth or harness, with any kind of thread, and run off twenty yards of ribbon. It makes the shuttle, double-thread, lock-stitch, (the same on both sides of the work), which received the HIGHEST AWARDS at the Centennial. The strongest, finest, and most lasting stitch ever produced. It is built for strength and constant hard work. Inter-changeable working parts. Manufactured of the polished steel. Will run for years without repairs; 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 \$25.00, over did or can do. It will sew anything a needle can pierce, from lace or cambric to heavy cloth or harness, with any kind of thread, and run off twenty yards of ribbon. There are no new first-class machines offered as low as the "Family," by many dollars.

For testimonials see 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 privilege of a THIRTY-DAY EXAMINATION and return 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

FAMILY SHUTTLE MACHINE CO.,

147 Broadway, New York.

BELLEFONTE & SNOW SHOE

R. R.—Time Table in effect on and after Dec. 31, 1877.

Leaves Snow Shoe 7.30 A. M., arrives in Bellefonte 9.20 A. M.

Leaves Bellefonte 10.20 A. M., arrives at Snow Shoe 11.57 A. M.

Leaves Snow Shoe 2.42 P. M., arrives in Bellefonte 4.12 P. M.

Leaves Bellefonte 4.55 P. M., arrives at Snow Shoe 6.27 P. M. DANIEL RHODES, General Superintendent.

BALD EAGLE VALLEY RAILROAD

ROAD—Time Table, December 31, 1877.

Exp. Mail, WESTWARD. EASTWARD. Exp. Mail.

8.05 6.10 Arrive at Tyrone Leave... 7.08 8.20

7.58 6.05 Leave East Tyrone Leave... 7.15 8.27

7.53 6.00 " " " " " " " " " " " "

7.48 5.55 " " " " " " " " " " " "

7.44 5.50 " " " " " " " " " " " "

7.39 5.45 " " " " " " " " " " " "

7.34 5.40 " " " " " " " " " " " "

7.29 5.35 " " " " " " " " " " " "

7.24 5.30 " " " " " " " " " " " "

7.19 5.25 " " " " " " " " " " " "

7.14 5.20 " " " " " " " " " " " "

7.09 5.15 " " " " " " " " " " " "

7.04 5.10 " " " " " " " " " " " "

6.59 5.05 " " " " " " " " " " " "

6.54 5.00 " " " " " " " " " " " "

6.49 4.55 " " " " " " " " " " " "

6.44 4.50 " " " " " " " " " " " "

6.39 4.45 " " " " " " " " " " " "

6.34 4.40 " " " " " " " " " " " "

6.29 4.35 " " " " " " " " " " " "

6.24 4.30 " " " " " " " " " " " "

6.19 4.25 " " " " " " " " " " " "

6.14 4.20 " " " " " " " " " " " "

6.09 4.15 " " " " " " " " " " " "

6.04 4.10 " " " " " " " " " " " "

5.59 4.05 " " " " " " " " " " " "

5.54 4.00 " " " " " " " " " " " "

5.49 3.55 " " " " " " " " " " " "

5.44 3.50 " " " " " " " " " " " "

5.39 3.45 " " " " " " " " " " " "

5.34 3.40 " " " " " " " " " " " "

5.29 3.35 " " " " " " " " " " " "

5.24 3.30 " " " " " " " " " " " "

5.19 3.25 " " " " " " " " " " " "

5.14 3.20 " " " " " " " " " " " "

5.09 3.15 " " " " " " " " " " " "

5.04 3.10 " " " " " " " " " " " "

4.59 3.05 " " " " " " " " " " " "

4.54 3.00 " " " " " " " " " " " "

4.49 2.55 " " " " " " " " " " " "

4.44 2.50 " " " " " " " " " " " "

4.39 2.45 " " " " " " " " " " " "

4.34 2.40 " " " " " " " " " " " "

4.29 2.35 " " " " " " " " " " " "

4.24 2.30 " " " " " " " " " " " "

4.19 2.25 " " " " " " " " " " " "

4.14 2.20 " " " " " " " " " " " "

4.09 2.15 " " " " " " " " " " " "

4.04 2.10 " " " " " " " " " " " "

3.59 2.05 " " " " " " " " " " " "

3.54 2.00 " " " " " " " " " " " "

3.49 1.55 " " " " " " " " " " " "