

Every farmer in his annual experience discovers something of value. Write it and send it to the "Agricultural Editor of the Democrat, Bellefonte, Penna.," that other farmers may have the benefit of it. Let communications be timely, and be sure that they are brief and well pointed.

WE LEARN from the Farmer's Friend that the patrons of Centre, among other leading agricultural counties of the State, have already announced their intention to present exhibits at the tri-State picnic and exhibition to be held at Williams' Grove next month.

COMMON salt, at the rate of four barrels per acre, and unleached wood ashes, in the same or greater quantity, are stated in the Iowa horticultural report to be effective remedies against the strawberry grub. The present is the proper time for their application—with the manure which should be worked into the beds, to stimulate the plants for next year's crop.

THE hot, showery weather of the first and second weeks of this month ripened the grain too rapidly, and much of it will be found to have shrunk. The sudden ripening found many farmers unprepared to "push things," and as a consequence, the crop in this vicinity, already light enough from various causes, will lose a large percentage both in bulk and quantity.

THE Scientific Farmer for July comes to us filled as usual, with sound, instructive reading for every one interested in farming. Among the most thoroughly "scientific" articles are The Laws of Fattening Cattle, by Dr. Aitken, and Food, Physiology and Force, by the editor, Dr. Starbuck. Either of these is well worth the price of a year's subscription.

"HOUGHTON FARM" is the name of a new private experimental farm, inaugurated at Mountainville, Orange county, New York, by Mr. Lawson Valentine, with Dr. Manly Miles as director. Dr. Miles is said to be peculiarly fitted for this work, having experience, ambition and energy. The celebrated "Rothamstead Farm," conducted by Messrs. Lawes and Gilbert, in England, was started under somewhat similar circumstances, and we hope that the time may come when the new American enterprise shall hold the same important relation to American agriculture that "Rothamstead" does to British.

WE ARE indebted to Secretary T. J. Edge for a copy of the last quarterly report of the State Board of Agriculture, containing a condensed report of the transactions of the Board at the June meeting, held in Philadelphia. A number of interesting papers were read, among which perhaps the most interesting were one on "Pennsylvania Dairying," as seen by an outsider," by L. S. Hardin, of New York; and another on the manufacture of sugar from corn, by T. L. Stewart, of Westmoreland county. Other good papers were read, a number of subjects in which farmers are directly interested were discussed, and the Board adjourned to meet at Mercer, on the third Wednesday in October.

ONE OF the very best lubricants for all farm machinery is crude castor oil, mixed with one-sixth its bulk of common coal oil. We use it in preference to others, and give it our unqualified approval. During the hot weather we use a somewhat smaller proportion of coal oil, and increase the quantity for the cold season. This mixture has all the good qualities required in a lubricator, and is entirely free from the objection of gumming. The crude castor oil can be obtained at most hardware stores, and if purchased in quantities of a gallon or so, is not expensive. A mower or reaper kept in thorough repair, with the knives frequently ground on the "Favorite Emery Grinder," and well oiled with this mixture, will run with the

minimum expenditure of horsepower, and do its work in the most satisfactory manner.

A WEEK OR TWO ago we published an article on Summer Drinks for Laboring Men, which counseled abstinence from beer and liquors of all sorts. Of course, the writer referred to the strong beer of the markets, and not to the simple, home-made beverages, compounded of ginger, and the highly-flavored and medicinal roots, leaves and flowers which are often called "beer" by the good women who make and the good men who drink them. These are not only entirely harmless, but, in our opinion, decidedly beneficial, inasmuch as they relieve the intense craving for water which is induced by severe labor in the sun. We have been for some days past, using this sort, made from a "Root Beer Package" put up and sold by Charles E. Hires, 215 Market street, Philadelphia. It is simply a small package of the leaves, roots and flowers of our native aromatic herbs, compounded in such a way and in such proportions as, when the directions are followed, to make a very wholesome and pleasant beverage. It is one of the cheap good things which go far to relieve the heavy labors of the harvest and hay field.

The Farmer's Politics.

A western correspondent of the Practical Farmer gives figures to show that more than one-half of the entire male population of the United States are engaged in farming; that farmers hold more than one-half the property of the country; and that the value of the agricultural exports of the country is more three times the value of all our exports from other sources; and then, when he remembers that there are a less number of farmers in Congress than he could count on his fingers; that Congress appropriated but \$188,000 for the Agricultural Department, while it voted millions to all the others; and that this same department has at its head "a practical, professional politician, and tea-and-molasses culturist," he grows quite unhappy, and calls it all "a condemned shame." This is just our opinion of the matter, and if all that this correspondent says is true, the farmers of this country have the remedy for this wrong in their own hands. If farmers are not properly represented in our National or State Legislatures when they have more than half the votes of the country, as well as more than half of its immense wealth, it is their own fault; and our advice to them is to stop growling about the matter and vote about it. If farmers have a majority of the voters of this country we can see no earthly reason why they should not have a majority of the Congressmen, who would vote their department appropriations commensurate with its importance, and have influence enough to secure as its head a representative farmer who would be something more than a "tea-and-molasses culturist."

The truth of this matter is that as a class we farmers do not appreciate our importance, perform our duties, nor live up to our privileges, in the matter of our influence upon the affairs of the nation; and until we wake up to these things and bestir ourselves, until we step boldly into "politics" and make them just what they should be, and just what we have the power to make them, we are estopped from grumbling about them because of what they are. We believe that "the farmer in politics" would be a very good thing for the politics and not very bad for the farmer, provided he carried with him the same level-headedness, probity, and integrity of purpose which characterizes him in his other relations in life. "The agricultural classes form and give the honest conservative vote of our country," and farmers in our legislatures, both State and National, and in general politics, would have a purifying influence; and that they are not there, and do not exert this influence is their own fault, and bars them from growing upon the subject.

Since writing the above, we have been favored with a copy of an address on "How to Elevate the Standard of Agriculture," read before the State Board of Agriculture, by Hon. C. C. Musselman, in which we find

the following paragraph, bearing upon the same subject:

"The man who spends his time clearing up a farm, thereby making provisions for man and the whole nation for ages to come, lives and dies almost unnoticed. His exalted patience, modesty, industry and frugality, doing his duty to his family, serving his country and honoring his God, is looked upon as degrading, and of little account. While the political crackpot, who is sitting around the corner waiting for something to turn up, who is all things to all men, and who by his crafty machinations, can weede the masses, secure to himself honor and profit, and is cheered! Right here we help to elevate the standard of agriculture by elevating idlers, spendthrifts, gamblers, petty-foggers and demagogues to offices, while the honest, industrious, unassuming, economical farmer takes what is put in the rack for him."

WHEAT that was well manured and put in looks first rate.—Crop Report from Summit Co., Ohio.

Just so! and so it does here, and so it does everywhere else. "Wheat well manured and well put in" will always look well, and so will every other crop that the farmer raises. That tells the whole story of uniformly good crops—"well manured and well put in." No farmer is, or can be, independent of the season, but the one who makes his land rich, and puts his crops in in the proper order, has much less to fear from extraordinary seasons, than he who neglects these conditions.

Poultry.

OF all the agricultural pursuits, none pay better than the labor bestowed upon the poultry on the farm. This fact is acknowledged, and how many of our farmers fail to make the same careful outlay for their poultry that they do for their cows and swine! They run the dairy with care, and the butter-box goes to market each week regularly. Why not have as a companion to it a poultry farm and an egg-box? The sour milk from the butter-making will pay far better fed to poultry than to hogs. Poultry sells at an average higher price than beef or pork, and it costs no more to make it. Our farmers in most cases near our cities have regular customers for their butter; these same parties would take weekly a much larger amount in money's worth of poultry and eggs. In this way two hundred fowls upon a farm would pay as much into the family fund as would ten cows.

Many of our farmers do not believe this; but let them try the experiment of keeping an exact account with both cows and hens, and they will find what we tell them is true. One bushel and a peck of corn, or its equivalent in other food, will keep a hen twelve months. We know the average hen will lay eleven dozen of eggs. We know also that the guano from a flock of hens will pay ten per cent. upon the cost of quarters for their use, and that are necessary for the production of eggs in winter. Should our farmers look into this branch of their agriculture, they would be surprised at the waste now going on on their premises. With nine pounds, and in extreme cases twelve pounds, of live weight produced by the feeding of a bushel of corn to poultry, and a shrinkage of twenty per cent. to reduce it to dressed weight, one easily records the cost of his poultry per pound, which at present market prices—fifty-five cents for corn and thirty-two cents for chickens, this date May 20—is a profit of over four hundred per cent. But the average year's business—from February to October 10 the New England farmer enjoys free from the influence of Western production, which can be shipped only in cold weather—enables him to realize about twenty cents per pound on the average for his poultry. This will ensure to him a profit of one hundred per cent. above the cost of food and shelter. Will not this pay him better for his time than does his butter? Investigate this, farmers, and let us know the result.

Peas and Oats for Milk.

Peas and oats are equal to clover, and may be raised on a great variety of soils—a most important consideration. We have raised twelve tons of this green food to the acre, and this would feed twenty-four cows ten days, without any other food. The pea is rich in casein—just what is required to make milk—and the oat is also rich in the elements of milk. These two crops grow well together, for the oats hold the peas up and prevent them from lying too flat on the ground. They mature so near together that they are both ready to cut at the same time. But the crop should always be cut when the pea pod is full and the grain in the milk. It is then very succulent and palatable, and will produce as much milk as any food we know of, aside from a large variety of pasture grasses in their most succulent state.

Avoid giving a tired horse very cold water, as it will often produce colic.

Low Prices Mean Retrenchment.

Low prices should mean to the farmer a reduction of expenses. It will not do now to suffer waste of labor or material on the farm. Let weeds grow, if there is no profit in extirpating them; but first be sure that you are right, and do not neglect to weed through carelessness or heedlessness, and if weeds are allowed to grow, let them grow, not because they will, but of your volition. Horse cultivation will usually keep weeds down sufficiently, and will afford a profit on the crop; hand cultivation will suffice to keep a field free from weeds, but will it allow of a profit from the crop? This is a question each farmer should meet and decide. There is too little departure from the old style of cropping in New-England: a system which before the day of cheap freights might answer; but now the competition with distant products requires a remodeling of farm practices, and he is the wise man who intelligently foresees and changes, rather than he who is forced through long and discouraging diminution of profits to arrive at the same conclusion. The present low prices may, after all, serve as blessings in disguise for New England husbandry.

The Farmer, Nature's Partner.

There is a quiet about the life of a farmer, and a hope of a serene old age, that no other business or profession can promise. A professional man is doomed sometime to feel that his powers are waning. He is doomed to see younger, stronger men pass him in the race of life. He looks forward to an old age of intellectual mediocrity. He will be last where once he was first. But the farmer goes, as it were, into partnership with Nature—he lives with trees and flowers—he breathes the sweet air of the fields. There is no constant and frightful strain on his mind. His nights are filled with sleep and rest. He watches his flocks and herds as they feed upon the green and hilly slopes. He hears the pleasant rain fall upon the waving corn, and the trees he planted in youth rustle above him as he plants others for the children yet to be.

The Farmer's Lawn.

No one begrudges the chickens a yard in which to run, flirt and frolic, and are not children entitled to equal privileges with the chickens? What ever makes home attractive, if it is no more expensive than a lawn, is not wasteful. If we wish to keep our boys on the farm, to train our daughters for farmer's wives, we must make the home pleasant and farm life something besides mere drudgery. We know nothing that adds such a charm to a country home as a lawn; and when, after the labors of the day are over, the boys and girls assemble upon it to play croquet, and the grace of motion and the exhilaration of social life are added to this thing of beauty, the scene is delightful, and if anything will make the farm attractive, this will.

How to Cure Ripe Hay.

Hay that has been cut late may be improved by curing it in the cock instead of drying it in the sun. Being comparatively dry when cut it is very soon cured; and if put up in cocks as soon as it is thoroughly wilted, it will heat and steam and become much softened, and will remain greener than if sun-dried in the swath.

Education in Farming.

It is a remarkable fact that many people, even farmers themselves, think that education is of very little importance to the agriculturist. It is true, there is no vocation or profession that can be followed with less education; but there is none, high or low, that can make use of more than the business of farming.

To Them That Have it Should be Given.

Lay it down as a rule that when we see a field left in neglect producing a tolerably good crop of grass all through the growing season, it will pay to give it better treatment, as the fields only require a little assistance of Nature to make them grow maximum crops.

Economy in Farming.

More than half the fences round the house and barn, on most farms, could be dispensed with to advantage. We need to study economy in amount and kind of fence, more, perhaps, than anything else on the farm. An agricultural society offered a premium for the best mode of irrigation, which was printed "irritation" by mistake. A farmer sent his wife to claim the prize. YOUNG grape-vines that have pulsed many buds, should now have all rubbed off but one or at most two of the strongest shoots.

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BELLEFONTE & SNOW SHOE B. R. R.—Time-Table in effect on and after Dec. 31, 1877.

Table with columns: Exp. Mail, WESTWARD, EASTWARD, Exp. Mail. Lists train times and destinations like Erie, Lock Haven, etc.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.—Philadelphia and Erie Division.—On and after December 12, 1877.

Table with columns: WESTWARD, EASTWARD. Lists train times and destinations like Erie, Lock Haven, etc.

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