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 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.

THE current number of the Scientific American contains a finely illustrated article, describing a new invention now under trial in France, that better counsels prevail among for plowing by the use of electricity them. as a motive power. This may do for France, but we have doubts as to its speedy adoption by Centre county farmers.

Farmer asks for information regard- by the products of their poultry ing "new and improved grinders for yards, accounting them one of the mowing machine knives." We heart- chief spokes in the wheel of their ily recommend to this inquirer, and agricultural fortune. It is said that to all other farmers who own or run in France scarcely a meal is eaten mowers or reapers, the Farmer's without eggs or poultry forming Favorite Emery Grinder, made by some part of it; and yet their exporthe Wood Manufacturing Co., at tations of the surplus amount to Worcester, Mass. We have used astonishing figures, sending to Engone during the season just closed, land alone near \$10,000,000 worth of and we credit it with having increas- eggs per year. Many of the small ed the effective value of our machines tenant farmers of France pay their at least ten per cent., and that is a rents from the products of their plow, we regret to learn that they good deal more than the price of the poultry yards alone. We give these grinder.

THE matter of growing roots for stock-feeding is attracting more and more attention from farmers every year, and to stimulate this important interest, and supply the information sought for upon the subject, Messrs. Landreth and Son, of Philadelphia, who make a specialty of seeds of this kind, have published a pamphlet of near fifty pages, devoted entirely to its consideration. Tens of thousands of copies of this little work have been distributed free of cost to the patrons of the house, and it is sent to any one at the nominal cost of twenty-five cents. It is well worth while to send for and carefully examine it.

we are about to enter earnestly into of the farm-would turn their attenpreparation for putting out next tion to this matter, we believe that year's crop, let us stop and think a within two years the profits of our little. Can we not accomplish some. farmers would be increased at least thing in the direction of "making twenty per cent. farming pay," by a decrease in the number of acres put out, and an increase of manure, labor, and care in and pushing and hurrying incident those acres? Let us try it. A and you have "time to think." Look hundred bushels of wheat cannot be to your flocks of half-grown chickif any, more than fifty dollars. That choicest hens to be reserved for early farming pay."

Nurserymen, or Tree Peddlers.

men held in Cleveland, a report was fowls are disposing of their surplus presented and resolutions adopted, tice of selling trees through the medi- your fancy or judgment may dictate; simply as a manure factory; but I but think the time has come when this system should be abandoned. regularly, and put into practice the However much may have been said in hints and suggestions it will give from its favor in times past, there is nothing to warrant its continuance. Means of our word for it you will be as deand planters have multiplied to such an extent that the "tree peddler" can find no excuse for his existence, and the sooner it is ended the better, not only for planters, but for the nurserymen themselves, and we advise our farmer readers to contribute to this tive to sowing rye in corn before the end by refusing to deal with him. While there are, no doubt, honest and reliable men among these itinerant tree sellers, these are in the minority, and misrepresentation and deception are found to characterize the greater number, and you are perfectly safe in refusing to buy of any of them. When you want to plant trees,-and just here, let us by way of parenthesis, urge the importance of planting much more largely than we do, particularly of forest trees,--either go to your local nurserymen and make your selections in person, or look over the advertising columns in your agricultural paper, and write boot, a club or a pitchfork.

to some one of those whose advertisements you find there, and the probability is that you will be honorably treated, and get just what you order and pay for. If, however, you listen to the blandishments of the oily-tongued "peddler," and allow yourself to be persuaded to make your purchases of him, the chances are nine out of ten that your speculation will end in vexatious disappointment, and you will be discouraged from making any further attempts. Respectable nurserymen owe it to themselves, as well as to

the public from whom they derive their profits, to abolish this system of selling, and we hope to soon learn

Poultry on the Farm.

The French farmers, who surpass all the world in their understanding

and appreciation of the small econo-A CORRESPONDENT of the Practical mies of agriculture, set great store facts as illustrating the money value of good, well-kept poultry to our farmers. We do not mean to say that large establishments, devoted low temperature has put the finishing exclusively to poultry, such as are maintained in large numbers among stroke to the agricultural disaster. It is now too late for the crops to recover. maintained in large numbers among the French, would pay with us. The well farmed and drained lands, while idea we desire to impress upon our Centre county farmers is that a proper number of good fowls, well cared for, and provided with proper accom- gra for, and provided with proper accom-grasses and clover crops and even peas will rot ungathered. age on the cost, than can be obtained from any other department of farm production with the same expenditure of time and trouble. If the weaker members of the house- tory for the manufacture of fertilihold on the farms of Centre county zers, aside from the profit or value to -the girls and boys, and those who by infirmity of body or weight of years Now that "harvest is ended" and are incapacitated for the heavy labors

into consideration. The crowding all the work of preparation upon . "hay and harvest" are about over produced on ten acres of ground at a ens; select from them all the carliest cost of much less than one hundred and finest pullets, and give them a dollars. We believe that the same little extra feed and care, marketing the manure is no inconsiderable part number of bushels can be produced or eating all the rejected young stock, on five acres at a cost of but little, and all the old stock but a few of the means debt; this means "making setters in the spring. Between this and cold weather provide for your pullets comfortable-not necessarily expensive-quarters; about October the food, there is no profit. At a recent convention of nursery. or November, when breeders of good stock, secure from some of them a endorsing and adhering to the prac- good cockerel of whatever breed where the animal may possibly pay um of traveling agents. We cannot give your fowls intelligent care dur. incline to-believe that the profit in ing the winter; read the DEMOCRAT time to time upon the subject, and communication between nurserymen lighted as you will be surprised at are said to have asserted, that any part the "pleasure and profit" you will de- or kind of cattle or pig food, will, rive from your poultry yard.

Beating the English

English agriculture, with all that pertains thereto, has been held up before American farmers as a sampler, so long and so persistently, that we have come to consider the little island sort of agricultural paradise which it would be presumptious in us to criticize or even try to emulate. It seems, however, that when fair competition is assured we can beat our English cousins as badly in the domain of agriculture, as we do on the turf, the rifle-range, the scullingcourse or the walking track. The exhibition of the Royal Agricultural Society, held in London, and commencing June 30, was open to the productions of all the world, instead of being confined to native products as heretofore, and both first and second prizes for butter were awarded to American makers-the first prize to New York, and the second to Iowa-and the first prize for honey was awarded to an American exhibit made by Messrs. H. K. and F. B. those volunteer crops of vegetation Thurber, of New York. The Lon- only step in where man leaves off don office of the Messrs. Thurber good culture and rotation, as an aid represented the parties who won the the part of the farmer. In this nabutter prizes, and we take it for ture make no mistake. We can, by granted that both samples were salted persistence, thwart nature in her dewith the "Higgin's Eureka Salt," which is handled in the United States by Messrs. Thurber. While we are glad to be able to win first prizes from our English brethren of the are suffering serious drawbacks as a result of an unfavorable season. reduced to a state ready for plant Mr. Mechi, the noted farmer, writes

to the Times as follows : Another week of flooding storms and

on ill-farmed and undrained lands the matter is simply ruinous. The wheat will suffer less than the spring crops. Weeding is hopeless and unless we get the promised hot, dry weather many

Thoughts of Thinking Farmers.

cted from Correspondence To the question-"Would you conbe obtained directly from the food in butter or fat ?"-I would reply, that depends upon circumstances., Generally speaking, I should say there is no object in keeping live stock for the sake of making manure. Broadly considered, the only use of manure is to produce food, or fibre. But to obtain manure by destroying ervicable food, or fibre, is of itself This is the time to take the subject obvious waste, the poorest food of man, or of domestic animals, and the least serviceable fibre, being worth more than the manure that can be made from them under nearly all conditions likely to occur. Under all ordinary circumstances, the labor, the flesh, milk or wool of our animals worth more than the manure, but in thickly settled regions the value of the profit of keeping live stock.

In any case agricultural profit consists in converting cheap materials agents into more valuable ones, and if the food devoted to cattle keeping, &c., be not hereby transformed into something which, added to the manure, exceeds the cost of

localities, where the manure is unusually valuable-as for tobacco

made so full of loss to the farmer as to allow naturally good soil to dete-riorate at all, and when farmers understand and act on this principle.

our productions will never fall below an average, or even to this point. Nature seems to require that to keep up the fertility, all soils must have a covering of vegetable growth in some form, and we will act wisely to follow and assist nature to this end. Even soil that is rich or very rich in plant food, will get poor by remaining destitute of vegetable growth. How often we see soils made very rich by market gardeners, during a short period waiting for a special crop, become covered with, minute plant growth or vegetable covering! Hence chick-weed, a seeming pest of the gardener, will grow even in winter and form a thick mass on the surface. In the absence of the chick-weed or other growth, a kind of moss will coat the surface

While the gardener curses what to him seems a pest, he forgets that na-ture is aiding him to hold the fertility and incease it, and is only a hint in a plain way to keep his soil covered with some crop of a suitable nature to assist in retaining and increasing the fertility, and nearly or all and a stimulus to greater exertion on igns, and impoverish our land, but the same unerring and unfailing finger of nature still remains, pointing out our mistakes, and will, if followed, force us back to the normal condition, and still point to higher ad-vances in vegetable product.

Nothing is properly manure unless food. Straw and coarse material will make plant food, but no plant can get food from a bundle of straw in that State.

If I can afford enough manure to enrich the soil by incorporation eight inches deep, I plow in and mix to this depth, but if I can only apply enough to enrich three inches in depth, I make that three inches the surface, and if I can thoroughly incorporate manure enough into three inches of surface soil, I regard it as the greatest achievement in farming.

There has been much ridicule bestowed on "Jacks of all trades," but my experience in life, now somewhat lengthened, is to the effect that Plain or Fancy Printing. a farmer who does not, when required, branch out into what may be called the professions, and become handy at many things, even of a scientific na-ture, is spending a good many of his days to little purpose.

Among Our Contemporaries.

Vick's Illustrated Monthly for July has reached our table, and is as tasty and spicy as ever. Its articles are all original and practical, and illustrated by no less than fifty-three handsome engrav. AND ALL KINDS OF BLANKS. ings, besides the very elegant full-page chromo of Abutilons.

The Country Gentleman comes to us regularly, and is always welcomed and carefully read. Of the many agricultural weeklies published in the country we know of none which maintains a higher standard of usefulness to the every day farmer.

The Mobile Register notes the death of a number of distinctively agricultural journals in the South during the part year or two, and attributes this state of The usual \$70 Machines reduced to only \$25. affairs to the fact that many miscel laneous journals maintain well-filled There may be exceptional cases, or and carefully -edited agricultural de. partments. This is eminently the case

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Rye in Corn.

Mr. W. P. Belknap, of Goldfield, Iowa, makes a good suggestion relalast plowing :

"If farmers will sow one-half bushel of winter rye to the acre in their corn, and plow it in the last time, it will not only have a tendency to choke out the weeds that start up afterward, but there will be no danger of dry murrain among cattle from eating too freely of dry stalks, as the rye will remain green through the winter and will be eaten by stock in preference to the corn-fod-der. It makes a desirable feed for all kinds of stock and aids materially to the quality and quantity of milk pro-duced, besides proving a saving of from one to two tons of hay for every acre sown—and last but not least, it affords a green crop to plow under in the apring which will renew and enrich the land." "If farmers will sow one-half bushel

MILK STOOLS will not cure a kick-

raising-and feed unusually cheap, any such case could be got, and more than got, by substituting something else for the animal. It certainly would not pay to use the animal itself directly as manure, after finishing with it as a manure factory.

I cannot understand what some in ordinary farming, pay for itself in the manure. The more food we give to our live stock the more manure they will make, and the richer the food is in fertilizing elements, viz., nitrogen, phosphates, alkalies, &c., the richer will be the manure; but I should never feed anything simply and solely for the sake of making more manure, or better manure. The business of feeding should be conducted with the single purpose of getting the highest return from the food and animals in the forms of horse power, flesh and fat, milk, &c., and the manure should be regarded as a secondary or incidental though not unimportant result.

There is something in a heavy sod that will perfect a crop even in an unfavorable season. I never have failed of a good crop on such land. Soil will soon be renovated after partial deterioration, if grass can be densely set on the surface; and this mode of renovation, I claim, is the quickest, surest and cheapest of any. There are a sure a sure the of any. There never was a mistake should be butchered.

with the New York World. As a news paper it stands head and shoulders above the majority of its metropolitan contemporaries, and its agricultural page is edited with a degree of care which renders its teachings worthy of the most implicit confidence. For the farmer who wants a city paper, the semiweekly at \$2 per year, or the weekly at \$1 per year, will fill the bill.

Land Only an Opportunity to Apply Labor. a the Rural New Yorker.

Land, indeed, is only valuable as it affords an opportunity to apply labor, and the accumulated product of labor -capital. Without these, land will yield no profit; and just in proportion as labor and capital are judiciously expended upon it, can land be made a means of adding to our wealth -that is, to "pay."

We do not get our living from the land; we get it from the labor and capital laid out on the land. This concentration of effort upon small areas of soil is something little understood in America.



nce of Rural New Yorker.

Let all who doubt that pig pork is preferable to old hog pork, test both, and I believe they will always use pig pork in their family, when possi-ble, and sell the old hog pork. The nicest as well as cheapest pork a farmer can make, is that obtained by feeding pigs all they will eat until six or eight months old, when they should be betaved

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