

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.

THE Pomona Grange, of the order of Patrons of Husbandry, for this county, holds its next meeting at Centre Hall, on Tuesday, the 5th prox. The sessions will open at ten o'clock in the forenoon, and continue during the day.

THERE is no better time in the whole year to look after the needed repairs to the reaper and mower and horse rake than just now, while the breakages, if any, are fresh in the memory. Send for the needed pieces at once, and the first leisure day that you find, clean up the machine, put it in good repair, rub all the bearings with the mixture of castor oil and kerosene recommended in last week's paper, and put it carefully away for next season. This sort of care will make machines wear double the usual length of time.

THERE is no better disinfectant, deodorizer and absorbent than pulverized clay, and now is the time to secure a supply for the year, in the easiest way, by gathering it from the roads while the season is dry and the dust abundant. A load or two can be easily and speedily gathered by the use of a rake head and shovel, and if stored in a bin, or boxes and barrels, will be convenient for use during the year. Its plentiful use in hen roosts, vaults and sink holes will not only prevent the emanation of the foul gases which engender fevers and diseases of all sorts, but will aid materially in making the compost pile for next year's corn crop or garden.

A CORRESPONDENT of one of our most valued contemporaries advises the use of Paris Green for the destruction of the cabbage worm. We beg to enter our most emphatic protest. We have not the slightest hesitation in using this poisonous drug on potatoes, the edible portion of which is under ground, for the destruction of the beetle, but where it must come in direct contact with that portion of the plant which is used as food, as the cabbage, its use would seem decidedly reckless, and the danger to human life is too great to allow any one to run the risk. Other remedies for the cabbage worm have been found which are quite efficient, and in the use of which there is no danger.

THE crops have demanded and received a large share of the farmer's attention for some weeks past—now devote your time to the weeds for a little while. These are apt to be forgotten as the summer advances, and it is a mistake. Just at this time of the year they are most easily killed by mowing and cutting. Let none go to seed. Make thorough work. Mow the fence corners, and if you have a field or "patch," which, from failure to catch in grass has grown up with foul stuff, set the mower in it, and leave the weeds to do what little good they can, by rotting on the ground. Remember, "one year's seeding makes seven years' weeding." A day or two, or even a week, spent now in the work of extirpation, will pay ten-fold. And when we say "extirpation" we mean to give the word its full force. Make no half-work of it, but see that none are left to seed the ground.

THE receipt, last week, of the "Strawberry Catalogue" of Mr. J. T. Lovett, of Little Silver, Monmouth county, N. J., reminds us that we have failed, in what we have had to say by way of urging our readers to more generally cultivate this delicious fruit, to properly place before them the advantages of pot-grown plants. At first sight these may appear expensive to some, but in reality they are cheaper, as a fair crop can be had from them the first season after planting. They are particularly valuable to those who wish to test

the new varieties, as they are sure to withstand the severities of transportation and grow. They can be taken up and taken out of the pots, and sent to any part of the Union and planted, and produce a crop the next year. Mr. Lovett makes a specialty of pot-growing, and has all the best varieties grown in this way, as well as in the ordinary layers. We are anxious to have the cultivation of this most delicious of all the small fruits inaugurated by as many of our readers as possible, and would therefore like to see Mr. Lovett's catalogue well circulated in the county. He will cheerfully send it, without expense, to any one who will give him their address on a postal card, and the information it contains is all that is necessary to a successful cultivation of the strawberry.

THIS is the most trying time in the year for the poultry breeder. Watch your laying houses, nests, roosting perches, and especially the fowls, for vermin of any kind. Do not allow it to get a foothold. Use kerosene oil on perches, in bottoms and on sides of nests, and in every place where it is possible for the little mites to hide. If on the fowls, use a mixture of kerosene and lard oil, but not too plentifully. Sulphur, dusted in small quantities in the feathers and nests, is also a good preventive, as well as cure.

Water regularly. See that all the fowls, young and old, have fresh pure water at least three times each day. Care in this respect is a great preventive of disease and summer disorders. Humanity also demands that your birds have this attention. Too much sameness in their diet will only make them worthless as egg-producers. If you are feeding corn and wheat, get some refuse rice, boil it thoroughly, and give it to them for a change. The greater change in diet you can make, the more health, thrift, and greater abundance of eggs you will have.

For the United States Entomological Commission we have only words of kindness and commendation. It is composed of gentlemen who are eminent in their profession and earnestly devoted to their work; and the work upon which they are now engaged—the investigation of the Hessian Fly and the Cotton Worm—cannot fail to produce results which will be of the greatest value to the agriculture of the country. No congress has ever created an "investigating committee" of greater importance, nor one that has shown so large results with so small an expenditure of public money as this will. We submit, however, that the mere existence of such a commission, outside and independent of the Department of Agriculture, is so serious a reflection upon the Department as to furnish a potent argument for its discontinuance. Of what earthly use is an Agricultural Department, with a paid entomologist in its employ, when such work as an investigation of the habits of such venerable vermin as the wheat fly and cotton worm must be delegated to a special commission? When the Department is so conducted that men like Statistician Dodge and Entomologist Riley are compelled to retire from it in order to retain their self-respect, it is no wonder that "commissions" must be created to do the work which it was called into existence especially to do. Let the Department of Agriculture either be made what it should be, or discontinued, and the country saved this expense.

AMONG the minor inventions connected with haymaking, and which have followed the introduction of the mower, are the various forks and carriers for unloading. Of these last we confess to having been somewhat distrustful because of the failures, and incidental trouble, loss and vexation which have followed the erection of several within our knowledge. In this, however, as in other inventions, the failures of the earlier have been followed by the success of the later inventors, and during the past season our doubts as to the practicability of hay carriers have been entirely removed by the erection of the "Church Elevator and Carrier," for which Mr. Jacob R. Leathers, of Mountain Eagle, is the agent. Not-

withstanding our scruples, because of the failure of the flimsy iron rod concerns which had come under observations, we accepted Mr. Leathers's statements, and allowed him to erect one, and its work is so entirely satisfactory, and there seems so little possibility of its ever getting out of order, with anything like careful treatment, that we have become a thorough convert and are glad to let it stay. Briefly, it consists of a little iron car running on a single wooden rail attached to the rafters of the barn by jointed iron hangers, and is so thoroughly simple in its construction and action, and so efficient and perfect in its work, that we predict for it universal adoption with hay raisers. So far from straining or in any way injuring the barn, we would have no hesitancy in taking up a whole load at a time on ours, if it were practicable to get it on the fork. With a very little practice, when used in connection with a proper fork—and as to what is a "proper fork" we shall take occasion to speak at some future time—it is entirely practicable to deposit an ordinary load of hay in the opposite end from the wagon of a large barn, crossing over one or two mows, as may be required, in from five to seven minutes, with the use of but one horse, and this is as good as we want.

The Hessian Fly. We have received from A. S. Packard, Jr., Secretary of the U. S. Entomological Commission, and whose address is Providence, R. I., copies of a circular issued by the commission, desiring the co-operation of farmers in obtaining facts concerning the habits of the Hessian Fly. We shall be glad to give or send copies of this circular to any farmers who may call or send for them. The object of the commission is to obtain such information as will enable it to arrive at the measures best calculated to prevent the increase of this plague, and destroy it, and it is one in which every farmer is directly interested. We quote the following from the circular:

In brief, the habits of the Hessian Fly are as follows: In May and June two or three small, reddish-white maggots may be found embedded in the crown of the roots of the wheat, at or near the surface of the soil, causing the stalks and leaves to wither and die; the maggots harden, turn brown, and resemble a flax-seed, and change into little black midges with smoky wings, half the size of a mosquito, which appear in spring and autumn, and lay from twenty to thirty eggs in a crease in the leaf of the young plant. Specimens of the fly may be obtained by sweeping the wheat when three or four inches high, with a gauze net. Please send me specimens of the fly, eggs, maggot and "flax-seed," in vial of alcohol, with notes as to the date when found, and full information as to the insect enemies and parasites.

The Wheat Midge is apt to be confounded with the Hessian Fly. It is a small, mosquito-like fly, orange yellow, with clear wings, which hovers over fields of young wheat in June. It attacks the heads of the wheat, laying its eggs when the wheat is in blossom. On hatching, the maggots crowd around the young kernels of wheat, causing them to become shrivelled. The maggots in July and August descend into the ground, spinning a round cocoon smaller than a mustard seed, remaining an inch below the surface till the following June. Information regarding the following topics is respectfully solicited; to be forwarded at the close of the season:

- 1. When, where, and how are the eggs deposited?
2. When does the maggot appear?
3. When is the "flax-seed" state of the Hessian Fly, or the seed-like cocoons of the Wheat Midge assumed?
4. At what date do the Midges appear in spring and autumn?
5. Look for minute parasites in the eggs and maggots. They may be bred by placing the eggs and maggots with the wheat in bottles covered with gauze, and the parasitic flies preserved in vials of alcohol.
6. Give statistics as to abundance and losses in your town.
7. State the best preventive remedies, as deep ploughing or burning in the fall, or the rotation of crops.
Specimens of the wheat affected by these insects, and of the eggs, maggots and flies, together with their parasites, in alcohol, are requested. When mailed, the alcohol can be poured out, and cotton soaked in alcohol will keep the specimens wet until received. Packed in a tin box they can be sent through the mail.

A. S. PACKARD, Jr., Providence, R. I. Into the yard the farmer goes, With grateful heart at the close of day; Harrows and chains are hung away; In the wagon-shed stand yoke and plow; The grain's in the stack, the hay in the mow— The cooling days are falling, The friendly sheep his welcome greet, The pigs come grunting to his feet, The whinnying mare her master knows, When into the yard the farmer goes, His cattle calling, "O, O, boss! O, O, boss! O, O, boss!" While still the cow boy, far away, Goes seeking those that have gone astray, "O, O, boss! O, O, boss! O, O, boss!" THE orchards of Northern Pennsylvania bid fair to yield a rich harvest.

Level Culture. Correspondent of the American Farmer. At the beginning of farm life, in order to learn the most approved methods, I employed a first-class farmer and gardener fresh from England. He persisted in a mode of cultivation precisely the reverse of what I had been used to see—allowing the mangels and sugar beets, the corn, potatoes, peas, beans, cucumbers, melons, tomatoes, cabbages, etc., to go without any hilling up. The mangels and sugar beets stood high above the ground, the bulbous parts exposed to the sun, and many of the mangels falling over and growing crooked. The part of the cucumbers above ground, which I insisted was rather a root than a stem, and should be entirely exposed to the sun. I thought the sun would parch the roots and they would break or be injured when the stem should fall from the upright into a horizontal position. The Englishman would have his way, but agreed that I should treat some of each sort of plants in my way. So a few of all sorts were hilled up, and fully as well worked in other respects as his during the season. For a few weeks mine grew as well as his, and the cucumbers, peas, etc., blossomed as early. After one gathering of cucumbers, peas, etc., the dry season set in and mine perished, while his continued to bloom and bear, and so of the melons. My potatoes made about half a crop of small tubers dug from dry hills; his yielded bounteously of large ones dug from moist earth at the same time in the same field. So with the mangels, sugar beets, etc. The hilled peas, beans, etc., fired early in the season and succumbed to the drouth. Without this experience, if one had said that hilling up the growing plants would kill them, I should have joined in the response of a million farmers denouncing it as false because they were hilled up. Ever since I have avoided hilling and ridging about growing plants, and cultivated the soil as levelly as possible.

Yield of Crops. From the Country Gentleman. Every farmer needs to study, and study hard, too. When we consider what the present yield of our crops is, and that they may, by proper selection of seed and judicious cultivation, be doubled, is it not a little strange that so few farmers give their attention to this matter, and labor with brain and muscle to accomplish this result? We, as farmers, must till our land better; cultivate only as many acres as we can make rich with manure, and take special pains in the tilling of it. The soil cannot be mellowed too much. The basis of good farming is good plowing, for if you do not plow well you need not expect good crops, no matter how much manure you apply; and after the ground is plowed the harrow should be used twice as much as many use it. I have seen some, when fitting ground for corn or grain, harrow but once, and then leave a strip untouched by the harrow, nearly every time in crossing the field. This, of course, is not the practice of a good farmer. Good cultivation will make up in part for a light dressing of manure.

Benefits of Soiling. From the American Agriculturist. Soiling saves fences, one of the most expensive features of ordinary farming; prevents the seeding of weeds; and keeps stock from trampling down and wasting more fodder than they eat. It doubles the amount of stock which can be kept on any given amount of land, and there is a vast increase in the amount of valuable manure that may be saved. There is some additional labor, but the returns are so much greater, that Soiling is the system of the present as well as future agriculture.

Practical Wisdom. From the Practical Farmer. There are certain operations which must be gone through and certain expenses incurred, whether the crop is large or small. The seed, plowing, planting and harvesting are the interest on capital invested, are the same for a small as a large crop. If the farmers of the country would begin systematically to reduce their acres under cultivation, and at the same time keep up their bushels, it would work a revolution in farm management.

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Table with columns: Exp. Mail, WESTWARD, EASTWARD, Exp. Mail. Lists train schedules for various routes.

Table with columns: Erie Mail, WESTWARD, EASTWARD. Lists train schedules for Erie Mail routes.

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