

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, Penna.," that other farmers may have the benefit of it. Let communications be timely, and be sure that they are brief and well pointed.

THE Farmer's Friend will be published daily at Williams' Grove during the continuance of the tri-State picnic and exhibition. This is an exhibition of enterprise on the part of Brother Thomas which we hope will meet with abundant reward.

Set aside a row, or part of a row, of the peas, beans, sweet corn, &c., for seed, and from this take the earliest and best. To eat the "first fruits," which are always the finest, and save the "leavings" for seed, is a sure way to have the sort "run out."

It is noticeable that the State Society prohibits racing in any form at its fair to be held in Philadelphia this year. We believe this to be in accord with the sentiments of those to whom the Society must look for the contributions required to make the fair a success, and that it will find a good account therein.

Is it not poor economy to pay \$2.00 or \$2.50 for a professedly agricultural paper which comes but once a month, when the DEMOCRAT, costing but \$1.50, comes every week, and gives you the cream of all the agricultural papers, besides the local news, official publications of county officers, a complete epitome of the latest and freshest general news, and a large amount of the very best of family reading?

It seems to be conceded by the great majority of successful wheat growers that the only way yet discovered of avoiding damage to the wheat crop by the Hessian Fly is to sow late. We must remember, however, that the Fly is not the only danger which wheat must encounter, and not run into others while endeavoring to avoid this. Upon rich, well-drained land, late sowing will usually succeed best, but these conditions are requisite to success.

If your poultry seems to be drooping, and "not doing well," the chances are nine out of ten that they are being eaten up by lice. These pests multiply wonderfully during hot days, and must be watched closely to prevent them from overrunning the fowls. A coat of whitewash, with a strong dash of carbolic acid in it, for the hen house, and an occasional saturating of the roosting poles with common coal oil are the remedies, and they are "sure cures." Do not neglect to apply them, and then complain if your chickens die off.

WE REGRET to hear complaints from many quarters of the failure of the catch of clover sown on winter grain last spring. In many, perhaps most cases, the seed germinated, but the succeeding dry, cold weather proved too much for the tender young plants, and they had to succumb. This is a misfortune. Clover is the sheet anchor of farming in most parts of our county, and its failure means smaller crops and poorer land. A neighbor of ours proposes to try seeding down a piece of wheat with clover this fall, and if it should fail to show well in the spring, sow again. This will give him two chances at any rate, and that fall-sown clover does sometimes succeed well as has been demonstrated time and again.

FROM all accounts potatoes will be in great abundance, and at very low prices this fall. The present condition of the crop is unusually favorable, and the acreage planted is much larger than usual, the increase in this State being nine per cent., and for the whole country three per cent. In this state of affairs it seems to us advisable to make arrangements for disposing of the crop with the least handling, and to the best possible advantage. We propose to "sort" ours closely at digging, and put away only the finest. The remainder, if boiled and mixed with meal, will make cheap and excellent pork. By this

course we will avoid the risk of keeping over large quantities, and those which are kept will bring better prices in the spring.

WITH the closing of the hay and oats harvest, the farmers' spring campaign, in this locality, is ended, and we are ready for the "fall work." The season just closed has required a deal of hard work, and we have been driven through it at break-neck speed. That which is now opening will have its full proportion of hard work too, but there will be less of push and drive than in the earlier part of the year. Let us improve this comparatively leisure by doing what we have to do better than usual, and wedge in between the joints of the regular work some of the thousand and one little odds and ends of jobs, which seem to be neglected so easily, but which, when done, go so far toward improved appearances, and making farming pay. We cannot, for obvious reasons, make a list of the things which should be attended to, but if every farmer will put on his thinking cap and spectacles, and look about him, he will find more than enough of these small matters to keep him from falling into bad habits because of idleness. Whatever you do or leave undone, don't neglect the weeds. Smite them right and left, and keep at it, until you are sure that none will go to seed.

Legislation for Farmers.

Some one has said that the worst of men are not all bad, nor the best all good, and what is true of individuals may be true of bodies of men. That it is true may be learned from the late State Legislature, which, among all its disgraceful wrangles and debauchery, found time to pass at least two bills which are of special interest to the farming community and which will be widely commended. The first is an act to encourage the planting of trees by the roadside throughout the State. It was approved May 2, 1879, and is as follows:

SECTION 1. That any person liable to road tax who shall transport to the side of any public highway, on his own premises, any fruit, shade trees or forest trees of suitable size, shall be allowed by the supervisor of roads, where roads run through or adjoin cultivated fields, in abatement of his road tax, one dollar for every four trees set out to the row of elms shall be near other forest trees, no row of maples or other forest trees nearer than fifty feet, except lot; and no allowance, as before provided, shall be made unless such trees shall have been set out the year previous to the demand for such abatement, and are living and are protected by animals at the time of such demand.

SECTION 2. Any trees transplanted to the side of the public highway as aforesaid, in the place of trees which have died, shall be allowed for in the same manner and on the same conditions as in the previous section.

SECTION 3. No person shall be allowed in abatement of this highway tax as aforesaid more than one quarter of his annual highway tax, and no one shall receive an abatement of tax for trees planted previous to the passage of this act.

SECTION 4. Any person who shall cut down, kill or injure any living tree planted as aforesaid, shall pay to the supervisor of roads as aforesaid fifty cents for each and every tree cut down, killed or removed, and be collected as other taxes are now collected.

to combine the most delightful shades with the annual harvest of cherries and sugar, it should not require the mandate of law to make them plant in profusion. They have not done so, however, and so indifferent are very many of the owners of rural homes in this State to their own comfort, that their houses are often without trees about them and entirely unprotected from the heat of the summer and the blasts of winter. Now the law proposes to teach land-owners what their tastes, their comfort and their interests should have taught them long ago, and as they will henceforth be paid for beautifying and enriching their own lands, it is to be hoped that the spirit of the act will be infused throughout all classes and sections of Pennsylvania, until every roadside shall be green with beauty and plenty.

The other act to which we refer is one "to regulate the manufacture and sale of commercial fertilizers," and was approved June 28, 1879, and although the limited amount of commercial fertilizers as yet used in Centre county make it of less importance here than the other, it is of very general interest to farmers throughout the State. We believe that a full understanding of the safety and assurance with which this class of fertilizers can now be purchased will stimulate the use of them in our county, and to this end we publish the act entire, although it necessitates the surrendering to it of a large proportion of our space:

SECTION 1. That every package of commercial fertilizer sold, offered, or exposed for sale, for manual purposes within this Commonwealth, shall have plainly stamped thereon the name of the manufacturer the place of manufacture, the net weight of its contents, and an analysis stating the percentage therein contained of nitrogen, or its equivalent in ammonia, in an available form, of potash soluble in water, of soluble and reverted phosphoric acid, and of insoluble phosphoric acid; Provided, That any commercial fertilizer sold, offered, or exposed for sale, which shall contain none of the above named constituents, shall be exempt from the provisions of this act.

SECTION 2. Every manufacturer or importer of commercial fertilizers, as specified in section one of this act, shall on or before the first day of August next ensuing, or before offering the same for sale in this Commonwealth, file annually in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth an affidavit stating the amount of said fertilizer or fertilizers sold within the State during the last preceding year, and if said amount be one hundred tons or less, he or she shall pay to the treasurer of the State the sum of ten dollars for each and every such article of such commercial fertilizer sold within the State during the last preceding year, and if said amount shall exceed one hundred tons, he or she shall pay the sum of twenty dollars as aforesaid; and if said amount shall be five hundred tons or more, he or she shall pay the sum of thirty dollars as aforesaid. If such manufacturer or manufacturer or importer shall not have made any sales within the Commonwealth during the preceding year, he or she shall pay the sum of ten dollars as aforesaid. Every such manufacturer or importer shall at the same time file with the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture a copy of the analysis required by section one of this act, and shall be entitled to receive from the Secretary of the Commonwealth a certificate, which shall be countersigned by the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture, showing that the provisions of this act have been complied with.

SECTION 3. Any person selling, offering, or exposing for sale any commercial fertilizer without the analysis required by section one of this act, or with an analysis stating that it contains a larger percentage of any one or more of the above named constituents than is contained therein, or for the sale of which all the provisions of section two have not been complied with, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction shall forfeit a sum not less than twenty-five and not exceeding one hundred dollars for the first offense, and not less than two hundred dollars for each subsequent offense, one-half of which shall be for the use of the informer and the remainder for the county in which the conviction is secured; Provided, Said informer be the purchaser and the goods be for his own use.

SECTION 4. It shall be the duty of the Board of Agriculture to analyze such specimens of commercial fertilizers as be furnished by its agents, said samples to be accompanied with proper proof, under oath or affirmation, that they were fairly drawn; the fee for such analysis shall be determined by the executive committee of the board, and be based upon a fixed rate for each determination, shall in no case exceed seventy-five per centum of the usual price paid for such services, and shall be payable from the Treasury of the Commonwealth in the manner as now provided by law.

SECTION 5. The money paid into the treasury under the provisions of this act shall constitute a special fund from which the cost of such analysis shall be paid; Provided, That the total amount thus expended in any one year shall in no case exceed the amount paid into the treasury during the same year, and that any moneys remaining in this special fund at the end of the year shall be passed into the general fund for the use of the State.

en to mean any and every substance imported, manufactured, prepared, or sold for fertilizing or manuring purposes, except barnyard manure, marl, lime, and wood ashes, and not exempt by the provisions of section one of this act.

Sec. 7. This act shall go into effect on and after the first day of August, one thousand eight hundred and seventy-nine.

The hardships of this act will bear only upon dishonest manufacturers and dealers in worthless imitations, and, as under all other just laws, the sufferers will be the rascally few, while the masses will be the beneficiaries, and honest manufacturers and dealers will receive their reward in a greatly increased business.

While due commendation and praise should be given the late Legislature for the passage of these acts, the State Board of Agriculture is, we believe, entitled to the credit for their inception and elaboration, and this is only one of the many instances in which it has done good work for the cause of agriculture in its brief but increasingly useful existence.

How Much Seed Wheat to the Acre. W. F. R. in Practical Farmer.

Until within three or four years I had not given the matter a thought, but followed the example of my neighbors and sowed from five to six pecks to the acre. In the fall of 1876, my neighbor, by a mistake in setting the drill, sowed seven bushels of seed on eight acres. I was in the field when he was cutting it, and think I never saw a heavier growth of straw, and the appearance was that if any fault could be found, it was too thick on the ground. Since that time, neither my neighbor nor myself have sown over one bushel to the acre and our wheat crops have been uniformly heavy.

In the fall of 1877 I sowed a two-acre patch of wheat, and on one acre used half a bushel and the other a bushel of seed. It showed a marked difference in the fall, but stood in the spring so as to cover the ground as completely on one part of the field as the other. When we harvested it, neither the man who drove the reaper nor the binders could see any difference in the yield. I shocked it and found fifty-one shocks on one side and fifty-two on the other, and it threshed sixty-five bushels, or a bushel to nineteen sheaves. This year we had the same two-acre piece in wheat, and I ordered it sowed, the first acre one-half bushel, and the other three pecks. The drill was a new one, and after my man had sown about a fourth of an acre he found that he was getting on very little seed, and changed the drill to three pecks. When the wheat came up there were many places from two to four feet in the drill without a grain, and it made such a sorry show, that the first of April I determined to plow it up and drove on with the team for that purpose, but finally changed my mind and left it. The result was a fair crop of wheat, certainly as much as twenty bushels to the acre, but not up to the average of the field. I cannot tell just how much seed was used on this plot, as the drill man did not tell me of the mistake, and I only found it out after the wheat came up, but I do not think it could have been more than at the rate of six quarts to the acre.

A friend of mine who was for many years a successful wheat grower in Warren county, Ohio, and who grew an average of thirty-seven bushels to the acre on his entire crop for one year, assures me that he has experimented till he is satisfied that three pecks of seed will grow a better crop of wheat than a larger amount. I believe that it will be found that every farmer who has given the matter a fair trial has been pleased with the result of thin seeding.

Another thing which makes it look reasonable that thin seeding is best, is that we find an average of about thirty grains in a head, and as each grain must produce one head, if any, and may produce several, it necessarily follows that if we sow one bushel to the acre and every grain produces one head, we must have thirty bushels to the acre. What then becomes of the rest of the seed when we sow five or six pecks and harvest only twelve or fifteen bushels, as is generally the case? It does not seem that it would be very difficult to so enrich and pulverize the soil of a wheat field that each stalk would tiller and produce from four to six heads, and this would make, if they were of average size, from thirty to forty bushels per acre. Probably it would be running too much risk to sow as little as a peck to the acre, but I believe that three pecks is ample for any rich, well-prepared soil. I expect to thresh to-morrow a six-acre field which was sowed with that amount of seed, and will report the average yield and make some comments on it in another number. In the meantime let us hear—from this and seeding time—from farmers who have sown less than a bushel to the acre, for in the multitude of counselors there is safety.

Odds and ends from the table may be wrought into good fresh eggs at short notice—only keep poultry.

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