

The Centre Democrat.

BELLEFONTE, PA.

AGRICULTURAL.

NEWS, FACTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

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.

REMEMBER! NO ROSES
Will spring from the weed
And no beautiful fruit
From unworthy seed.

FARMERS, particularly young farmers, do not fail to attend the fair this fall. Begin now to make your arrangements and plan your work so that you can go, and then go. And go in a two-fold capacity, first as an exhibitor, second as an observer. As an exhibitor contribute your full share toward making the fair what it should be; as an observer derive all the benefit from it that you can. Don't go as you would to a circus, simply to see the crowds and be amused."

The "Amusement Department" is all right for an hour's entertainment, but don't confine yourself to it. Take note book and pencil, go carefully through all the departments, make close observations, ask questions of exhibitors and committeemen, and jot down whatever may strike you as interesting or worthy of future attention. In no other way, at so little expense of time or money, can you gain so much knowledge directly relating to your profession, nor do so much to establish your future position among the leaders in agricultural progress.

OUR VIEWS AS TO THE IMPORTANCE OF POULTRY ON THE FARM HAVE BEEN SO OFTEN AND PLAINLY EXPRESSED THAT WE NEED NOT REITERATE THEM. THAT THIS PARTICULAR CLASS OF FARM PRODUCTS IS GROWING IN THE APPRECIATION OF THE PUBLIC IS EVIDENCED BY THE LARGE AMOUNT OF "POULTRY LITERATURE" NOW IN CIRCULATION. EVERY AGRICULTURAL PAPER HAS ITS SPECIAL POULTRY DEPARTMENT, AND MANY OF THEM EMPLOY AN EDITOR EXCLUSIVELY FOR IT, AND IN ADDITION, THERE ARE A NUMBER OF WEEKLY AND MONTHLY JOURNALS DEVOTED ENTIRELY TO THIS INTEREST. AMONG THE LATTER ONE OF THE MOST ELEGANT IS THE *Pet-Stock, Pigeon and Poultry Bulletin*, published at 62 Courtlandt street, New York. AS SUGGESTED BY ITS NAME, THIS JOURNAL DOES NOT CONFINE ITSELF STRICTLY TO THE INTERESTS OF EGG AND MEAT PRODUCING FARM POULTRY, BUT ENBRACES WITHIN ITS SCOPE PETS OF ALL SORTS, MAKING IT PEAKLY ADAPTED TO THE BOYS AND YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE FARM. ONE OF THE PRACTICAL MEN INTERESTED IN THIS JOURNAL IS GEO. K. HAWLEY, OF GLENN'S FALLS, N. Y., WHO IS THE ONLY MAN WE KNOW OF IN THE COUNTRY WHO CONFINES HIMSELF TO THE BREEDING OF DOMINIQUE FOWLS, AND HAS UNDERTAKEN TO BRING THEM UP TO THE HIGHEST POSSIBLE STANDARD. OUR OPINION OF THE SUBSTANTIAL, SOLID MERITS OF THESE OLD-FASHIONED FOWLS, AS SPECIALLY ADAPTED TO THE EVERY-DAY WANTS OF THE FARMER, IS TOO WELL KNOWN TO REQUIRE REPEATING HERE, AND WE ARE GLAD THAT SO ENTHUSIASTIC AND EXPERIENCED A BREEDER AS MR. HAWLEY HAS UNDERTAKEN TO DEVELOP THEIR BEST QUALITIES. WE WILL CONTINUE TO PUBLISH, FROM TIME TO TIME, HINTS, FACTS AND SUGGESTIONS CONCERNING POULTRY, AND AGAIN URGE UPON OUR READERS AN INCREASED ATTENTION TO THIS "MINOR FARM PRODUCT." FOR THE INFORMATION OF THOSE OF OUR READERS WHO ARE UNACQUAINTED WITH THE DOMINIQUE, WE PUBLISH IN ANOTHER COLUMN THEIR CHARACTERISTICS, AS REQUIRED BY THE "AMERICAN STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE," AND TO WHICH MR. HAWLEY IS AIMING TO BREED THEM.

Legally Protected Birds.

IF OUR FARMERS WILL BEAR IN MIND THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH AND ENFORCE IT, AND BACK IT UP BY PROTECTING THE BIRDS FROM DESTRUCTIVE AGENCIES OTHER THAN THE SHOT-GUN, THERE WILL SHORTLY BE LESS COMPLAINT OF DESTRUCTION OF CROPS AND FRUIT BY INSECTS:

IT IS UNLAWFUL TO SHOOT AT ANY TIME A NIGHTHAWK, WHIPPOORWILL, SPARROW, THRUSH, MARTIN, LARK, FINCH, CHIMNEY SWALLOW, BARN SWALLOW, WOODPECKER, FLICKER, ROBIN, ORIOLE, RED OR CARDINAL BIRD, CEDAR BIRD, TANAGER, CAT BIRD, BLUE BIRD, OR ANY INSECTIVOROUS BIRD UNDER A PENALTY OF FIVE DOLLARS EACH, OR TO DESTROY THEIR EGGS OR NESTS UNDER A PENALTY OF TEN DOLLARS FOR EACH OFFENSE.

An Invention Called For.

From the Correspondence of the Scientific American.

There is one invention which is very much needed by the farmers of America, one which would add millions to their income, millions to the commerce of our country, and one which, if it can be invented and successfully operated, will make the inventors a millionaire. It is some kind of a machine by which the loss in the wheat crop will be reduced to, say, one-fifth of the crop.

I will give you an idea of the loss in the crop by stating an experiment which I have tried this summer to test the loss. A neighbor had a field of 85 acres near my house, which was judged to make 10 to 20 bushels per acre. When fully ripe I selected one square yard, which I was sure was less than an average of the field, cut, dried and rubbed it out carefully. It weighed 6 oz. Calculating from that datum, the field made 2,571 bushels. When the crop was cut it was saved as clean as is usual, and was as cleanly thrashed as I ever saw; and yet he only got 1,050 bushels, which shows a clear loss of 1,521 bushels; in other words, he saved about two-fifths and lost three-fifths of the crop.

I have never known more than one-half of a crop saved even by the most careful management. It seems to me that one-fifth, or 500 bushels, in 2,500 would be a heavy loss, but when it is 1,500 in a crop of 2,500, it is unbearable.

I think if you will present this subject through the *Scientific American*, to the inventive geniuses of our country, that some of them will probably invent machinery by which this tremendous loss will be at least greatly reduced. It may be proper to say that the wheat was cut with cradles, and cut very clean, the field thoroughly raked, and it was thrashed by an A No. 1 steam thrasher.

Will the farmers who see this try similar experiments next harvest and note their losses? Very respectfully,

W. F. CONNOR.
King George Co., Va., July 29, 1879.

We copy the above as an example of the wild figuring and loose assertion which even intelligent men are sometimes misled into. It may be true that "figures will not lie," but Mr. Connor has succeeded in making them tell some queer stories. The farmer did not fully expect to get more than eight hundred and fifty bushels from the field, and his wildest hopes only reached to seventeen hundred, and yet when the crop was harvested, and the actual measurement reached the respectable average of something more than a thousand bushels, his neighbor, Mr. Connor, just testifies that it was cut very clean, thoroughly raked and well thrashed, and then mourns over a loss of three-fifths of the crop. The process by which Mr. Connor arrives at the conclusions which impel him to make his absurd statement is quite as absurd as the statement itself.

We cannot think that it would occur to any one but Mr. Connor to "rub out" the wheat which grew upon a single square yard of ground, and upon the slender basis of its return assert the loss of three-fifths of the crop on the eighty-five acre field of which it was a part, and one-half of the entire crop of the country. Possibly Mr. Connor's neighbors in Virginia waste one-half of their crops by carelessness in harvesting and thrashing, but if he will come to Centre county we will show him better work than that. We hope that more of our farmers will try "similar experiments next harvest." If experiments of this sort are to serve any substantial end they must be much more carefully made than was Mr. Connor's.

Cultivating Wheat—Once More.

OUR ONE AIM IN THE CONDUCT OF THIS DEPARTMENT OF THE DEMOCRAT IS TO ADVANCE THE CAUSE OF GOOD AGRICULTURE AND BENEFIT THE FARMERS OF CENTRE COUNTY BY THE INculcation OF CORRECT AGRICULTURAL PRINCIPLES AND THE DISSEMINATION OF AGRICULTURAL TRUTHS, AND NOT TO VENTILATE ANY PARTICULAR THEORIES OR HOBBIES OF OUR OWN. WE ARE WARM ADVOCATES OF THE PRACTICE OF CULTIVATING WHEAT, AND HAVE URGED UPON OUR READERS THE IMPORTANCE OF MAKING EXPERIMENTS WITH A VIEW OF ASCERTAINING THE PRECISE VALUE OF THE PRACTICE; AND IN SUPPORT OF THIS HAVE PUBLISHED ACCOUNTS OF VERY SUCCESSFUL EXPERIMENTS IN THIS DIRECTION. THAT WE MAY NOT BE ACCUSED OF HOBBY-RIDING, AND IN PURSUANCE OF OUR INTENTION TO GIVE ALL SIDES OF ALL QUESTIONS A FAIR HEARING, WE TRANSFER TO OUR COLUMNS BELOW, FROM THE *RURAL NEW YORKER*, AN ACCOUNT OF AN EXPERIMENT TRIED ON THE "RURAL FARM" WHICH WOULD SEEM TO BE CONCLUSIVE AGAINST THE PRACTICE. WE DO NOT, HOWEVER, ACCEPT IT AS SUCH, BY ANY MEANS. WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO EXPLAIN, OR STOPPING TO DISCUSS THE REASONS FOR THE ADVERSE RESULT OF THE *RURAL*'S EXPERIMENT, WE PUBLISH ITS STATEMENT IN FAIRNESS TO OUR READERS, AND URGE THEM AGAIN TO TRY IT FOR THEMSELVES.

WE HAVE HAD DURING THE PAST YEAR A GOOD DEAL TO SAY AS TO THE CULTIVATION OF

WHEAT. LAST OCTOBER 1ST WE PREPARED A PIECE OF LAND 165X33 FEET, OR ONE-EIGHTH OF AN ACRE. IT WAS PLOWED, HARROWED TWICE, THEN BROADCAST WITH BONE FLOUR AT THE RATE OF 500 POUNDS PER ACRE, RAKED IN BY HAND, MARKED OFF 18X12 INCHES AND THREE GRAINS OF CLAWSON WHEAT PLANTED AT THE INTERSECTIONS. AS SOON AS THE BLADES WERE DISTINGUISHABLE TWO PLANTS WERE PULLED UP, LEAVING ONLY THE MIDDLE ONE. Thus there was left but one plant for every one-and-a-half square foot. The plants tillered remarkably, as engraving in our issue of JUNE 7TH HAVE ALREADY SHOWN. THE STRAW WAS VERY HEAVY AND THE HEADS NEARLY TWICE THE SIZE OF THOSE OF OUR FIVE-ACRE FIELD SOWN BROADCAST, AS OUR ENGRAVING OF AN AVERAGE-SIZED SPIKE WILL SHOW. BUT MANY OF THEM WERE POORLY FILLED; MANY OF THEM WHILE IN THE MILK AND SUBSEQUENTLY, WERE BROKEN OVER OWING TO AN APPARENT WEAKNESS OF THE STEM NEAR THE SPIKE, AS IF THERE ALONE THE STEMS WERE NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO SUPPORT ITS WEIGHT DURING HIGH WINDS. FROM THIS PLOT OF ONE-EIGHTH OF AN ACRE WE HARVESTED BUT ONE BUSHEL AND A-HALF, OR AT THE RATE OF TWELVE BUSHELS PER ACRE, WHILE OUR AVERAGE UPON THE BROADCASTED FIELD OF FIVE ACRES WAS 27 1/2 BUSHELS. SO FAR, THEREFORE, AS MAY BE JUDGED BY THIS ONE EXPERIMENT, THERE IS LITTLE TO BE SAID IN FAVOR OF THE CULTIVATION OF WHEAT. IT MAY BE THAT OTHER VARIETIES OR OTHER LAND WOULD PRODUCE BETTER YIELDS. IT MAY BE THAT IF THE WHEAT WERE PLANTED CLOSER TOGETHER, A LARGER YIELD MUST RESULT.

Gathering Clover Seed.

From the American Agriculturist.

IT IS SOMETIMES THAT CLOVER STRAW CAN BE MADE USEFUL AFTER THE SEED HAS BEEN HULLED, SO THAT IT IS A SAVING OF LABOR TO CUT IT AS HIGH AS POSSIBLE, TAKING ONLY THE HEADS. BY USING THE SCYTHE, OR CRADLE, THIS CANNOT BE DONE; AND IT WILL BE FOUND MUCH BETTER TO USE A MOWING MACHINE, HAVING A TABLE ATTACHED TO THE CUTTER BAR, OR A CLOVER SEED GATHERER MADE EXPRESSLY FOR THIS WORK. *

THE MANAGEMENT OF THE CLOVER-SEED IS VERY SIMPLE. IT IS IMPROVED BY FREQUENT WETTING AND DRYING, AS THEN THE SEED IS MORE EASILY HULLED, THAN WHEN IT IS CURED IN DRY WEATHER. IF THE WEATHER SHOULD BE DRY, IT IS BEST TO RAKE THE STRAW, OR THE HEADS, INTO SMALL HEAPS, LETTING THEM HEAT MODERATELY; AFTERWARDS SPREADING THE HEAPS IN THE SUN TO DRY. THE RAKING MAY BE DONE WHILE STILL WET WITH DEW, WHICH WILL ASSIST THE FERMENTATION, AND HEATING, WHICH PARTLY ROTTS THE HULLS, AND HELPS THE CLEANING. THE CROP, WHEN PERFECTLY DRY, AFTER TWO OR THREE WEEKS' EXPOSURE TO THE WEATHER, SHOULD BE STORED IN A CORNER OF THE BARN.

FOR CONVENIENCE WE PREFER TO USE THE PLATFORM REAPER WITH A RAKE WHICH CAN BE USED AT PLEASURE, AND SUFFER THE HEADS TO ACCUMULATE ON THE PLATFORM AS LONG AS MAY BE CONVENIENT, AND THEN DUMP THE PILES IN ROWS FOR CONVENIENCE IN LOADING. HERE WE LEAVE THEM UNTOUCHED UNTIL READY FOR THE TEAM OR THE THRESHER, AND THEN CAREFULLY LIFT THEM TO THE WAGON WITH A WOODEN FORK, AND WITH AS LITTLE TURNING OR MOVING AS POSSIBLE. WHEN THE SEED IS CURED IT SHELLS OFF VERY EASILY, AND A LITTLE ROUGH HANDLING WILL INSURE MUCH WASTE.

Weeds in Connecticut.

THE LEGISLATURE OF CONNECTICUT PASSED A SORT OF "LOCAL OPTION" WEED-LAW LAST WINTER WHICH WE QUOTE BELOW. IN READING IT, IT SHOULD BE BORN IN MIND THAT IN NEW ENGLAND OUR WORD "TOWNSHIP" IS ABBREVIATED INTO "TOWN," AND WHAT WE CALL "TOWN" THEY CALL "VILLAGE":

ANY TOWN OR BOROUGH MAY MAKE BY-LAWS REQUIRING EVERY OWNER OR POSSESSOR OF LANDS WITHIN ITS LIMITS ADJOINING ANY HIGHWAY TO CUT OR MOW ALL BUSHS, THISTLES OR BRIARS, GROWING ON SAID HIGHWAY ADJOINING, AND IN FRONT OF SAID LANDS, AT LEAST ONCE IN EACH YEAR, AT SUCH TIMES AS SAID TOWN OR BOROUGH MAY DIRECT, UNDER A PENALTY NOT EXCEEDING FIVE DOLLARS FOR EACH BREACH OF SAID BY-LAWS.

Surface Water on Heavy Soil.

Correspondence of the Tribune.

ALL THROUGH THE GENESSEE COUNTY OF WESTERN NEW YORK, LONG TIME SO FAMOUS FOR ITS SUPERIOR QUANTITY OF WINTER WHEAT, THERE IS A LARGE PROPORTION OF EVEN THIS FAVORED LAND THAT HAS NOT BEEN CLASSED AS FIRST QUALITY WHEAT SOIL Owing TO ITS IMPERVIOUS CLAY SUBSOIL AND LACK OF NATURAL DRAINAGE. BUT WHERE A THOROUGH SYSTEM OF TILE DRAINAGE HAS BEEN TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF, THE BEST RESULTS HAVE BEEN OBTAINED. WHERE SUCH DRAINAGE IS NOT AVAILABLE—OR IN OTHER WORDS, WHERE THE FARMER CANNOT AFFORD THIS EXTRA EXPENSE—THE NEXT BEST SYSTEM MUST BE ADOPTED; AND FOR SUCCESS IN PRODUCING AN AVERAGE CROP IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE SURFACE WATER SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO REMAIN ON THE GROUND.

TO INSURE SUCCESS AS FAR AS MAY BE THE GROUND SHOULD BE PLOUGHED INTO NARROW LANDS, AND AFTER WHEAT-SOWING IN THE FALL THE FIELD SHOULD BE LIGHTLY FURROWED WHERE THE LANDS WERE FINISHED WHEN PLOUGHED, AND ALSO ALL THROUGH THE FIELD WHERE DEPRESSIONS WOULD ALLOW WATER TO SETTLE. WHERE SUCH A SYSTEM OF SURFACE DRAINAGE IS THOROUGHLY CARRIED OUT, GOOD RESULTS MAY REASONABLY BE EXPECTED. THE ABOVE THOUGHTS WERE SUGGESTED AFTER NOTICING MANY FIELDS OF WHEAT THAT MUST BE MATERIALLY INJURED BY SURFACE WATER DURING WET SPRING WEATHER, WHERE IF MORE CARE HAD BEEN EXERCISED IN FURROWING, OUR WHEAT FIELDS WOULD NOT PRESENT THESE BARREN, UNSIGHTLY SPOTS THAT WILL BE CONTINUAL REMINDERS OF THE "MISTAKES" WE ARE MAKING FROM TIME TO TIME.

WE HAVE HAD DURING THE PAST YEAR A GOOD DEAL TO SAY AS TO THE CULTIVATION OF

"WITH SCALES AND MEASURES AND POTS AND PANS,
AND DISHES OF FRUIT BEHIND HER,
THE WIFE OF YOUR BOSS SITS ALL DAY,
AND NO DARES TO CHIDE HER.
A POUND OF THIS, FOUR POUNDS OF THAT,
IN THE WAY SHE GOES ON PLANNING,
AND TO SAVE YOUR LIFE YOU DAREN'T SAY A WORD,
FOR BLESS YOUR SOUL, SHE'S CANNING."

Early Summer Plowing.

From Home and Farm.

FIVE YEARS AGO WE HAD A CLOVER FIELD WE WISHED TO PREPARE FOR WHEAT. IN THE LATTER PART OF JUNE, THE GROUND BEING TOO WET TO PLOW IN OUR CORN, WE DECIDED TO START A PLOW IN THE CLOVER FIELD, AS IT WAS PACKED QUITE HARD, AND REQUIRED BEING PRETTY WET TO DO GOOD WORK.

WE PLOWED ONE DAY, TURNING ONE AND ONE-HALF ACRES DIRECTLY THRO' THE CENTER OF THE FIELD. NEXT DAY WE HAD TO GO INTO THE CORN. OAT HARVEST CAME ON. HAD NO MORE RAIN TO WET THE SOIL SUFFICIENT TO PLOW IN OUR CLOVER FIELD, UNTIL LAST OF SEPTEMBER. WE THEN FINISHED PLOWING THE FIELD, AND REPLOIVED ABOUT THREE-FOURTHS OF THE FIRST PLOWED STRIP. WE THEN HARROWED, THEN SOWED, AFTER WHICH WE HARROWED TWICE. NOW FOR THE RESULT. IN TWO WEEKS THERE WAS A PERCEPTIBLE DIFFERENCE IN THE EARLY AND LATE PLOWING.

THIS DIFFERENCE CONTINUED TO INCREASE AS THE MONTHS WORE ON, ALL THE TIME IN FAVOR OF EARLY PLOWING. IN THE MONTH OF APRIL THE DIFFERENCE WAS SO STRIKING THAT WE WERE OFTEN ASKED AS TO THE CAUSE. BY SOME WE WERE ASKED IF WE HAD A NEW KIND OF WHEAT SOWN IN THIS STRIP.

THE PROFESSIONAL COURSES ARE LIBERAL, AND THE STUDENTS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND, COMPLETELY HEATED BY STEAM, WELL VENTILATED, AND FURNISHED WITH A SUFFICIENT SUPPLY OF PURE WATER, SOFT SPRING WATER.

LOCATION HEALTHFUL AND EASY OF ACCESS.

SURROUNDING SCENERY UNPARSED.

TEACHERS EXPERIENCED, EFFICIENT, AND ALIVE TO THEIR WORK.

DISCIPLINE Firm, AMERICAN AND UNIFORM, AND THOROUGH.

EXPENSES Moderate.

FIFTY CENTS A WEEK DEDUCTED TO THOSE PREPARING TO TEACH.

STUDENTS ADMITTED AT ANY TIME.

COURSES OF STUDY PRESCRIBED BY THE STATE: I. MODEL SCHOOL. II. PREPARATORY. III. ELEMENTARY. IV. SCIENTIFIC.

ABSTRACT COURSES:

I. ACADEMIC. II. COMMERCIAL. III. MUSIC. IV. ART.

THE ELEMENTARY AND SCIENTIFIC COURSES ARE PROFESSIONAL, AND STUDENTS GRADUATING THEREFROM RECEIVE STATE DIPLOMAS, CONFERRED THE FOLLOWING AND CORRESPONDING DEGREES: MASTER OF THE ELEMENTS, AND MASTER OF THE SCIENCES. GRADUATES IN THE OTHER COURSES RECEIVE NORMAL CERTIFICATES OF THEIR ATTAINMENTS, SIGNED BY THE FACULTY.

THE PROFESSIONAL COURSES ARE LIBERAL, AND ARE IN THOUGHTFUL ATTENTION TO THE NEEDS OF THE STATE.

THE STATE REQUIRES A HIGHER ORDER OF TEACHING.

THE TIMES DEMAND IT. IT IS ONE OF THE PRIME OBJECTS OF THIS SCHOOL TO HELP TO SECURE IT BY FURNISHING INTELLIGENT AND EFFICIENT TEACHERS FOR HER SCHOOLS. TO THIS END SHE SOLICITS YOUNG PERSONS OF GOOD ABILITIES AND GOOD PROBABILITIES, WHO ARE DESIRous OF SPENDING A LITTLE TIME AND THEIR TALENTS, AS STUDENTS. TO ALL SUCH AS PROMISES AID IN DEVELOPING THEIR POWERS AND ABUNDANT OPPORTUNITIES FOR WELL-PAID LABOR AFTER LEAVING SCHOOL.

FOR CATALOGUE AND TERMS ADDRESS THE PRINCIPAL.

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PARLOR CARS, DAY AND NIGHT, BETWEEN PHILADELPHIA AND WILLIAMSPORT.

PHILADELPHIA AND WILLIAMSPORT, DAY AND NIGHT, AND SLEEPING CARS ON ALL NIGHT TRAINS.

WM. A. BALDWIN, GEN'L SUPERINTENDENT.

HARDWARE.