NEWS, FACTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

THE TEST OF THE NATIONAL WELFARE IS THE INTELLI-GENCE 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 Farmer's Friend, of last week, is kind enough to speak encouragingly of our fair, and call the special attention of the Grangers, of which society it is the organ in this State,

WHEN the potato tops die the potatoes are ripe and should be dug at once. The fall rains will soon set in, and when the ground is damp the labor of digging is greatly increased, as the wet soil adheres closely to the tubers. Every farmer knows this, but many may not think of it in time. An additional reason for early digging is that leaving potatoes in the damp soil after they have matured is more conducive to rot than any other

THE "latest thing" in patents which has come under our observation is that of an Illinois nurseryman who claims to have patented a new variety of cherries, and advertises his trees at fifty cents each. We don't want any. Next thing we'd know, some would come along and prosecute us for an "infringement." Patent cherries, indeed! Now let some other lout take out a patent on air, and then tramp around among the farmselling "royalties" for breathing

the second and "big"

on the grou and ears both ope well repaid.

AT this writing, September 23, weather continues cold and dry, very similar to that of last "seeding time," and in all respects unfavorable to the germination of the thousands of bushels of wheat which Centre county farmers have committed to the care of Mother Earth. The ground is excessively dry, and the prospects for a good stand of wheat are by no means encouraging. However, croaking does no good. "All's well that ends well," and we have the promise that he who sows "shall surely reap." Read "Never Despair" in another column.

READERS of the DEMOCRAT are works" in the matter of a bushel of choice seed wheat, of a new and very promising variety, which had, through carelessness, become badly fouled with cockle. Calling to our aid the ladies and children of the household, and even a "stranger" or two who happened to be "within our gates," we spent an evening in hand-picking at least one bushel of seed as free from cockle as though no such pestiferous weed existed. This matter of and just now is a good time to think of seed corn for next year's planting. It is a good plan to grow our seed corn on a special lot, and with special care, but as this has not been done, the best thing now to do is to carefully select the best ears, from the fully select the best ears, from the best stalks in the field, and give them such care as will secure their thorough drying, that the germ may not be frozen during the severe weather.

Cessful business enterprize. It is sufficient for the present to say that the post is constructed wholly of iron, treated in such a way as to secure in equally good or better condition, on less than half the quantity of land that the maximum degree of strength and

Select half a dozen specially good durability at the minimum cost of ears-the topmost ones from stalks labor and material; that it can be bearing two cars-and next spring used with equal facility for either plant the corn from these in the rich- permanent or portable fence, and that est corner of your field; give it a it is perfectly adapted to the use of little extra manure, and a good deal either wire or wooden rails. In brief, of extra care-keeping it perfectly after the careful examination of this clean of weeds-and grow but two new post which we have been privistalks to the hill, with hills at least leged to make, we think the inventor four feet apart, and from this take may safely cry "Eureka," and believe your seed for the following year, that an entire revolution in fencing reserving the half-dozen best ears for and fences will soon be inaugurated. a similar experiment. Continue this which will prove an immense relief to for five years, and our word for it, the burden which farmers and all you will have the whole neighborhood land-owners are now compelled to running to you for "some of that bear. splendid seed corn of yours," and willing to pay you double price for it.

MR. F. A. GULLEY, of the Michigan Agricultural College, in a letter to the Rural New Yorker, on the subject of subsoiling, commends the practice highly, and suggests the latter part of summer and fall as the best time for doing it. "Where the ground is dry, it will do much better work than in the spring, and the effect will be more lasting." Mr. Gulley's chief trouble seems to be in getting a plow that does its work well, and wears well. We have experienced this same difficulty, and finally overcame it, by casting aside all so-called subsoilers, and adopting for this purpose the ditching plow described and illustrated on page 138 of Thomas' "Farm Implements and Machinery," and manufactured by R. H. Allen & Co., of New York. This makes the best subsoiler we have ever seen: does its work effectually, is of light draftother specimen of the tree agent tribe taking into consideration the amount of work done-wears well, and is very convenient to work with.

WITH the close of "seeding" we are

apt to consider the heavy "fall work" as done, and put away the plows and harrows for next year's work. It is well to consider whether we cannot do some of next spring's work now, we should advantage. Fall plowing for spring packed fus g and planting, is rapidly grow-uiri favor, and the experience of ce. Not the least of its that much further ahead. ne same amount of work done in the cool fall days, s and men are in good dition and practice, much an in the spring, after parative idleness. The ever, on all heavy hefit derived by the from it. Of even this effect to ligh cumstances cannot fail, under m to be benefited by it. Pery large proportion of the plow large country would be improved to fallow.

forms and all its bearings, is more thoroughly discussed and agitated that they now do, and of a quality than perhaps any other pertaining to double in value. Rye, clover, oats, peas, hungarian, sorghum and corn, may folcontradict the statement that fences, aware that it has been a constant and at their very best, are one of the most earnest advocate of the doctrine that grievous evils which afflict the farm-"like begets like," and has, therefore, ing community, but all will admit have always urged the great importance of that the evil, in some form, and to pure, clean, well-selected seed of all some extent, is necessary, and must kinds. Last week we were called upon to show our "faith by our reducing the cost and increasing the the cud. Why could not this be done reducing the cost and increasing the in open sheds as well as under the trees of the pasture? Give a roomy stall with plenty to eat, and good water to the plen an object which has occupied the plenty thoughts and attention of some of our first inventors, and its attainment is worthy the best efforts of our best thinkers. Steps are constantly being made in this direction, and successes of greater or less degree are crowning the efforts of inventors. Our attenit, and had the satisfaction of sowing tion has very recently been called to a new fence post or standard, which in our estimation, promises to go a great way toward the solution of the good, pure, clean seed is of para- question "Wherewithal shall we fence mount importance to every farmer, our farms?" The immature condi-

As a general rule it is better to avoid pasturing meadows, after the growth has ceased for the season. But there are exceptions to this rule, there being some cases in which we would pasture as closely as possible. Where the soil is rich, and the aftermath heavy, there may be a mass of dried dead stuff in the bottom next year, which will interfere much with the mowing, unless it is pastured down now. In this case we would pasture the meadow closely, and give some top-dressing, if necessary, takthe stock evenly. Again, strong but way more forcibly illustrated than thin clover and grass meadows will be by the increasing attention given to benefited by close pasturing, by which the stubble will be eaten off, the odicals of the highest order, even distop-dressing of the manure will be of columns of the Scientific American, more value than all the stubby after- to our own, and with the greater

Soiling Cattle.

than carrying the green feed of summer to the cattle in the barn or shed. instead of driving the cattle to the feed in the field. That this will ultimately become the practice of all good farmers we firmly believe. The advantages of the system are thus presented by the Connecticut Farmer:

There is no doubt but the system of soiling cattle ought to be practiced on many of our farms, and could be done son proves the wisdom of ary farm of say one hundred acres, which keeps fifteen to twenty head of cows, if by more thorough cultivation, is that it puts the spring and soiling, the same number could be that much further ahead, kept on fifty acres, with the increase in the quantity of manure that would come from that system when properly managed, would not the profit be double what it is now? And then by constant enrichment, if that fifty acre farm could be divided again and twenty-five be made to keep the same amount of stock that the one hundred formerly did, it is easy to see what a vast increase there easy to see what a vast increase there would be in the actual profit. It is true that on some of our rough, rocky farms, that exist in portions of the State, the ing has much of old pasture may still be worth more asallow, and the even though they do have the sheep's greater the from it. Of with equal the land as capable of producing any kind of crop.

Is it not an actual, and useless waste

to give these acres up to the range of stock year after year? The urine is all wasted, and the more solid portions of the manure almost equally so. And there are portions of the summer at least when the cows will get but a scanty subsistence, and the flow of milk will be reduced to almost nothing. By a judicious system of soiling, these pas-If cool open sheds are we think the cows are as well off, and as contented as if they had the range of the pasture all the while. They should have an opportunity to exercise in an open lot or yard occasionally. But it is the nature of cows, when they have eaten a sufficient quantity to satisfy and the cow is in perfect contentment.
We believe the milk would be better than when the cow's blood is heated by constant feeding in the sun, and by be ing driven home from pasture, and not always in the gentlest way. The arguments in favor of soiling may

be briefly summed up as follows: More than double the amount of steck on the same number of acres, or half the number of acres for the same amount of stock, less expense in fencing pastures, more than double the quantity of manure, and a large increase in the average flow of milk through the season. Good cows will pay only as they are well kept. And we believe experiments will prove that soiling is the system of the present

as well as future agriculture.

#### NEVER DESPAIR.

I fain would impress on The weary and sad The truths of a lesson In metaphor clad.

Still in life's journey the Bravest do best— Still on life's journey We hanker for rest.

Innocent merriment

Face your foes fearlessly; "Never say die"— Trials, tak'n fearlessly Lightsomely lie.

Our tear drops are lenses That magnify ills; They cozen our senses 'Till hillocks seems hills.

And faces grow wrinkled, While tresses with gray Grow speedily sprinkled When woe has her way.

Horrors may haunt you, but Foul may grow fair; Dangers may daunt you, but "But never dispair."

Verily, verily, Judge as you may, He who toils merrily Carries the day.

Wood Ashes as a Fertilizer.

The great importance of agriculing care to spread the droppings of ture in the world's economy is in no matters which pertain to it, by pericoarse growth rendered finer and tinctively literary or scientific. We closer, and the yield of next season transfer the larger portion of an arbe improved in quality. A moderate ticle with the above caption from the pleasure because the Scientific is always exact:

How can I best utilize that big heap This means nothing more nor less han carrying the green feed of sumner to the cattle in the barn or shed, ands of farmers who read this paper have suggested to themselves, now that the milder weather renders drafts on the wood pile less frequent. In nine cases out of ten, we wager that the speaker's excellent spouse immediately remarks that she is about to sell them. to the soap maker; and the money! well, that is her perquisite, and it would be very ungallant on our part to ven ture a suspicion as to its outlay. Still, we dislike to see these ashes go to the soap boiler, and perhaps a word as to their value to our farmer friend may cause him to think as we do; so with a word of apology to both madame and the soap man for our unwarrantable in-terference with their little traffic, we venture to suggest that those ashes are very much more valuable as fertilizer

than for lye.
We suppose that every agriculturist now-a-days has some general idea of the principle of restitution; that is to say, he elements necessary to the growth of vegetables must be replaced; and if they are not, the crop either fails ut-terly, or at best is deficient in health The amount of these ele and growth. ments, phosphorus, lime, potash, and several others, to be replaced varies according to the vegetables cultivated. Thus a potato crop from seven and a half acres of land takes away the seed constituents of four wheat crops, besides about 600 pounds of potash. The average turnip produce of the same area removes the seed constituents of fous wheat crops and about 1,000 pounds of potash. Similarly also grapes, clov-er, peas, beans, lucerne, and nearly all leguminous vegetables remove potash in immense quantities. It is evident that in such cases potash is the mater-ial which the land most requires to produce a new crop. To buy potash and add it to the soil would be expensive; true, it may be procured in combination with other substances in various fertilizers, but there is a much simpler source for it, and that source is the ash hear, which otherwise the soap man pur-

Professor Storer, whose recent paper on the fertilizing properties of wood ashes we find in the Bulletin of the Bussey Institution, gives the latest information on the value of this most useful material. He says that the analysis of thirteen samples of house ashes shows a range of from 6 to 10.8 per cent, of potash, and from 0.4 to 4.6 per cent. of phosphoric acid. The lowest per cent-ages of potash, 6 to 6.5, were from ashes of a mixture of maple, oak, and white pine wood, collected by a soap boiler in a country village. The highest percentages, 10 to 10.8, were in ashes of mixed beech, birch and maple in one case, and in those of pitch pine in the other. Eight of the samples ranged, as to potash, from 7.4 to 9.5, the average of them, as well as that of all the thirteen samples, being about 8½ per cent. This, it must be borne in mind, is the Inis, it must be borne in mind, is the proportion of the chemist's potash and corresponds to about 10½ per cent. of the potash of commerce. The material is a useful dressing for the ground about orchard trees, as it not only improves the soil, but prevents in considerable degree the inroads of insects in the sects and bank or the sects and th roots and bark

It only remains for us to show that there is not merely a loss to the land affected, but that a direct expenditure of money is the result of using ashes in a manner otherwise than we have pointed out. In order to thrive, the farmer must keep his land in producing condition, and, as we have already re-marked, to soils which require potash, potash must be returned. Potash is worth about six cents a pound, and phosphoric acid is sold in the New York markets for about 12½ cents for the same quantity. A barrel of wood ashes is bought by the soap maker for say twenty-two cents, and it weighs 125 rounds. These ashes contain on an pounds. These ashes contain on an average, as we have already shown, 8 per cent., or 10 pounds of potash, and besides include two per cent., or two and a half pounds of phosphoric acid,l Wilson, McFarlane & Co., Hardware Dealers.

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ALLEGHENY STREET . . .

According to the above prices, the tota value of these substances is 91 cents, and therefore a barrel of ashes is intrinsically worth as a fertilizer nearly the amount for which it can be

"Ashes," says the The Rural New Yorker, "contain essential components of all crops. They should not be mix-ed with compost (there is no gain in so mixing them) but applied broadcast directly to the soil, whether it is grass or arable land. We never knew a farmer who could get more ashes than it was profitable to apply to his land. One hundred bushels per acre is not too much to apply to old cultivated lands. Especially are ashes excellent for or-chards. They should not be heaped right about the bodies of the trees, but spread over the roots, which extend as ar from the bodies of the trees as the Ashes are especially or on lands cropped with grain, For root crops they are equally important; indeed, as we say above, there is no crop grown and no land cultivated that crop grown and no land cultivated that is not benefited in a greater or less de-gree by the application of leached or unleached ashes, the latter being the more valuable."

Most farmers still sell wood in the

Most farmers still sell wood in cities and villages; and rather than go home empty, they should carry back hashes and other fertilizers to replace the ashes and phosphoric acid that potash, lime and phosphoric acid that have been carried off in the crops and animals sold. Ashes show immediate effect from their application, and at the same time last long in the soil.

How the Stock on the Farm may be Improved.

We copy the following true and We copy the following true and pertinent remarks upon this subject from the Live Stock Journal, as being from the Live Stock Journal, as being apropos to fair week. Doubtless, there will be, as usual, good animals on the ground for sale, and no better investment can be made by a farmer, or company of farmers, than to purchase some of them:

Unquestionably the most profitable course for the general farmer to adopt in improving the quality of his live stock, is to begin by the purchase of first-class thoroughbred males. The calves got by a thoroughbred full of any of the well-established breeds, out of a mixed average lot of cows, will invariably possess much of the excellence of the thorough bred sire, and the females of these half bloods again, bred to a thoroughbred sire, will produce animals, for all prac-tical purposes except that of procreation, quite equal to the average thoroughbred. The same is true of sheep, swine, poul-try, and, in fact, of all kinds of farm try, and, in fact, of all kinds of farm stock. By procuring thoroughbred males of the purest lineage, and of great individual merit, and carefully selecting the best of the female produce for breeders, using thoroughbred males only, for three or four generations, the farmer may engraft effectually all the excellence of the thoroughbred stock upon his flocks and herds.

In these times of low prices and

In these times of low prices and active competition, the man who has the best stock, and who practices the most economical methods of feeding is the man who will make the money, while all others will find the balance on

the wrong side of the ledger.

And while on this subject, it may not be out of place to direct attention to the fact that good care and liberal feed-ing cut quite a figure in the economy of stock raising. The very best breed will not show any marked superiority over native stock if left entirely to shift for itself in the hands of the average farmthe means by which more pounds of beet, or milk, or butter, or wool, or mutton, or pork, or lard, and of a better quality can be produced from a circumstance. quality, can be produced from a given quantity of food, than from unimproved

Labor and Capital Make Land Profitable.

One great reason that many farmers are loth to try the experiment of soiling is the extra amount of labor that it will bring. But they should remember that it is labor, and that only, that makes the farm pay at all. What if it does take an extra hand? Land, indeed, is only valuable as it affords an opportunity to apply la-bor. Without labor and capital land will yield no profit; and just in proportion as labor and capital are judiciously expended upon it, can land be made to pay.

One of the plainest indications of unsuccessful farming is to see manure going to waste or unemployed. When this is seen there is no need of looking beyond the stable and yards to find out the condition of the farm, or to judge of the success of its own-

WE think a little management would enable many of our farmers to decrease their fences fully twenty per

BELLEFONTE & SNOW SHOE

20 A. M. Leaves Bellefonte 10.20 A. M., arrives at Snow Shoe 1.57 A. M. Leaves Snow Shoe 2.42 P. M., arrives in Bellefonte

BALD EAGLE VALLEY RAILROAD,—Time-Table, December 31, 1877:

EXP. Mail. WESTWARD. EASTWARD. Exp. Mail. ve at Tyrone Leave...
East Tyrone Leave...
Vail
Bald Eagle "Hannah rt Matilda

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.

WESTWARD. Lock Haven. NIAGARA EXPRESS leaves Philadelphia. FAST LINE leaves Philadelphia... arrives at Lock Haven 

arrives at Harrisburg.

"Philadelphia

PAST LINE leaves Williamsport Erie Mail West, Niagara Express West, Lock Haven coommodation West, and Day Express East, make loss connections at Northumberland with L & B. K. L trains for Wilkesbarre and Scrashor. Erie Mail West, Niagara Express West, and Erie Express West, and Lock likeven Accommodation West, nake close connection at Williamsport with N. C. R. W trains north.

options asks close connection at Whitamey, trains north.

Living north.

Eric Mail West, Niagara Express West, and Day Eric Mail West, Niagara Express West, and Day express make close connection at Lock Haven Erie Mail West, Niagara Express West, and Day Express East, make close connection at Lock Haven With B. E. V. R. R. trains. Erie Mail East and West connect at Erie with trains on L. S. & M. S. R. R., at Corry with O. C. & A. V. R. R., at Emporium with B. N. Y. & P. R. R., and at Driftwood with A. V. R. R.

Driftwood with A. V. R. R.
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Williamsport on Niagara Express West, Erie Express
West, Philadelphia Express East and Day Express
East, and Sunday Express East. Sleeping cars on all
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