

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.

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 looking beyond the stables and yards to find out the condition of the farm or to judge of the success of its owner.

DON'T sell or give away the old bones. Gather them up, break them up in pieces, pack them in old barrels with unleached wood ashes. In the spring work them over, and you will have a ton or so of "bone dust," fully as pure and valuable as that which the agents speculate in.

THE potato crop is a full one, and is being sold at low rates. We believe it will pay to "sort" carefully, make pork of the unsaleable ones, and try to keep the best over for the spring market. A little extra care and attention will insure their keeping and the price will be doubled before June.

We hear reports from all directions of a fairly good crop of cloverseed. This is encouraging. This is one of the crops that can be sold from a farm without any disadvantage, and no farm can grow it without being improved thereby. Don't sell it all, though reserve enough for a plentiful sowing next spring.

THE Scientific American Supplement for the present week contains two leading articles of interest to the agricultural world; one on "Exotic Insects" and the other entitled "Notes on Tobacco." This last is particularly full and interesting and should command all the more attention from Centre county farmers because of the impulse given to the growth of "the weed" among us written a year or two.

At one of the county fairs in Connecticut last week, the "Green's Farm Club" showed a train of thirty pairs of working oxen. We do not want to be accused of "progressing backward," nevertheless we are of opinion that oxen might be used to great advantage on many of the farms in Centre county. With liberal feeding a pair of cattle will do an immense amount of work during the summer, and come out splendid beef in the fall.

WEEDS, only weeds, and weeds continually seem to be the order of the day. During the early summer we manage to keep them down pretty well, but as the season passes on somehow or other we seem to relax our vigilance, or weary of the fight, and over all sides we find them now going to seed. Fence corners are full of them, potato and cornfields are overrun with them, and in every highway and byway they are ripening a great crop of trouble and work for us for future years. Do not give up to them. Smite them right and left. Assault them in season and out of season, keep them from going to seed if possible. The ground is full of their seeds now, enough to keep us in full employment for years to come, without permitting any more to accumulate. "If none are allowed to go to seed the supply will soon be exhausted, and the work of exterminating them yearly lessened."

Too Much Land. From the Monthly Journal of Agriculture. One of the greatest errors committed by many farmers in the tobacco growing counties of Virginia is that of owning and cultivating too much land. More of the intensive and less of the extensive system of farming would be far better.

To which we have little to add excepting to localize it, and make it apply to Centre county farming as well as it does to the Virginia tobacco raisers. A decrease of the number of acres farmed, and an increase of the labor, manure and care bestowed upon those we do farm would be a long step in advance for Centre county farming.

Getting Along with Work.

N. Reed in Country Gentleman. EDS. COUNTRY GENTLEMAN.—The skillful direction of labor is so essential to successful farming, that a few notes on the subject may be of value, for the younger men need "line upon line." The first essential is that there be labor enough—that is, let there be men enough employed to do all the work that is laid out, in season and in a proper manner. It is taken for granted that none is laid out which is not profitable. If the labor cannot be done in season, and in a proper manner, it should not be attempted. "Better late than never" is a pernicious saying, and is not true on the farm. It is better to hire by the month than by the day, if there is the expectation of needing the man nearly all the time. The wages are less, and it is better to have the man ready at your hand all the time. When the day laborer fails to come in the morning because "it looks like rain," his help may be needed before night, at a loss of twice the amount of wages. If the regular work is interrupted by the weather or any other cause, there is an odd job ready, unless the farm is in a condition very unlike anything generally seen. If there is no fence to be repaired, no farm road to be improved, no weeds or bushes to be cut, no garden work to be done, no tools to be mended, no stables to be white-washed, no out-buildings to be cleaned, no carriages to wash, then that farm is one which I should like to see. It is a serious mistake to suppose that only the regular work of the farm will warrant the wages of a hired man, and that odd jobs may be done or left undone till the regular work is finished. It is easy to show that these incidental items of farm work warrant the cost of labor required by them. There is a patch of weeds which you intended should be cut some leisure day, but your day laborer went fishing, and the weeds are not cut. It would have been better to have given \$2 a day than to have them left. Can any careful farmer walk over his farm and find anything which needs to be done without much delay?

Second, let there be a prudent planning what is to be done—the labor required, the time needed, and the order in which the work is to be done. It is a common mistake in young farmers not to make sufficient allowance for hindrances for work, which are nearly certain to come. My wise instructor used to admonish me to "have plenty of leeway;" that is, to have room for some unforeseen hindrances. In the third place, you should make preparations. Half the labor seems to be saved sometimes by having everything ready when the work is commenced. In the fourth place, you should anticipate the work; be a little ahead with it. It is a rare achievement to be always up to time. Most of the business of the world drags a little behind. In order to be sure of the accomplishment of any important work in due season, some part of it may be done a day in advance. If it is work which may require extra help, do not wait till it gets behind and begins to crowd you. If you increase your force, but that come in as near the beginning of the job as possible. It is much easier and cheaper to drive than to be driven. With many farmers the work is a little more than they calculated, and the time for it a little less. They have all the time there is, and a prudent man will match his work to the time.

"One thing at a time" is a good rule, but it has its exceptions sometimes on the farm. Two things may need to be done at once, and it is often better to increase the force than let one of the crops wait a loss. If the corn is late, and the grass early and ready to be cut, it would be good economy to have force enough for both than that one should be too late or not well done.

The manager of a large farm should not try to do too much with his own hands. He may exhaust in excessive physical labor that mental force which is necessary to the energetic management of his business. But he must choose the time wisely when to take his hand out of the work. It must be when all his men are at some task which does not require showing how, and not on a broken day when they do not know what to do. If there are two men or more, one of them should be foreman, and be responsible for the work, and account to the owner at the end of the day. It will not do to have the responsibility divided between two or more. And in the minor duties some one should be held responsible. For example, it should be the business of some one, and that one not the smallest boy, to see that drinking water is properly provided. Those old maxims: "a place for everything and everything in its place," &c., it is not necessary to repeat. If the young man has not first learned them by heart he cannot be successful in farming or in anything else. Labor is the first thing on the farm, the source of all the profit; and it is the costliest thing, and on the management of it depends the profit or loss. On almost almost all farms the labor might be profitably increased if well directed.

The War with Weeds. From the Farmer's Friend. Agriculture is a perpetual conflict with aggressive plants; a conflict which must ever constitute a material part of the labor necessary to be expended in a well conducted farm. It is therefore necessary, with a view to the economy as well as the final success of the operation, that such labor should be wisely directed. Here, as elsewhere, knowledge is power. A knowledge of the general nature and the peculiar habits of the plant to be operated on is indispensable to direct the operator how properly to adapt the means at his disposal to the intended purpose. All plants become weeds, in an agricultural sense, when found growing where they deteriorate the crops, needlessly exhaust the soil, or otherwise bring loss to the agriculturist. Every plant out of place is a weed.

Leaf mold is exceedingly valuable in ammonia, phosphoric acid and potash, and forms when composted a rich manure.

The Practice of Fall Plowing.

Intelligent cultivators generally agree that fall plowing is of the utmost service to the soil. Many consider it equal to a dressing of manure, inasmuch as it places the ground in condition to assimilate all the fertilizing properties of mineral and atmospheric plant-food. Soluble matters which have leached down too far for the feeders to reach are also brought to the surface by the turning over of land. Weeds, grass and the stubble of gathered crops are covered in the soil, where they will undergo decomposition and be in the right place for the rootlets to feed upon when the crops start. Disintegration is one of the great secrets of the beneficial effects from fall plowing. Its action is both mechanical and chemical. Land when broken by the plow holds a greater per centage of water. It freezes when in this wet state, then it thaws and the disintegration is complete. All moisture received on the surface filters through the pulverized earth evenly, and in consequence the manurial properties in the water reach every particle of the soil, and are retained. Another advantage of ploughing is the much greater surface of soil exposed. Compact ground presents but one surface to the air, while that which is well broken exposes nearly every side of every particle of soil as deep as the tith goes. The tith is also deepened, and clay subsoil thrown on top becomes subject to atmospheric actions, which prepares it for any solvents that may be applied.

Plowing Down vs. Top Dressing. W. J. Chamberlain in Country Gentleman. Last year I plowed in my manure, well rotted, in August for wheat, except two lands, of about an acre, where the same quantity per acre was used as top dressing and thoroughly harrowed in before the wheat was drilled. The wheat was far the best where the manure was plowed in. The drill put the wheat down probably three or four inches below the general level of the surface as the ground was very mellow, and probably two inches below the bottom of the grooves left by the drill, so that the roots immediately struck for the manure. But where it was top dressed, most of the manure lay above the wheat, and the roots did not touch it at first; and as there was no rain for nearly three weeks after sowing, and the sowing was late, (Sept. 23,) this top dressed wheat did not get so thrifty a growth before winter set in, and of course did not give so good a yield. The field was not stocked down, but on the top dressed part there was a heavy catch of clover and grass and rubbish, and on the other part almost none. So then (on my clay soil at least), if I want wheat, I shall plow in the manure or apply it with a previous crop; if I want grass I shall top-dress for the wheat. If the wheat were to be sowed broadcast and harrowed in, top-dressing would be better, as the kernels would lie more than an inch deep, and would reach the manure sooner, and it would act as a kind of mulch to protect the shallow seed.

Durability of Manure.

C. E. Hewes in Country Gentleman. Let me state a case showing the durability of manure when well plowed in. Several years ago, two friends of mine named Curtis, residing in Egremont, Mass., were engaged in distilling, and also in carrying on farming. After continuing in business together many years, they dissolved partnership, one taking the distillery and the other the farm. Long after this, calling upon the farmer to pass the night, and following him to a small horse stable, I found it well stored with a very fine quality of hay, speaking of which, he asked me to give my judgement of the quantity, which I put at twenty tons. In reply, he said, "we called it eighteen when we put it in, and we sold 2,600 lbs., and have left a half acre for seed, and it is all the product of ten acres, which most men would say would not produce white beans, and not a spoonful of manure of any kind has been put on it in ten years." Expressing a desire to see the ground, we went to it and I found it to be chiefly a knoll of coarse gravel and sand, and in answer to my request to explain to me how he had made such ground so productive, he said, "ten years ago last spring my brother and myself dissolved our partnership, he taking the distillery and I the farm. Previous to this, while running the farm together, we applied manure taken from the distillery very plentifully to this piece of ground, and plowed it beam deep, continuing this process until it was thoroughly filled with manure. When the farm came into my possession, I kept this piece under the plow three years, taking of a premium crop every year. At the end of three years I seeded it down, and it has been in meadow ever since, not having, as I have said, a spoonful of any kind of manure put upon it during the time I have been the sole owner of it." I confess the story astonished me at the time, though I had no doubt of the veracity of Mr. Curtis, and my own experiments since made have entirely relieved me of all astonishment.

How to Train Tomatoes. From the Rural New Yorker. We have tried an experiment to ascertain how tall a tomato plant would grow if carefully trained and pinched back. Three plants were set against the barn and the stems were held by leathers tacked over them as their growth rendered support necessary. As we write (Sept. 5,) these vines are 12 feet high—well loaded with golden, crimson and green fruit. The idea is a good one and we can tell our friends that if they have old trees, fences, outbuildings or out-of-the-way corners that they propose to cover with vines, let them be tomato vines.

High Manuring for Hay.

From the Practical Farmer. A farmer in Connecticut made a purchase of a quantity of manure from a hotel stable, paying for it seven tons of hay; this was all applied to two acres of land in the expectancy of planting a crop of tobacco; a change of plans resulted in the plowing of the land and seeding down in the fall, and the first succeeding crop returned to him his seven tons of hay, and has produced enormous crops since.

Farmer's Must Think.

Cor. of Connecticut Farmer. Agricultural fairs, farmer's clubs, agricultural colleges, granges, and especially agricultural papers, are diffusing so much light and awakening so much thought, that farmers must become thinkers or fall behind the age.

Time big hog took the chair, and when the barnyard was quiet he asked, "Is there any business of importance before this house?" And then the long, lean, sandy pig nearest the gate replied that "there was nothing but routine business, he believed." Whereupon the convention adjourned and went around the farm, trying to get at the bottom of things.

On every farm—this year especially—a weed crop of tons in quantity may be found, which, if cut, and thrown into the barnyard, where the cattle will tramp them, become valuable manure.

"Feed your land before it is hungry, rest it before it is weary, weed it before it is foul."

Salt for Fruit Trees.

From Home and Farm. In the absence of the mineral fertilizers, such as wood and coal ashes, refuse lime and spent mortar, the remains of old walls and torn down buildings, bone dust, superphosphate of lime and the like, common salt will be found an excellent application for fruit trees. If the soil is thin and poor, it will not bear as heavy an application as if deep and rich, and therefore salt should be used liberally or cautiously, according as it is applied to one or the other.

Salt is not only one of the most soluble of substances, but it is also a powerful solvent of minerals, inasmuch as the chlorine has such a range of strong affinities that it releases, and renders solvent, insoluble matter in the soil that, before its application was not a plant food in an available form. It may be sown broadcast under trees as far out as the limbs extend, to the extent of one or two bushels per tree of thirty feet spread of limb on rich soils, and a half or a third that quantity on poor, thin and sandy soils, with the certainty that it will not only induce fruitfulness, but materially aid in the destruction of fruit destroying insects, which seek and are protected by the earth during the winter season.

Plowing Down vs. Top Dressing. W. J. Chamberlain in Country Gentleman. Last year I plowed in my manure, well rotted, in August for wheat, except two lands, of about an acre, where the same quantity per acre was used as top dressing and thoroughly harrowed in before the wheat was drilled. The wheat was far the best where the manure was plowed in. The drill put the wheat down probably three or four inches below the general level of the surface as the ground was very mellow, and probably two inches below the bottom of the grooves left by the drill, so that the roots immediately struck for the manure. But where it was top dressed, most of the manure lay above the wheat, and the roots did not touch it at first; and as there was no rain for nearly three weeks after sowing, and the sowing was late, (Sept. 23,) this top dressed wheat did not get so thrifty a growth before winter set in, and of course did not give so good a yield. The field was not stocked down, but on the top dressed part there was a heavy catch of clover and grass and rubbish, and on the other part almost none. So then (on my clay soil at least), if I want wheat, I shall plow in the manure or apply it with a previous crop; if I want grass I shall top-dress for the wheat. If the wheat were to be sowed broadcast and harrowed in, top-dressing would be better, as the kernels would lie more than an inch deep, and would reach the manure sooner, and it would act as a kind of mulch to protect the shallow seed.

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OFFICIAL DIRECTORY. BELLEFONTE & SNOW SHOE ROAD.—Time-Table in effect on and after Dec. 31, 1877. Leave Snow Shoe 7:30 A. M., arrive in Bellefonte 9:20 A. M. Leave Bellefonte 10:20 A. M., arrive at Snow Shoe 11:57 A. M. Leave Snow Shoe 2:42 P. M., arrive in Bellefonte 4:12 P. M. Leave Bellefonte 4:55 P. M., arrive at Snow Shoe 6:27 P. M. DANIEL BROADBENT, General Superintendent.

BALD EAGLE VALLEY RAILROAD.—Time-Table, December 31, 1877. Exp. Mail, WESTWARD. EASTWARD. Exp. Mail. 7:05 A. M. ... Arrive at Tyrone Leave ... 7:15 A. M. ... Leave East Tyrone Leave ... 7:25 A. M. ... Vail ... 7:35 A. M. ... Bald Eagle ... 7:45 A. M. ... Harrisburg ... 7:55 A. M. ... Port Matilda ... 8:05 A. M. ... Marthasville ... 8:15 A. M. ... Julian ... 8:25 A. M. ... Unionville ... 8:35 A. M. ... Snow Shoe In ... 8:45 A. M. ... Mifflintown ... 8:55 A. M. ... Bellefonte ... 9:05 A. M. ... Mifflintown ... 9:15 A. M. ... Mount Eagle ... 9:25 A. M. ... Howard ... 9:35 A. M. ... Eggleville ... 9:45 A. M. ... Beech Creek ... 9:55 A. M. ... Mill Hall ... 10:05 A. M. ... Flemington ... 10:15 A. M. ... Lock Haven ... 10:25 A. M. ...

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.—(Philadelphia and Erie Division)—On and after December 12, 1877. WESTWARD. ERIE MAIL leaves Philadelphia ... 11:55 P. M. ... Harrisburg ... 12:05 A. M. ... Williamsport ... 12:15 A. M. ... Lock Haven ... 12:25 A. M. ... Renovo ... 12:35 A. M. ... Arrives at Erie ... 12:45 A. M. NIAGARA EXPRESS leaves Philadelphia ... 7:20 P. M. ... Williamsport ... 7:30 P. M. ... Renovo ... 7:40 P. M. ... Arrives at Erie ... 7:50 P. M. Passengers by this train arrive in Bellefonte at ... 4:30 P. M. EASTWARD. FAST LINE leaves Philadelphia ... 11:45 A. M. ... Harrisburg ... 12:05 P. M. ... Williamsport ... 12:25 P. M. ... Lock Haven ... 12:45 P. M. ... Renovo ... 1:05 P. M. ... Arrives at Erie ... 1:15 P. M. PACIFIC EXPRESS leaves Lock Haven ... 6:40 A. M. ... Harrisburg ... 7:00 A. M. ... Williamsport ... 7:20 A. M. ... Renovo ... 7:40 A. M. ... Arrives at Erie ... 7:50 A. M. DAY EXPRESS leaves Renovo ... 10:10 A. M. ... Williamsport ... 10:30 A. M. ... Harrisburg ... 10:50 A. M. ... Philadelphia ... 11:10 A. M. Arrives at Harrisburg ... 4:10 P. M. Arrives at Philadelphia ... 7:20 P. M. ERIE MAIL leaves Renovo ... 9:45 A. M. ... Lock Haven ... 10:05 A. M. ... Williamsport ... 10:25 A. M. ... Philadelphia ... 10:45 A. M. Arrives at Harrisburg ... 4:10 P. M. Arrives at Philadelphia ... 7:20 P. M. FAST LINE leaves Williamsport ... 12:35 P. M. ... Harrisburg ... 12:55 P. M. ... Philadelphia ... 1:15 P. M. Arrives at Harrisburg ... 4:10 P. M. Arrives at Philadelphia ... 7:20 P. M. Erie Mail West, Niagara Express West, Lock Haven Accommodation West, and Day Express East, make close connections at Northumberland with L. & N. R. train for Williamsport and Scranton. Erie Mail West, Niagara Express West, and Erie Express West, Lock Haven Accommodation West, make close connections at Williamsport with S. C. R. W. train north. Erie Mail West, Niagara Express West, and Day Express East, make close connection at Lock Haven with R. E. V. R. train. Erie Mail East and West connect at Erie with train on L. & N. S. R. R. by Corry with O. C. & A. V. R. R., at Emporium with R. N. Y. & P. R. R., and at Driftwood with A. V. R. R. Parlor cars will run between Philadelphia and Williamsport on Niagara Express West, Erie Express West, Philadelphia Express East and Day Express East, and Sunday Express East. Sleeping cars on all night trains. W. A. BALDWIN, Gen'l Superintendent.

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