

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

It is pleasant to know prices of grain are once more up to figures that are remunerative, but not excessive, thus benefitting the farmers without being oppressive to other classes of the community.

Look for borers in your apple trees. You will find the young ones if you look sharp, and it is better to get them out now, than to wait until they have had a winter's growth, and done a season's mischief.

GATHER the vines and stalks of all sorts out of the garden and truck patches and carry them to the barn yard. They will add to the manure pile, and the appearance of the grounds during the winter and early spring will be greatly improved. Of course weeds which have been suffered to ripen seeds should be burned on the ground.

THE nights are increasing in length and cold, and the live stock of all kinds need more and better attention. Extra cover and feed now will go much further than in the spring, and is more easily given. Don't wait to begin "feeding" until snow flies. The pastures are failing rapidly, and should be helped out by at least one daily feed of hay, or at least, straw, and a "lick" of bran and meal.

JAMES VICK, in his Illustrated Monthly, insists that among the different sorts of asparagus, Conover's colossal is the best, and that the best time to start a new bed is in the fall, and, as usual, James Vick is right. He ought to go a little further and insist that it is one of the best vegetables, in all particulars, that is grown, and that any farmer who neglects to have a bountiful supply of it for his table, fails to live up to his privileges.

THE mild, warm October through which we have just passed finished conditions of weather peculiarly favorable to the deprivations of the Hessian fly, and we have noticed its effects on many fields. We fear an increased development of this plague next spring. Keep an eye out for it, and note whether the late sown fields are as much affected as the early sown. Bear in mind the circular of the United States Entomological Commission, published in our issue of July 31, and send them the information asked for.

WE have often been asked, "Are the Alderneys ('Jerseys' is the accepted and better name) better milkers than our common cows?" For answer to this, Mr. F. R. Starr, originally a Pennsylvanian, but who now owns and runs one of the finest dairy farms in the country, away up in Connecticut, states that his pure Jersey cow "Filbert," whose weight is only 1063 pounds, yielded in six consecutive months, 6757 pounds of milk. This amounts to considerably more than her own weight in milk every month, and we should say affords an affirmative answer to the question.

THE poultry-buyer, or "huckster" is abroad in the land just now in anticipation of Thanksgiving. Have your surplus stock ready for him. It is better to sell now than later. As cheap as grain is, it is costly to fatten poultry after cold weather sets in. Before you sell any, however, select a dozen or more of last year's hens, and the twenty or thirty pullets you intend to keep over, and let them run, with partial feeds of grain night and morning, while the cullings are shut up to fatten. Keep the best—sell only the scrubs among the pullets, and all the roosters. Then send at once, to some reliable breeder, and secure one or two cockerels of whatever breed you may fancy, and your chicken stock for next year will be improved far beyond your expectations.

TREES can be obtained from the nursery this month and healed-in, to be set out next spring.—Farm Journal.

Don't do it though! If you get them now,—and we believe you should,—set them out where they are to grow, and be done with it. Stake them properly to keep the wind from swaying them about, and they are far more safe than if healed-in, and then you are that much ahead.

A LANCASTER county correspondent of the Germantown Telegraph tells of an experiment in the spring cultivation of wheat, and states that the yield was not so great per acre as wheat planted and treated in the usual way, and adds that the quality of both grain and straw was inferior. To this the New Era replies: "This is at variance with every experiment we have ever heard of and seems to hint at some radical mistake in the system of cultivation practiced. The correspondent intimates that something in our climate may have influenced the result, but this position is not tenable, for we have seen results from spring cultivation in this county which were so decided and indisputable as effectually to dispel any such theory."

The Farmer a Power in the World.

Ex-Governor Seymour, as clear-headed a statesman and as honest a man as lives, is president of the State Agricultural Society of New York, and, in the course of his address at the late fair held at Utica, makes the following allusion to the future of American agriculture:

After a careful study I am satisfied that American farmers can hold the ground they have gained in the markets of the world. I have glanced at the reasons for this faith. I would not, however, have it thought that there is not much to be done on their part to gain the victory. Honest industry must still be applied. Intelligence and economy must be exerted, and a just pride felt in all that relates to their honorable pursuits.

Agriculture has always been known as the basis of civilization. But it has rarely if ever happened in the world's history that it has wrought out such marked and rapid changes in the credit and prosperity of a government as those which we now witness in our land. It could never before be said with even a show of plausibility, as I now say in full faith, that American farmers, beyond lifting up their government from its low financial state, beyond giving food to suffering classes in other lands, exert a potent influence in the political affairs of the civilized world.

Timely Notes for the Poultry Yard.

Geo. O. Brown in American Farmer.

Now is the time to look after the winter quarters of your poultry stock. Repair their houses, thoroughly clean them out, give the interior a good sprinkling, after cleaning, with water strongly impregnated with carbolic acid, so that their houses are made comfortable. The cool night winds are apt to give the young stock cold if they roost so to be subject to a draft, and it induces that dread disease known as roup. Secure the young stock that is in the habit of roosting in the trees and remove to their houses, and feed for a day or two in that vicinity only, and they will soon learn to go to their new roosting quarters. Re-select, and go over the entire flock, cull out those you will not keep to breed from another season, keep them by themselves, and dispose of all the others as soon as possible.

During cold rain storms and the mornings after, season the mixed food with a free sprinkling* of red pepper; a little in the drinking water will also be beneficial. Late-hatched chicks now need especial care; liberal feeding; warm quarters at night. Feed grain as a supper feed, and as late as they can see to pick it up. A warm breakfast early, and a dinner of vegetables, &c., cooked, mixed with meal, together during the day, will cause the late broods to astonish you with their size by Christmas.

*We interpret Mr. Brown's "free-sprinkling" to mean about the same amount that would be applied in the preparation of food for the human stomach. A convenient way, and one very acceptable to the fowls is to boil a red pepper in a little water, and put a little of this tincture either in the food, or drinking water, or both.—Ed. Democrat.]

THERE is as much difference between the eggs of fowls allowed to roam and forage for themselves, and those which are fed regularly on good, nutritious food, as there is between a leg of Southdown mutton and that of common, half-starved sheep.

Production of Agriculture in the next Census.

It is very desirable that the tenth census, to be taken in June of next year, should give as nearly as possible a correct report of the agricultural productions of this country, and we are glad to notice that the authorities having the matter in charge, are taking proper measures to secure this result. A very fruitful source of the inaccuracy of agricultural statistics is found in the inability of farmers to give positive and accurate answers to many of the questions put to them, and this is only because they have not taken the precaution to prepare themselves in advance. In order that farmers may know what will be expected of them a circular has been prepared, and is now being circulated through the agricultural journals, societies and clubs. We have received a copy of this circular from General Walker, superintendent of the census, and herewith publish it entire, for the information of our readers; and urge upon them the importance of so preparing themselves that they may be able to give prompt and accurate answers to the enumerator when he shall call, which will be some time during the month of June next:

The agricultural schedule annexed to the Act of 1850, which is also made a part of the Act of March 3, 1879, providing for the Tenth Census, requires a report of the chief productions of agriculture "during the year ended June 1."

Now, there is no distinct agricultural year which ends on the first of June, and there is reason to believe that the statistics of Agriculture from 1850 to 1879, in regard to many of the principal products, embraced portions of two different crops, inasmuch as the enumeration was protracted through three or four, and even five months.

By the Act approved March 3, 1879, it is provided that the Tenth Census shall be taken and completed during the month of June, 1880. This provision greatly reduces the liability to error which has been noted.

As the enumeration commences on the first of June and closes on or before the thirtieth, all the crops which are gathered once a year will fall pretty clearly on one side or the other of the dividing line.

Thus the cotton crop reported in the census will be that of 1879, gathered in the fall of that year; while the wool clip or "wool crop" will be that of 1880—except in portions of California and Texas, where both a fall and spring clip are secured.

For certain of the productions of agriculture, however, there is no harvest, in the usual sense of that term; but the product is gathered week by week, or day by day, as it matures—milk, butter, cheese, meat fall into this class.

In view of the requirements of the law, and of the great importance of accurate statistical information relative to agriculture, it is deemed to be highly desirable that farmers should prepare themselves in advance to give the information with promptness and accuracy. It is urgently recommended, therefore, that agricultural journals and the officers of agricultural societies and clubs give publicity to this announcement, and that all persons engaged in agriculture who shall receive this circular, or shall see it in the public prints, make notes from time to time of the quantities and values of their several crops gathered, and the number of acres of land planted, in order that their statements, when made to the enumerators, may be of the highest possible value.

To remove any doubts that may arise concerning the crops to be returned in the census, the following table presents the several crops specifically mentioned in the agricultural schedule, arranged according to the way they fall into the calendar year 1879, that of 1880, or are to be returned for the twelve months beginning June 1, 1879, and closing May 31, 1880:

- I. Of the crop of the calendar year 1879. Wheat—Acres, bushels. Corn—Acres, bushels. Rye—Acres, bushels. Oats—Acres, bushels. Barley—Acres, bushels. Buckwheat—Acres, bushels. Peas and Beans—Bushels. Rice—Acres, pounds. Cotton—Acres, pounds. Potatoes—Acres, bushels. Grapes—Acres, value of products, dollars. Vineyards—Acres, value of products, dollars. Small Fruits—Acres, value of products, dollars. Hay—Acres, tons. Clover seed—Bushels. Grass seed—Bushels. Hops—Acres, pounds. Hemp—Acres, tons. Flax—Acres, pounds. Flaxseed—Bushels. Bees—Number of hives, pounds of wax, pounds of honey. Sugar cane—Acres, hogheads of sugar, gallons of molasses.
- II. Of the crop of the calendar year 1880. Wool—Number of fleeces, pounds. Maple sugar—Pounds. Maple molasses—Gallons.
- III. Of the yield of the twelve months, June 1, 1879, to May 31, 1880. Butter—Pounds. Cheese—Pounds. Milk sold—Gallons. Value of animals slaughtered, dollars. Market gardens—Acres, value of products, dollars. Value of Forest products, dollars. Value of Home manufactures, dollars.

Francis A. Walker, Superintendent of Census. Winter Top-Dressing for Wheat. From the Farmer's Friend. Top-dressing with manure is best done during the winter, and we prefer to do it with sleds on the snow rather than in the fall. Unless the manure is very fine, and is evenly spread, it will cover up, injuriously,

much of the plant. When spread in the winter, on the contrary, it acts as a mulch and a protection while the plant is dormant, and in the spring, when sudden changes of temperature, with all that these imply, occur and act destructively. Then, the covering prevents thawing and freezing in sudden changes, by which the roots are broken and destroyed and the surface is strewn with winter-killed plants.

Beautiful the Home.

Not only the residents of towns and villages may surround their dwellings with beautiful trees and shrubs, but every farmer may so adorn his home. The expense of procuring and planting trees is very little. A single acre of ground will admit of a beautiful display, and the same amount of land cannot be better disposed of, even in an economical view of the case. The first cost of trees is but little—even rare specimens are to be had at very moderate prices, and the planting and care of them will interest and attract every member of the household, and forge another link in the chain that binds each one willingly to the old home.

Agricultural Books and Periodicals.

We are in receipt, from the Department of Agriculture, at Washington, of Special Report No. 12, being a report of the Investigation of Diseases of Swine, made under direction of the Commission of Agriculture. The investigation was conducted through the greater part of two years, with the greatest care, and under favorable circumstances, by a number of the most able and eminent physicians and veterinary surgeons in the country, and the report is an unusually valuable contribution to the agricultural literature for the year. Beside the diseases of swine, it embraces exhaustive papers upon the Lung Fever plague of our Cattle, and Glanders in Horses, and cannot fail to be of the greatest interest and value to all stock raisers. We compliment General Le Duc upon the energy and thoroughness displayed in this direction, and expect it to result in great benefit to our stock interests.

THE POULTRY WORLD for November presents itself as a "Turkey Number," and with ten pages of letter-press, containing most valuable and exhaustive information concerning "Turkeys, and Turkey Raising," beautifully illustrated by no less than thirteen large wood-cuts in the World's best style, it is an exceedingly interesting number to all interested in this monarch of the poultry yard. "Thanksgiving Day" and "Turkey dinners" are not quite synonymous terms, but they are both distinctively American institutions, and the average American is apt to find them very closely allied in his thoughts; and it is particularly appropriate that the number of Mr. Stoddard's valuable magazine, issued in the Thanksgiving month of November, should be devoted to the Royal Thanksgiving Bird. Any true turkey lover will enjoy the Thanksgiving dinner much better after a perusal of this member. Send ten cents to H. H. Stoddard, Hartford, Conn., and get a copy.

THE NATIONAL LIVE STOCK JOURNAL for October has found its way to our table, and as usual, is crammed full, throughout all its seventy or more large, handsome pages of most useful and interesting matter concerning the stock interests of the country. As its name indicates the Journal is not a miscellaneous agricultural paper, but devotes itself entirely to matters pertaining to live stock, and doing but this "one thing at a time," it does it exceedingly well. Our county agricultural society offered subscriptions to the Journal as premiums at its last fair, and we heartily commend it for so doing.

THE AMERICAN FARMER, published in Baltimore, Md., is the best representative of Southern agricultural periodicals within our knowledge. It is a monthly publication of near thirty-five pages, exclusive of cuts and advertisements, and its matter is of the best and most practical sort, devoid of clap-trap and nonsense, and always reasonable.

FIFTY CENTS is not much, but it is enough to pay for a year's subscription to the American Farmer, a neat little monthly, published in Philadelphia, by Wilmer Atkinson. The chief characteristics of the Journal are spice and brevity, and the information it gives comes in solid chunks winnowed of all chaff. We often quote from it—with pleasure to ourselves, and we hint with profit to our readers.

THE special feature of the Husbandman, published at Elmira, is its weekly report of the proceedings of the Elmira Farmer's club. This club has a well-earned reputation for being an authority upon all matters pertaining to the practical workings of the farm, and the reports of its proceedings, as published in the Husbandman, furnish a most valuable record of experience.

This added to the valuable miscellaneous matter it contains makes the Husbandman a very desirable addition to the farmer's list of correct literature.

THE grain received in a single month at the one port of New York would require a fleet of six hundred vessels, each of one thousand tons, to carry it to Europe.

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