

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.

If you have any hens wanting to sit, encourage them. "The early bird"—you know.

We should be glad to have some of our farmers try "soiling" on a small scale this coming season, and report to us the results. Sow a small lot of corn or oats, or both, so as to have it ready for feeding about the time the short pastures of the dry season come on, and see if it does not help out. The trouble will be little—the results may be such that you will "do it more," next year.

ONE of the best illustrated, and most interesting series of papers with which it has been our fortune to meet in any magazine, is that now running in Scribner, under the title of "Success with Small Fruits," by Rev. E. P. Roe. It is a subject with which the author is as familiar as was that great strawberry grower, Rev. John Knox, of Pittsburgh, and the publishers have spared no expense or trouble in presenting it to their readers. Every man who owns an acre of ground should secure the four or five numbers of the Magazine through which the series runs!

Who Says Farming Can't be Made Pay in Pennsylvania? We find in the Farm Journal, an account, credited to a correspondent of the Philadelphia Ledger, of a farm of one hundred acres, near Reading, which yielded to its owner, last year, a profit, or net income of eighty dollars per acre. Here is how it was done:

A visit yesterday to the farm of Mr. Christopher Shearer, five miles north of Reading, gave me a good idea of progress. This farm contains 100 acres and has upon it an orchard of Bartlett pears, which occupies 10 acres; there are also 40 acres in peaches and apples, and another apple orchard which occupies 18 acres of land. From 10 to 20 acres are planted in corn, and the balance of the land is planted in potatoes, rye, strawberries, artichokes, willow trees for baskets, and a nursery of peach trees. There is also a large pond for gathering ice, to supply an immense refrigerator, in which the fruit is stored and kept until the market is favorable for its sale.

The crops gathered this year were 1000 bushels of pears, which sold on an average of \$2 per bushel; the peach orchard, which is quite young, produced 400 baskets, which sold for \$1 per basket. From the apple orchard there were picked 2,000 bushels, which sold from \$1 to \$1.50 per bushel. The apples that fell from the trees, and those not considered worth sending to market, were sent to the cider press, and from them 200 barrels of juice were obtained, which is now in large vats to remain until it becomes vinegar, selling at 15 cents per gallon. The patch of tobacco yielded from 1500 to 2000 pounds per acre, and sold at 15 cents per pound. In addition to this, 2,000,000 of tobacco plants were sold, at \$1 per 1000; 1200 bushels of Jerusalem artichokes were raised, for the purpose of feeding cattle, but most of them were sold in New York, at from \$2.50 to \$3 per barrel, for pickling purposes, most of them being used in restaurants and bar-rooms as appetizers or for lunch. The sale of willows produced \$100 this year, and from the nursery \$500 was obtained by the sale of young peach and apple trees. Last spring, four acres were planted in strawberries, and it is expected that next year at least 10,000 quarts will be gathered. Notwithstanding the long dry spell in this section of the State, grapes enough were gathered to make 600 gallons of wine, which readily sells for \$1 per gallon. Mr. Shearer also purchased grapes enough from his neighbors to make 500 gallons more. On the other portions of the land there were gathered 35 tons of hay, 400 bushels of potatoes, and 250 bushels of rye. There was also sold \$200 worth of ice, the pond yielding more than was necessary for supplying the refrigerator, and \$200 was received from other farmers for storing fruit, &c., in the icehouse. The entire cost of farming the land, including fertilizers, was for the year \$4,000. The products amounted to over \$12,000, quite a respectable profit on 100 acres of land.

THE officers of the State Agricultural Society have taken hold of the work of making an exhibition at Philadelphia this fall, with a zeal and energy, and an intelligent appreciation of what is demanded of them by the farmers of the State, that cannot fail to insure a success before which the one of last year will pale. It is now announced that in addition to the regular exhibition will be held an international sheep and wool show as a separate matter and for which premiums amounting to six thousand

dollars will be offered. This makes an aggregate of forty thousand dollars offered in premiums by the Society—a larger amount, we believe, than was ever offered before by any State Society. A national importance is given to the occasion by the Congressional Committee on Agriculture, which has unanimously agreed to report favorably to the House a bill introduced by Representative Shallenberger, authorizing Commissioner Le Duc to attend the sheep and wool show and to make a full report. This bill does not ask for any appropriation, and provides for the admission free of duty of all sheep or wool imported for the sole purpose of exhibition at this show. Our readers do not need to be reminded that the DEMOCRAT has been an earnest advocate of increased attention to sheep and wool growing as one of the most important industries of the farm, and it is with peculiar pleasure, therefore, that we note this action of the officers of our State Society, and the promptness with which the agricultural committee of Congress has given the matter national recognition. If, in addition to this important move, our State Society could fix upon some plan for removing, or at least mitigating, the serious drawback to sheep growing which arises from the dog nuisance, it would have commended itself to the hearty support of every farmer in the State.

Soiling Crops.

A correspondent of the Country Gentleman who says "soiling is uppermost in my mind" asks for information as to what crops to grow for this purpose. From the answer given by the editor we clip the following as being so plain and simple that it removes from the whole subject much of the doubt and obscurity which surround it in the minds of those who have never given it trial or close thought:

Rye sown rather thickly any time in autumn makes a good early feed; orchard grass is one of the earliest of grasses; red clover comes forward soon, but none of these three can be had before next year. Next to these sow in furrows the small varieties of corn, twice as thick as the large sorts, say four bushels per acre, harrowing in, and cultivating between the rows two or three times. This will give you a copious supply of green food, and if you plant in succession every fortnight, gradually passing from smaller to larger varieties of corn, you may have a succession till frost. Barley sown in August will give late feed.

Kind Words Shall Never Die.

From Wilmer Atkinson's Farm Journal. The agricultural columns of the local country papers are usually very thin, and the matter flat and insipid. To this condition we have found at least one exception and that exists in the CENTRE DEMOCRAT, published at Bellefonte, Pa. The special agricultural editor of this journal is a practical farmer, who is equally ready with plow and pen. It is refreshing to read his department, so full of intelligent observation and good sense.

We beg the Journal to "consider our agricultural hat off."

It is not every day we receive such hearty praise as that, and when it does come, we are glad to have it come from just such sources as the Farm Journal. When we say that it is the best agricultural paper published in America, for the money, we say precisely what we think.

Sewage and Night Soil Utilized and Applied to Fruit Growing.

In planning for farm and home, second to none should be the situation of the compost hearth. The same should be located with ways to suit from every point where contaminating matter would collect, which with care can also be so planned to be out of sight from the more desirable points. This, if properly chosen, and the system carried into effect, is the farmer's own deposit, paramount to all others, for in it is the basis of wealth and good living.

The arrangement of a compost hearth may be in width from six to twelve feet, and in length as need requires. The floor should be made of cement or clay, which should be well packed, having posts set along the sides one or two feet high, to support side boards for walls. The end of the hearth nearest to the house, should be provided with posts high enough to receive a barrack roof, and a loose plank floor about seven feet from the ground, on which to keep for drying absorbent matter, earth, and the like. To operate the concern, the principal part, which is without cover, can be occupied for decomposing stable and other coarse manures, which should be milled or hand-worked until made fine and well mixed, before being applied to the soil.

We now come to the test, which is that of handling the house slops and night soil. We admit of its being a difficult task, but it is one of nature's necessities, and must be met. Here we may as well bear in mind, that nature's laws cannot with impunity be violated, for if we allow fever dispensaries, in the form of cesspools and foul sink drains about our premises, we shall be taxed for it, and death and doctors will do the collecting. With a liberal supply of dry earth, (the better if composed of decayed vegetable matter like swamp muck,) the work can be easily accomplished for the same is a rapid absorbent, and when mixed with foreign matter, is a powerful deodorizer. First fill the roof covered part of the hearth to the depth of two or more feet, then as the slops are daily added, bring down from the floor above the dry earth, as required to keep the mass in proper condition for mixing and carting away. It is not to be supposed that the sewage of a house, occupied by a large family, can all be used in this way to practical advantage. In such case, the liquid must be partly disposed of in other ways; that is, the more cleanly waters be distributed on the grass grounds and about fruit trees, while only the first seeds from washing, and the like, with night soiling, may go to the compost.

We now have a word to say on the application of these preparations to fruits and farm crops. Our experience first, last, and always, tells us to apply to the surface, and cover slightly by the use of the harrow or rake, and shade from the sun and wind,

while the crops are young. Lime and alkaline salts, they being dissolvents of organic matter, should be added in small quantities at the same time and way, but never to the pile. Farm and fruit crops may be successfully grown by the sewage and night soil alone, if the foregoing is properly carried out.

Catalogues Received.

MR. GEORGE R. DYKEMAN, of Shippenburg, Pa., sends us a catalogue of thirty full-bred and grade alderneys which he will offer at public sale on Thursday, March 2. From a hasty inspection of the descriptions of the animals, we presume that bargains in "family cows" can be had at his sale.

MR. J. T. LOVETT, of Little Silver, Monmouth Co., N. J., is a late recruit to the large company of plant and seed growers, but promises exceedingly well. He makes small fruits his specialty, and his "spring catalogue for 1880" is not only marked by freshness and originality, but has an air of integrity and fair dealing about it, which will recommend it and its author to public favor.

LANDRETH'S RURAL REGISTER AND ALMANAC is published for gratuitous distribution by the solid old establishment, known as "David Landreth & Sons," which has been in successful operation in Philadelphia for the full half of a century. Compared with many others, this catalogue is small, plain and unpretentious, but the seeds described and advertised are grown upon four farms owned by the Landreths, in the four States of Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Virginia and Wisconsin, comprising in all but a few acres less than sixteen hundred, and upon which no less than seventy head of horses and five steam engines are daily employed. With these facilities their seeds ought to be reliable, and our experience with them is that they are.

FOR TWELVE YEARS back we have regularly received B. K. Bliss & Sons' Illustrated Haul Book for the farm and garden, and if it should by any means fail to reach us in January we should think the new year had forgotten to put in an appearance, and at once call a halt in our planning for the next season's gardening. The larger portion of our garden seeds are usually purchased of this house, first because we find it cheaper than to grow them, and second, because they are always fresh and true to name. An experience of twelve years with very many varieties of the seeds sold by this house, without a single failure which could be justly charged to the seeds themselves, justifies us in speaking thus emphatically in their favor. Their hand book for 1880 is very large, covering over one hundred and fifty pages, and unusually interesting. It is beautified by a frontispiece giving colored representations of eight varieties of German Pansies which must be seen to be appreciated. They are entirely new, and said to be a wonderful improvement upon any before offered in this country.

Winter Dairying.

Residents of cities are not as much given to laying in a winter supply of butter as they were formerly. They want it fresh from the churn, and are willing to pay for it. His cows go dry or are giving their smallest messes, during the hottest season of the year, when it is difficult to make good butter and cows are least able to stand a heavy draught on the vital system. They are giving their largest messes in winter, soon after calving, when the lactical system need, little stimulating, and come to grass when it is flush, juicy and nutritious, and when there is the greatest tendency to shrink the flow of milk. Lessened work in the dairy during the summer months gives more time to devote to other branches of farming when time for this is most needed. A large dairy should produce a perpetual income to the owner, but the owner of a small dairy, who wants to engage in other farm work during the summer, secures quite an advantage by having his heaviest dairy work come in winter, when he can do little else; and his profits for four or five months in winter, when prices are high, are more than he could make from his dairy during all the rest of the year, when prices are low. As to raising calves, if they are furnished good comfortable quarters, they thrive better in winter than in summer, when it is hot and flies are pestiferous. They come to grass just when there is the best grass for them, and by fall are prepared to accept dry food and continue to thrive on it. These are some of the numerous arguments in favor of winter butter-making. It would seem that to the average mind they ought to be quite conclusive.

"He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good and sendeth rain on the just and unjust;" and the corn and wheat will grow on one man's farm as well as on another's, if it only has an equal chance. The farmer who succeeds must succeed in spite of luck, not in consequence of it. If he depends on good luck to manage his business for him, it is certain that he will not long have any business at all.

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Table with columns: BELLEFONTE & SNOW SHOE, R. R.—Time-Table in effect on and after Dec. 31, 1877. Includes routes to Tyrone, Tyrone to Bellefonte, and Bellefonte to Snow Shoe.

Table with columns: BALD EAGLE VALLEY RAILROAD—Time-Table, December 31, 1877. Includes routes to Tyrone, Tyrone to Bellefonte, and Bellefonte to Snow Shoe.

Table with columns: PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD. Includes routes to Westward and Eastward, such as Erie Mail, Niagara Express, and Day Express.

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