

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.

HAVE you any hens sitting yet? If not, why not? "The early bird catches the" highest price, you know.

POTATOES for "extra early" may be planted this month, if the ground can be found in suitable condition. Plant deep, and manure thoroughly, and you will have "new potatoes" almost before you are aware of it.

So far this winter, farmers in this county have been able to plow during at least a portion of every month, and we notice that many of them have taken advantage of this exceptional state of the weather. Our South Bend's are doing splendid execution, in a six year old timothy sod.

WHAT kinds of fruit trees, vines or plants are you planning to set out this spring? and how many? In making your calculations bear in mind that you cannot easily have too much of this sort of thing, and that for at least ten years to come, you will not be able to get trees or plants of any kinds so cheaply as you can this spring. Unless, however, you make up your mind to give good care with "eternal vigilance" to such as you plant, don't invest.

MR. DAVID LANDRETH, head of the well-known seed house, D. Landreth & Sons, of Philadelphia, died on Sunday the 22d inst., at the age of seventy-eight. Mr. Landreth's business relations as seed-grower and merchant were very extensive, and his name was familiar throughout the agricultural world. Perhaps no establishment has done more to disseminate reliable farm and garden seeds throughout this country than that of which Mr. Landreth has for so long a time been the head, and in the direction of which he succeeded his father, who was its founder. Mr. Landreth devoted his long and busy life almost entirely to the interests of agriculture and horticulture, and while actively engaged in the practical work connected therewith, found time to contribute liberally to their literature. He has latterly resided at the Bloomsdale seed farm, leaving the city business in charge of his sons, one of whom, capt. Burnett Landreth, will be pleasantly remembered by all who came in contact with him, as chief of the Bureau of Agriculture at the great Centennial exhibition.

Seed Test.

The DEMOCRAT has not failed to urge upon its readers, in season and out of season, the importance of sowing none but pure, ripe, sound seed of all kinds. We are convinced, however, that far too little attention is paid to this matter, and that seeds having characteristics quite the reverse of these are sown in the great majority of cases. Sometimes this is the result of carelessness; in other cases it is because good seed cannot be obtained; but more frequently, perhaps, than either of these it is because of the inability of the farmer to readily detect foreign or unripe seed. To remedy this last, Secretary Edge, of the State Board of Agriculture, proposes a test of grass seeds, the particulars of which we present below:

The Secretary requests that all interested, whether as consumers, producers or dealers, furnish him by mail with small samples, not exceeding one or two ounces in weight. It is proposed that each sample shall be critically examined with a magnifying glass and the sample divided into the following classes: Good or perfect seed, immature or unripe seed, true to the sample, seeds foreign to the sample, weed seeds and chaff and other impurities. Samples should be plainly directed to "Secretary Pennsylvania Board of Agriculture, Harrisburg," and should bear the name of the party forwarding. A postal card, mailed at the same time as the sample, will convey the necessary information.

Planning Work in Advance.

A farmer in Central Nebraska writes a very sensible letter to the Country Gentleman, in which he says some things which will make good reading for Centre county readers of the DEMOCRAT. It is just as true and good here as in Nebraska, and we quote portions of it because it is an emphatic endorsement of the DEMOCRAT's teachings:

I want to urge upon those of my brother farmers who have never yet done so, to lay out at once their season's work, and then stick to it as closely as wind, weather and health will permit. I am aware, from my own experience, that such a course is always profitable. Another thing I wish to mention in this place, is that in working out a plan, if one part is likely to crowd into the time allotted to another, hire help and push it through. In our Nebraska climate a day's time will often add bushels to a crop. Have tools, seeds, everything, under your thumb, and in readiness, and when the time comes, let the seeds be properly sown. Determine exactly how many acres you will plant to spring wheat, oats, barley, corn, potatoes and beans, even not forgetting an acre or two of buckwheat and turnips, and remembering that the sowing and planting season extends even up to harvesting grain. The farm teams, unless in constant use during the winter, cannot be crowded into full days' work in early spring and be kept in flesh. A horse, an ox or a man should never be forced into new work and expected to do all he is capable of doing when the muscles are toughened by use. A man's hands blister and his muscles become stiff and sore when brought into violent use. This stiffness and soreness often ends in rheumatism in man, and in diseases to horses and oxen, when by a little forethought and care all may be avoided. "Make haste slowly," in the early season.

Experience in following a determined plan will soon teach that much valuable time can be saved in the seeding season by taking advantage of odd hours, as some of us are doing now in this portion of Nebraska. In the afternoons the plow or harrow is running, fitting the ground for seed; manure hauled, and the garden cleaned of all rubbish. In fact, every thorough farmer can always find something to do that will save time later when planting time comes. Is sufficient seed wheat provided to sow the given number of acres, and is it clean and free from food seeds? Are the oats fit for seed—plump and heavy, and clean? Is the seed corn carefully selected, sheathed and stored away ready for planting? Are there sufficient seed potatoes and beans to plant the area desired, and of good quality? Do not forget the garden; it is of the utmost importance to the health and economy of every farmer. Are the garden seeds good? If not, send to some reliable seedsman, who prides himself on furnishing the best, and is enterprising enough to advertise, and at once order a full supply. It will be found more profitable for farmers to buy garden seeds than to undertake to raise them. It is, and has been, my experience that seeds from either of the above named houses are sure, and worth to me far more than any I can purchase from the seed boxes found in the stores and groceries. My garden has paid me in cash, besides giving my large family all they can use, more than ten times the cost of the seeds purchased, and it always should be the most profitable part of every farm. If everything is planted in rows, it need not require more than half a day per week with horse and cultivator to keep it in splendid order.

Extract and Comments.

Should the frost come out during the month the truck patch should be manured and ploughed to save time and labor in the spring, when the busy season comes.—Record.

That is very good advice if you have neglected the work until this time. It should have been attended to last fall.

An Indiana farmer asks this pertinent question: "Is it not better to feed corn to my cows, every bushel of which will make three pounds of butter, worth from 18 to 20 cents per pound, giving 54 cents per bushel for my corn at the door, with the manure left on the farm, rather than to sell it at 30 to 35 cents and impoverish my farm?"—Exchange.

We give it up. Possibly it is, but we haven't time to figure on it now.

The best way to preserve manure is to haul it to the field on which it is needed as fast as it accumulates. Have a wagon or sled always ready on which to throw the manure as it accumulates and haul it out when there is a good job and spread it at once. This is the latest approved plan.

This bit of nonsense, which bears on the face of it evidence of having for its author some penny-a-liner, who knows more of quill-driving than he does of the details of farm work, has been floating about in the alleged "Agricultural departments," and "farm notes" columns of the average county paper, until we have

grown tired seeing it. Most farmers have too much use for their wagons and sleds to have them "always ready" for loading with manure; and if they hadn't, who wants to see a wagon half loaded with manure eternally standing around in front of the stable doors, to say nothing of the implied abuse of the wagon.

Early pullets lay eggs when fowls are moulting; early cockerels are ready for the spit when the mouth waters for broiled chicken.—Poultry World.

In order to secure these advantages, feed the hens well during the winter, so that they will lay constantly. Then they will be ready for early sitting. We know of breeders who have their first chicks out now. Our own first arrivals are looked for next week.

Churning.

Henry Stuart, in Rural New Yorker.

This was the first churning of six days' milk. The cream—12 quarts exactly—was turned into the rectangular churn aforesaid, and the churn and cream were both at a temperature of 65 degrees. After churning for eight minutes precisely, making 70 revolutions of the churn per minute, I was surprised to hear the "slapdash" of the buttermilk, and was more than surprised on opening the churn to see so magnificent a sample of butter. The mass of golden butter was in small grains from the size of sago grains up to that of buckshot, lying in an irregular mass piled up in the churn with a small quantity of buttermilk at the bottom. The butter weighed 10 1/2 pounds. The result, 10 1/2 pounds of butter from 12 quarts of thick cream, churned in eight minutes, at a temperature of 65 degrees, settled some points about which questions are frequently asked.

This churning out of the way, the cream of two Ayrshire cows three-years-old that have been milking 10 months and are three in calf—14 quarts in all—was put in the churn at a temperature of 60 degrees. This I churned three hours patiently without breaking the cream, and was advised to throw the cream out as it was one of those messes which would never churn. Let us try some warm water. A quart of hot water from the kettle was thrown in, the churn rotated, and in one minute the butter came; the temperature in the churn then was 64 degrees. This also goes some way to settle another difficulty in winter dairying, which causes a great deal of trouble.

If butter comes at 64 or 65 degrees in a short time and fails to come at all at 60 degrees, this is a valuable fact to know. Another churning of Maida's cream of 16 quarts from seven days' milk produces 14 pounds of butter in 12 minutes at a temperature of 65 degrees, with several stoppages to watch the progress; so that eight quarts of nearly pure cream will make seven pounds of butter.

Spring Care of Cows.

From the American Dairyman.

This is the time of year when roots tell. A peck of mangels or sugar beets, or carrots, or of parsnips, a day brings a cow to calving in admirable shape. Farmers and dairymen are slowly learning to value roots. The agricultural papers have advocated their use for years. Experience has demonstrated their value wherever they have been used, and yet the staid, we had almost said stupid, farmers hold off and doubt their benefit. No doubt a good many of our readers will think us wild for advocating and urging them raise other roots than turnips for their cows and what will they not think and say when we advocate grooming cows like horses.

The grooming of cows—that is, brushing them all over daily with a stiff brush, cleaning off their thighs and flanks with a wet brush and pail of water, and subsequently rubbing dry with a wisp of hay and a cloth, is what we mean by grooming. This will benefit neat cattle as much as a quart of corn meal a day, or perhaps even more, enough to well pay for the trouble, from the most economical point of view.

Such treatment as we indicate is no more than the best herdsmen willingly give fancy dairy stock. It pays them. Every farmer, as already intimated, will be thoroughly well paid in milk and butter as well as in the thriftiness and health of his herd by following a similar plan.

The hens should be set where the laying fowls cannot disturb them, in a separate house or yard, and supplied with fresh water and grain. Before placing the eggs under them, they should be dusted with carbolic powder, and four days before the eggs hatch the dusting may be repeated.

SENATOR Hill, of Colorado, has introduced and favors a proposition to appropriate \$50,000 to the digging of artesian wells here and there in the plains of the West, for the purpose of proving that 500,000,000 acres may be reclaimed by irrigation, in this way. Private capital will, it is expected, then be invested in a business. Gen. Le Duc endorses the project.

Magazines and Catalogues Received.

MR. ISAAC F. TILLINGHAST, of La Plume, Lackawanna county, Pa., sends us the initial number of a catalogue of seeds and plants, which he proposes to issue as a quarterly, at fifty cents per year, under the pleasing title of Seed-Time and Harvest. It presents a creditable appearance, and, in addition to the usual seed and plant list, contains information valuable to those who raise their own flowers and vegetables.

SCRIBNER'S MONTHLY for March has found its way to our table, and while there is no part of it which we do not read with pleasure, our agricultural tastes and habits lead us to turn first to those articles which have a bearing upon this subject. Mr. E. P. Roe's "Success with Small Fruits," treats this month in his usual practical way of "Raspberries for Home and Market," and is illustrated with striking drawings of berries, etc., by Gibson, Kappes, Riordan and Taber. The series which has awakened wide interest, will, it is announced, end with the April paper which will probably be the most fully and happily illustrated of all.

Sorghum Sugar.

From the Tribune.

Professor James Hyatt's estimate of sorghum sugar—and a sensible view of the farmers' best policy—is given in a private letter from which we take the liberty of excerpting what follows. The sample examined was from the Department of Agriculture: "Under the microscope the sugar makes a very fine appearance, especially in regard to the perfection of the crystalline grains and freedom of foreign matter, except as to that which gives the amber tint. It is quite evident that if sugar of this quality can be so cheaply produced as has been maintained, foreign sugars will have to give way. I must say that heretofore I have had an unfavorable impression as to the production of sugar in Northern latitudes, but it is so much in accordance with a favorite idea of mine that a farmer should so far as he can try to raise on his own land whatever his family will consume, that I shall look hopefully to sorghum sugar, if the recent claims in its favor are not extravagant."

PROF. ARNOLD says the quality of milk varies with the quality and supply of food. If it is very succulent the water increases in the milk; but the increase of water cannot go beyond a certain limit, and 90.5 water with 9.5 solids is the extreme limit he has ever met with through succulence and moisture in the food. On the other hand, by the use of food rich in the elements of milk, and other circumstances favorable, the extreme limit in the opposite direction has been 81.5 solids. The former occurred in June, with a feed of grass and brewers' grains; the latter in the fall, with after feed and meal.

OWLS are of immense service as vermin destroyers. An English gamekeeper found an owl's nest with one young bird in it. He visited it for thirty consecutive mornings and in that time removed from it 105 rats, 49 mice, 2 robins and one sparrow. This was, and well it might have been, over and above what the owl's consumption demanded, yet our State Legislature classes owls with hawks, and offers 50 cents premiums for owl scalps.

ON the Pacific slope agriculture, like mining, is largely a speculation, bereft of home comforts and improvements, society and culture, and its broad acres are a vast solitude of waving grain, instinct with human life only at two seasons, when a caravan of ploughmen pitch their tents for a time in the rainy season, and again when a procession of foot and horse, with headers, reapers and threshers come upon the field.

THE gold and silver mines of this country, from 1849 to 1875, 27 years, yielded \$1,617,000, while the value of products of one year, 1875, was \$1,594,000. In a word, the farmer has added to the wealth of the country almost as much in a single year as the miner in twenty-seven.

BARON LIEBIG says: "The only method by which you can possibly advance and develop agriculture is by experiments, that is the only plan, for there is no branch of industry so completely built up by experiment as agriculture."

Eggs intended for hatching should be promptly gathered two or three times a day. It is not known how much chilling an egg will bear and still retain the life of the embryo. But it is not safe nor desirable to take any unnecessary risks in the matter.

THE profit all comes from the running the mill, the thrasher, or the animal, within such limit of its capacity as may be found consistent with safety and a due regard to the necessity of wear and tear.

Keeping sheep is pleasant and profitable if attended to properly. Wool is a sure thing every year, and brings cash.

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Associate Judges—HON. SANDAL FRANCE, JOHN DIVES, Professor—J. COLVIN HARPER.

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Treasurer—HENRY YEABECK, County Surveyor—JOSEPH DEVLING.

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DIRECTORY.

CHURCHES, ETC. PRESBYTERIAN, Situated on Spring and foot of Howard streets. Services, Sunday at 10:30 A. M. and 7 P. M. Prayer meeting, Wednesday at 7 P. M. Sunday-school, 2 1/2 P. M. in the Wigwam, northeast corner of Spring and Lamb. Pastor, Rev. William Lourie; residence, Spring street, south of Methodist church.

METHODIST EPISCOPAL, Situated southeast corner of Spring and Howard streets. Services, Sunday, at 10:30 P. M. and 7 P. M. Prayer meeting, Wednesday at 7 P. M. Sunday-school, Sunday 2:30 P. M., basement of church. Rector, Rev. John Herwitz; residence, on Lamb street near of Episcopal church.

LUTHERAN, Situated southwest corner of High and Penn streets. Services, Sunday 10:30 A. M. and 7 P. M. Sunday-school, Sunday in Lecture room of church. Prayer-meeting, Wednesday 7 1/2 P. M. Pastor, Rev. Samuel E. Furst; residence, at Paragona, High Street, next the church.

GERMAN REFORMED, Situated northeast corner of Lamb and Spring streets. Services, Sunday at 10:30 A. M. and 7 1/2 P. M. Prayer-meeting, Wednesday 7 1/2 P. M. Pastor, Rev. J. F. DeLong, Sunday-school, Sunday 9:30 A. M. in the church.

UNITED BRETHREN, Situated corner South High and Thomsen streets. Services, Sunday at 10:30 A. M. and 7 1/2 P. M. Prayer-meeting, Wednesday 7 1/2 P. M. Pastor, J. M. Smith; Post-office address, Bellefonte.

AFRICAN METHODIST, Situated south end of High street. Services, Sunday at 10:30 A. M. and 7 P. M. Prayer meeting, Wednesday 7 1/2 P. M. Pastor, Rev. John M. Palmer; residence, Thomas street.

FRIENDS, Situated end of Logan street, near Bellefonte Academy. Meetings, Sunday 11 A. M., Wednesday 11 A. M.

Y. M. C. A. Prayer-meetings are held every Sunday at 4 and every Friday at 7 1/2 P. M. in the room of the Association above the Post Office. A Union meeting is held in the room the first Sunday in each month at 4 P. M. Room open every night from 6 to 9 P. M.

THE LADIES TEMPERANCE PRAYER-MEETING meets in the Logan House, Thursday, at 3 P. M.

CENTENNIAL TEMPERANCE CLUB, Regular meeting each Tuesday at 7 P. M. in their rooms in Humes' building, on Allegheny street.

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BELLEFONTE & SNOW SHOE

R. R.—Time-Table in effect on and after Dec. 31, 1877.

Leaves Snow Shoe 7:30 A. M., arrives in Bellefonte 8:20 A. M.

Leaves Bellefonte 10:20 A. M., arrives at Snow Shoe 11:07 A. M.

Leaves Snow Shoe 2:42 P. M., arrives in Bellefonte 4:12 P. M.

Leaves Bellefonte 4:55 P. M., arrives at Snow Shoe 6:27 P. M. DANIEL RHODES, General Superintendent.

BALD EAGLE VALLEY RAILROAD.

ROAD—Time-Table, December 31, 1877.

Exp. Mail, WESTWARD. EASTWARD. Exp. Mail.

7:55 6:52 Arrive at Tyrone Leave 7:58 8:50

7:50 6:45 Leave East Tyrone Leave 8:55 9:47

7:40 6:31 " " " " " " " "

7:42 6:17 " " " " " " " "

7:29 6:03 " " " " " " " "

6:56 5:45 " " " " " " " "

7:14 5:47 " " " " " " " "

7:05 5:38 " " " " " " " "

6:56 5:27 " " " " " " " "

6:47 5:18 " " " " " " " "

6:43 5:15 " " " " " " " "

6:23 5:05 " " " " " " " "

6:23 4:55 " " " " " " " "

6:13 4:45 " " " " " " " "

6:08 4:40 " " " " " " " "

6:00 4:31 " " " " " " " "

5:50 4:20 " " " " " " " "

5:46 4:15 " " " " " " " "