

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.

The Tribune speaks of clover as a sub-soiler, and says that it will work away at the job through the whole season. The idea is old, but the form is new—and good.

WALDO, of the Practical Farmer, thinks that the best time to sow cloverseed is "whenever the ground will crumble under the harrow," and "Waldo" is right. Start the harrow—and let be a good heavy one with sharp teeth, not too long—as soon as the ground is in proper condition for working, and let a man follow the track of the harrow, close behind, sowing the seed. If the harrow is heavy and the teeth sharp, and the seed is sowed immediately behind it, the settling of the ground will give it sufficient covering. If it should not, a light roller will do the work. Don't be afraid of hurting the wheat with the harrow. It will do it good.

Now the calves are beginning to arrive, and it is safe to assume that, within the range of the DEMOCRAT, the large majority of those dropped during the next sixty days will be raised. See to it that they are well raised. Remember that every week added to an animal's age increases, in proportion, the cost of every pound added to its weight. Raise fewer of them, and raise them better. Feed liberally, but judiciously. Five dollars expended upon the calf during its first six months will bring more net profit than ten after it is three years old. "The sooner calves learn to lick up a little bran, or munch a few oats, the better, and they will do it very early if only given a chance. No grain is so good as oats for young, growing animals. A few finely cut roots may also be profitably added to the diet of calves at an earlier age than they generally get them."

The Practical Farmer of the 28th ult., has a most interesting article on the manufacture of maple syrup, from the pen of W. I. Chamberlain, of Hudson, Ohio. Mr. Chamberlain insists that the best makers use nothing whatever to cleanse or classify their syrup, depending entirely upon cleanliness and prompt manipulation of the sap for the production of "sugar nearly white," or "syrup so clear that you can see figures clearly through two inches of it in a white dish. Such syrup is the purest sweet that can be made, and its flavor makes it fit to be set before a king."

We are prepared to fully endorse all this, and to add that from his splendid "bush" of fifteen-hundred trees Mr. Chamberlain makes just such syrup as this, and makes it just in this way. It has been our good fortune to "top our flap-jacks" during the winter with some of his manufacture, and, although our experience with syrups has been somewhat extensive, we have never before seen any so clear, pure and fine-flavored as this.

There are thousands of sound, wealthy fruit trees throughout the country which are not worth the ground they occupy because, being "natural," they produce hard, sour, and in all respects inferior fruit, which has no market value. It is a very simple and easy matter to change all this by grafting, and without any cost whatever. There are enough good trees in any neighborhood to furnish all the scions needed, which can be had for the asking, and every fourteen-year-old boy should be able to set any kind of grafts, and have good assurance that at least ninety-five per cent. of them will grow. It is work specially adapted to the nimble fingers and quick eyes of the young, and there is not a boy or girl in Centre county who will not make a better farmer or farmer's wife for having learned how to do it. The young folks' department of the

Rural New Yorker for February 14, gives instructions illustrated by a number of engravings, which will enable any boy or girl of ordinary intelligence to do successful work at once. The address of the Rural is No. 78 Duane street, New York, and we know that the genial editor, Mr. Carman, will be glad to send a copy to any of our boy-readers who will send him a stamp to pay postage.

The pleasant, almost May-like weather of the last week in February set the garden makers to thinking, and in a few instances which came to our knowledge, small patches were prepared and were actually planted. Whether this will prove to be lost labor or not, can be better determined late in the season. In this connection we want to repeat our advice of last year to farmers, to whom land is less of an object than labor, and who, because of the labor involved by the old spade-and-rake system, have never learned the real money, as well as wealth, value of a large, well-arranged, easily-worked, productive garden: Enlarge the boundaries of your garden, and work it with the horses. To do this cheerfully and willingly—and therefore, successfully—you must enlarge your ideas of a garden and of its real worth to you. A garden of proper size, properly cared for, will produce fully one-half of the living of the family for all the growing season of the year; and will yield greater returns in real value, and at less proportionate cost, than any other piece of land on the farm, of four times its size. The bed-quilt style of garden, with its squares and angles and curves, its "beds" and "paths," its "weeding" and "digging" and "raking," its stiffened fingers and broken backs, is, or ought to be, obsolete upon the farm; and in its place should be the house-acre, plowed, sub-soiled, harrowed, marked out and cultivated by horse-power, with its long reaches and generous widths of "truck." Straight lines, with equal distances between them, will make it "ornamental," and we will leave it to a vote of the family to decide whether or not it is "useful." Never mind the fences; you don't need any. Take the best strip of land near the house you can find, and while you are using it for two or three years, get another piece ready by growing a first-class clover sod on it with ample manuring, and then change that for a term of years, while the old piece goes through the same recuperating process.

Feeding Animals. An anonymous writer who has adopted the appropriate word "Alimentation" for a nom de plume, is contributing to the Live Stock Journal a long and valuable series of papers upon the subject of stock feeding. The articles are very carefully written, and evidently by one who understands this subject, and are of the highest importance to every farmer. The copyright is secured by the author, and we presume that at the close of the series they will be published in book form. We take the liberty of making the following extract from the current number: If men could only be impressed with the fact, and firmly believe that whatsoever is produced in beef, milk, or wool, must come from the food which the animal eats, what a great and salutary change would at once take place all over the country. There is not a movement made by any creature that must not be compensated for by the food. How directly this bears upon the profits of the dairyman! If cows are allowed to go two miles, or even one mile, to pasture, or any one is allowed to misuse them, it must be paid for in food. If cows are driven hurriedly, or chased by dogs, the quality of their milk is changed; it becomes poor—deficient in oil—the nervous excitement uses it up. How evident then is it, that all exercise must be paid for in food, and that the dairyman should most judiciously regulate this exercise. Again: there is not one degree of heat that is not produced by the food. The slightest change affects the food. If cows are exposed to a temperature of 15 degrees below zero, food enough must be burned in the lungs of the animal to overcome the effects of this intense cold. I want to emphasize this great law of equivalents. There must be something paid for everything. Something cannot be produced from nothing. Then, again, the cow must be sup-

ported first. She must be sustained before she can produce any milk whatever. Some dairymen appear to think that a cow may be kept poor through the winter, and produce the same milk in the spring as if she were in good condition; but this is a fatal mistake, it will take nearly all a poor cow can eat to supply the wants of her own system; and what this supply of the living wants of the system is, few understand. It requires two-thirds of a full ration to keep a cow in fair condition—her food of support—before there is any milk production. This has been carefully tested by many experimenters. I, myself, have proved it in a number of instances. It is a sound general statement that two-thirds of the food goes to keep the animal alive. Up to that point all is expenditure and no return. A growing animal that weighs four, five, or six hundred pounds in the fall, and only weighs the same in the spring, is more than unprofitable, the food consumed to keep it over is utterly thrown away; it is as effectually lost as wood that has been burned in a stove. All that is got from the cow is its droppings, as there remains the ash from the wood. It will thus be seen that all the profit, if there is any, must come from the last third of food given the cows; and if that be withheld, only loss is the result. In regard to the dairy profits, the cow is simply a machine for producing milk—precisely as much as a steam engine is a machine for producing motion and power. If the steam boiler is supplied with just as much fuel as is required to keep the water warm, there is no power; the boiler must have sufficient fuel to produce extra heat before any work can be accomplished. It makes a considerable difference what kind of a cow is kept to produce milk, just as it does the kind of boiler and engine used to produce motion and work; and therefore it is important in purchasing and breeding cows for dairy purposes, to look to the capacity of the cow to turn the food into milk. But without generous and judicious feeding, breed is of little consequence. If a cow only produces 3,000 pounds of milk per year, she is kept at a loss. A good cow, well fed, will yield 6,000 pounds of good milk; and the cost of producing this will be only one-eighth more than the 3,000 pounds from the poor cow.

Pat Your Foot on Him. We find the following excellent advice in Land and Home for February 12, and in the next issue of the same journal a cartoon, which we cannot reproduce, illustrating its application of the story to the case, by the application of the farmer's boot to the tree peddler whose sample book is flying in all directions: Farmers who innocently permit themselves to be gulled by confidence men, may well learn a lesson from the action of the man mentioned in the following: L. E. French, a messenger-boy from Townsend & Fargis, commission merchants, outwitted two scamps at the Chemical National Bank in New York, a few days ago. French was counting a roll of bills, when one of the men, tapping him on the shoulder, said: "Young man, you've dropped some of your money." Recollecting stories of similar attempts to dupe victims, French seized the pile of bills in his hand before he looked down. He saw a bank note on the floor, and quietly putting his foot on it, continued counting his money. Then he picked up the bill, and was walking out, when one of the men, who saw that he had been beaten at his own game, said: "Pardon me; I was mistaken. That bill was dropped by me." The other stranger added: "Yes, that makes out the exact amount." "I guess I'll keep it to remember you by," was the boy's answer, leaving the swindlers to make the best of it.

The way to manage a lightning-rod man is to put your foot on him. The way to manage the fellow who gets you to sign a paper, and then sells it at the bank as a note for \$100, is to put your foot on him. The way to treat with the itinerant tree peddler is to put your foot on him, as did the boy French.

Sound Doctrine on the Manure Question. W. I. Chamberlain in Practical Farmer.

Nature has provided an obvious mode of restoring the fertility to our soil. The voidings of our domestic animals store up almost all the elements of plant food found in the grains and grasses and roots they eat. If these voidings are all saved, both liquid and solid, and properly returned to the soil, the only loss is in the flesh, blood and bones of animals and in their products, such as butter, cheese, etc. Even these are now being returned to our lands from our cities in the forms of bone meal, superphosphate, etc. Straw, chaff, stalks and refuse furnish abundant absorbents. Fermentation results from the natural mixture of these, and will seldom be excessive in flat piles, or in horse manure not mixed with cow manure. I prefer straw, chaff, etc., for absorbents rather than earth, because they do not have to be collected and dried, but are (or

should be) in abundance right where they are needed. I prefer one great compost of all farm manures to three or four separate messes, because it seems simpler and easier, causes no loss of the richer components, and makes one uniform grade of manure. It's all there as well as if one lot was very rich and another quite poor. I do not see that night soil and hen manure can be used to any better advantage alone. We get all there is in them in the general compost. In short, I try to simplify the saving of manure as much as possible. It's hard enough even then to persuade men to save it all, especially the liquid, the best half of the whole.

Periodicals, Catalogues, &c.

WHAT to put in the garden of the many hundreds of sorts of vegetables (each variety praised by its seller), is an important question. A right choice of kinds will return many dollars worth more for the same labor and expense, even in a small garden. To help all in deciding, Peter Henderson, the highest authority in such matters, has tested, side by side, over 800 varieties of the above garden products, and he gives the results in the American Agriculturist for March 1st. This number has much other practical, seasonable information, illustrated with over 100 engravings, and is alone worth the cost of a whole year's subscription, which is only \$1.50, or four copies for \$5. ORANGE JUDD COMPANY, New York, are the publishers.

AMONG the seed catalogues which have been placed upon our table during the past week, we are glad to notice that of Joseph Harris, of Moreton Farm, Rochester, N. Y. Mr. Harris issued his first catalogue last spring and was so well pleased with the result that he now sends out his second, with an edition of fifty thousand copies. It is as original and straightforward as Harris is himself. The volume of Mr. Harris' seed business, as compared with that of many of the long established houses, is as yet small, but that is all the better for his customers. He raises his seeds himself, and knows that they are just what he says they are. We know it too, for we have used them, and if called upon to do so, would be willing to guarantee the quality of any package he sends out. Write him a postal for a catalogue—you will be pleased with it, whether you want any seeds or not.

Extracts and Comments.

The Self-Keying Bolt Clevis differs from the common sort only in having the bolt flanged at its lower end so that it cannot pass out of the upper eye of the clevis. Those who are constantly losing clevis bolts will appreciate this simple device. It is made in New York.—Land and Home.

It is not losing the bolts that troubles us, it is breaking them while in use. Unless keyed so that they cannot pass out of the under eye of the clevis, they will often "work up" until the lower end is released, and then a slight pull or jerk bends them so that they are useless, or breaks them short off. Better stick to the old style having a key hole in the lower end.

There is no principle in garden seed-planting of greater importance than "firming" the soil about them. This is done by having the man, after planting, walk over the row, taking such short steps that the heel laps over the top-mat, so that every inch of soil is pressed down upon the seed.—Exchange.

Of course, this presupposes your ground to be dry, and in the best working order. It will not do to practice this when the ground is damp and "mogy."

Of over one hundred samples of butter placed in competition at Greenfield for the prizes of the Massachusetts Board, less than one-third was "good" and less than one-fifth "best." Mr. Richard Goodman, Jr., writing to The Ploughman, inquires into the causes of this discouraging result, and concludes that the great drawback is ABSENCE OF CLEANLINESS, and adds that while a first-class product can be made without use of any of the patented utensils, it cannot be made without "clean cows, eating clean food, and breathing clean air, and clean milk, set and handled in clean utensils and in a clean atmosphere."—Tribune.

That's True! "Comments unnecessary."

It is useless to try to grow radishes in a cold, heavy, humid old garden soil. Go to the woods and get a load of leaf-mold and give the radish-bed a top-dressing of two or three inches, and you will have no trouble in growing good radishes, if planted in a warm spot, and not too early. When the seed leaves appear, if the flea is troublesome, dust with soot. Don't sow the seed too thick. If fresh soil from the woods is not to be had, dig in lime, ashes, dust from the roads, anything to lighten and enliven the soil. Give a top-dressing of an inch of soot from bituminous coal, gently raked in. Sow little seed, and when plants come up, thin out so that no radish will be within an inch or two of its neighbor in any direction, and with mild weather and warm showers, you have a right to expect crisp, tender and digestible radishes.

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FRIENDS, Situated end of Logan street, near Belleville 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 P. M. in the rooms of the Association above the Post Office. A Union meeting held in the room the first Sunday in each month at 8 P. M. Room open every night from 6 to 9 P. M.

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