

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.

THE Centre County Pomona Grange will meet on Tuesday, the 25 inst., in the hall of Progress Grange, at Centre Hall. Sessions at ten, two and seven o'clock.

Do NOT wait until the corn and potatoes are up to attack the weeds. A harrow with small teeth, made of steel sloping backward, and close together, can be run over the ground within a few days after planting, carrying destruction to myriads of weeds, and helping the corn "come up" at the same time.

OUR most excellent contemporary, the Rural New Yorker, has grown "too big for its old clothes," and has moved into new and commodious quarters at 34 Park Row. It publishes a fine view of its new office in the current number, and seems (justifiably) as proud as a boy with a new hat.

MESSRS. W. I. CHAMBERLAIN and Wm. Crosier, two of the best farmers in the country, are indulging in a friendly little controversy as to the relative merits of bran and roots as feed for stock. We see the question from different localities, and different standpoints, and, so far as we can judge, both are right.

MAJOR McCONKEY, Corresponding Secretary of the State Agricultural Society, has placed us under obligations for a copy of a preliminary abstract of the list of premiums offered for the exhibition at the Centennial building, in Philadelphia in September. His abstract covers only the first department, and embraces horses, cattle and swine. The premiums offered are large, and the regulations liberal. The officers of the Society are devoting themselves energetically to the task of making the exhibition the finest ever held by any State society, and the indications are that they will have abundant success.

We did not write this, but it says so well just what we think that we are glad to adopt it. "A more unblushing and dangerous swindle has not been palmed upon the world for many a year, than the oleomargarine which nobody ever sees under its own brand, but which everybody is in danger of eating under the false name of butter. The American people are known as the greatest butter eaters, consuming a larger amount per capita, than any other people. When capital and apparent respectability combine, and through bogus scientific opinions and editorial advertisements in our large dailies, seek to impose this counterfeit of butter upon the people, it is time that the agricultural press should come to the rescue of the legitimate dairy product, and stamp this vile counterfeit and those who are knowingly concerned in its sale under an honorable name, with the public condemnation they deserve."

Outing Seed Potatoes.

From C. E. Howes in Country Gentleman. I have thoroughly tested planting potatoes whole, in halves, quarters, eighths, and in one, two and three eyes, and my conclusion is, that cut to a single eye on a piece and two pieces on a hill, is the best economy for the most profit. I prefer planting in drills 3 or 3 1/2 feet apart, dropping the pieces together every 10 or 12 inches. It is true that, in this way of planting, there are not as many potatoes, but what there are grow to good size for the table and will yield more bushels to the acre than more seeding will give. F. H. D. says that he cut some pieces "as small as grains of corn." When potatoes have been so very scarce that it was necessary to practice the most rigid economy, I have planted the parings saved from the potatoes prepared for the table, with satisfactory results. As to the manner of cutting, I prefer what is called the Orange Judd style (I know not why, unless attention was first called to it in his paper; Mr. Judd learned it of a friend years before I saw it in print). This style consists in cutting in single eyes

lengthwise, preserving on each piece all that can be spared to it, from the point of incision to the base or but of the potato.

It might be asked why it is not better to cut two eyes on each piece, since two eyes are planted, than one eye on each and plant two pieces. I answer, because I can cut them better, and much more satisfactorily, and another reason is that, cut in single eyes, it is more than probable that, in planting them, you take out of the basket eyes from different parts of the same potato, or, what is better yet, an eye each from two potatoes. J. L. Perkins, p. 99, tells us that potatoes deteriorate, a fact of which I suppose every farmer is aware, and I have no doubt it is due in a great measure to planting whole potatoes, which is a kind of in-breeding. Hence the necessity of cutting potatoes, in which case it is not so rapid, and if, in planting two or more pieces in a hill, the planter was particular to select from different potatoes it would be still less. Everyone does or should understand that sex exists as certainly in the vegetable as in the animal kingdom; hence the necessity of having the two in the potato field in at least a neighboring relation, not of the same but different potatoes. Some farmers cut off the top or seed end, as it is called, but this should not be done; every eye should be planted. It is said by those who claim to know that the eyes near the base are the male, and those on the upper part are the female, the number on each being in the right proportion. If this be so, it is clear that every eye should be planted. With corn, none but perfectly filled ears should be used for seed, and from these the tip and but kernels should not be rejected, as is the practice with some farmers, but every kernel planted. Of course you will get potatoes if you reject the tip end, and so you will corn if you reject the tip kernels, but you will not get as large an average of well-filled ears, the tip kernels being necessary to this end, as the middle ones are to the body of the ear.

Weeds.

The farmer's fight with the weeds is a never-ending one, and unless kept up with unyielding vigor, the weeds are apt to come out ahead. So persistent and ever-present, and destructive of comfort and profits are they, that the bare mention of the subject is almost enough to send cold shivers down the back of the practical farmer. In the May number of Scribner's Magazine, John Burroughs, under the head of "Notes of a Walker," gives information concerning these pests in a pleasant, chatty way, a part of which we reproduce below, by courtesy of the editors. Every issue of this great magazine contains one or more articles of special interest to farmers, and we should be glad to see its circulation among them largely increased:

The walker makes the acquaintance of all the weeds. They are travelers like himself, the tramps of the vegetable world. They are going east, west, north and south: they walk, they fly, they swim, they steal a ride, they travel by rail, by flood, by wind; they go underground, and they go above, across lots and by the highway. But, like other tramps, they find it safest by the highway; in the fields they are intercepted and cut off, but on the public road, every boy, every passing herd of sheep or cows gives them a lift. * * * Weeds, like vermin, are carried from one end of the earth to the other. A curious illustration of this fact is given by Sir Joseph Hooker. "On one occasion," he says, "landing on a small uninhabited island, nearly at the Antipodes, the first evidence I met with of its having been previously visited by man was the English Chickweed; and this I traced to a mound that marked the grave of a British sailor, and that was covered with the plant, doubtless the offspring of seed that had adhered to the spade or mattock with which the grave had been dug."

Ours is a weedy country because it is a roomy country. Weeds love a wide margin, and they find it here. You shall see more weeds in one day's travel in this country than in a week's journey in Europe. Our culture of the soil is not so close and thorough, our occupancy not so entire and exclusive. The weeds take up with the farmer's leavings, and find good fare. One may see large slices taken from a field by elecampane, or by teasle, or wild-weed; whole acres given up to white-weed, goldenrod, wild carrots or the ox-eye daisy; meadows overrun with bear-weed, and sheep pastures nearly ruined by St. John's wort or the Canada thistle. Our farms are so large and our husbandry so loose that we do not mind these things. By and by they shall clear them out. Weeds seem to thrive here as in no other country.

Is there not something in our soil and climate exceptionally favorable to weeds—something harsh, ungenial, sharp-toothed that is skin to them? How woody and rank and fibrous many varieties become, lasting the whole season, and standing up stark and stiff through the deep winter snows—desiccated, preserved by our dry air! Do nettles and thistles bite so sharply in any other country? To know how sharply they bite, of a dry August or September day, take a turn at raking and binding oats with a sprinkling of blind nettles in them. A sprinkling of wasps and hornets would not be much worse.

Yet it is a fact that all our more pernicious weeds, like our vermin, are of Old World origin. They hold up their heads and assert themselves here, and take their fill of riot and license; they are avenged for their long years of repression by the stern hand of European agriculture. Until I searched through the botanies I was not aware to what extent we were indebted to Europe for these vegetable Ishmaelites. We have hardly a weed we can call our own; I recall but three that are all our own; and those are not so common as noxious or troublesome, viz: milk-weed, rag-weed and golden-rod; but who would miss the latter from our fields and highways?

"Along the roadside, like the flowers of gold That tawny Inca for their gardens wrought, Heavy with sunshine droops the golden rod," sings Whittier. In Europe our golden-rod is cultivated in the flower-gardens, as well it might be. The native species is found mainly in the woods, and is much less showy than ours.

Our milk-weed is tenacious of life: its roots lie deep, as if to get away from the plow, but it seldom infests cultivated crops. Then its stalk is so full of milk and its pod so full of silk that one cannot but ascribe good intentions to it, if it does sometimes over-run the meadows.

"In dusty pods the milk-weed To hidden silk had spun."

"Of our rag-weed not much can be set down that is complimentary, except that its name in the botany is Ambrosia, food of the gods. It must be the food of the gods if of anything, for, so far as I have observed, nothing terrestrial eats it, not even billy-goats. Asthmatic people dread it, and the gardener makes short work of it. It is about the only one of our weeds that follows the plow and the harrow, and except that it is easily destroyed, I would suspect it to be an immigrant from the Old World. Our fleabane is a troublesome weed at times, but good husbandry makes short work of it.

But all the other outlaws of the farm and garden come in from over seas; and what a long list it is: The common thistle, Nightshade, The Canada thistle, Buttercup, Barlock, Dandelion, Yellow dock, Wild mustard, Wild carrot, Shepherd's purse, Ox-eye daisy, St. John's-wort, Chamomile, Chick-weed, The mullein, Pansy, Elecampane, Mallow, Plantain, Darnel, Motherwort, Poison hemlock, Stramonium, Hop-clover, Catnip, Yarrow, Wild radish, Blue-weed, Wild parsnip, Stick-weed, Chickory, Hound's-tongue, Live-forever, Hen-bane, Toad-flax, Pig-weed, Sheep-sorrel, Quitch grass,

and others less noxious. To offset this list we have given Europe the vilest of all weeds, a parasite that sucks up human blood, tobacco. Now if they catch the Colorado beetle as it will go far toward paying them off for the rats and the mice, and for other pests in our houses.

The more attractive and pretty of the British weeds, as the common daisy, of which the poets have made so much, the larkspur, which is a pretty corn-field weed, and the scarlet field poppy which flowers all summer, and is so taking amid the ripening grain, have not immigrated to our shores. Like a certain sweet rusticity and charm of European rural life, they do not thrive readily under our skies. Our fleabane (Erigerson Canadensis) has become a common road-side weed in England, and a few other of our native less known plants have gained a foothold in the Old World.

Poke weed is a native American, and what a lusty, royal plant it is! It never invades cultivated fields, but hovers about the borders and looks over the fences like a painted Indian sachem. Thoreau coveted its strong purple stalk for a cane, and the robins eat its dark crimson juiced berries.

It is commonly believed that the mullein is indigenous to this country, for have we not heard that it is cultivated in European gardens, and christened the American velvet plant? Yet it, too, seems to have come over with the pilgrims, and is most abundant in the older parts of the country. It abounds throughout Europe and Asia, and had its economic uses with the ancients. The Greeks made lamp wicks of its dried leaves, and the Romans funeral torches. It affects dry uplands in this country, and, as it takes two years to mature, it is not a troublesome weed in cultivated crops. The first year it sits low upon the ground in its coarse flannel leaves and makes ready; if the plow comes along now its career is ended; the second season it starts upward in its tall stalk, which in late summer is thickly set with small yellow flowers, and in fall is charged with myriads of fine black seeds. "As full as a dry mullein stalk of seeds" is almost equivalent to saying, "as numerous as the sands upon sea shore."

plant that shows itself; this will effect a radical cure in two summers. Of course the plow or the scythe, if not allowed to rest more than a month at a time, will finally conquer it.

Or take the common St. John's-wort (Hypericum perforatum), how has it established itself in our fields, and become a most pernicious weed, very difficult to extirpate, while the native species are quite rare, and seldom or never invade cultivated fields, being found mostly in wet and rocky waste places. Of Old World origin, too, is the curled leaf-dock (Rumex crispus) that is so annoying about one's garden and home meadows, its long tapering root clinging to the soil with such tenacity that I have pulled upon it till I could see stars without budging it; it has more lives than a cat, making a shift to live when pulled up and laid on top of the ground in the burning summer sun. Our native docks are mostly found in swamps, or near them, and are harmless.

Purslane, commonly called "pusley," and which has given rise to the saying "as mean as pusley"—of course is not American. A good sample of our native purslane is the Claytonia, or spring beauty, a shy, delicate plant that opens its rose colored flowers in the moist sunny places in the woods or along their borders, so early in the season.

There are few more obnoxious weeds in cultivated ground than sheep-sorrel, also an Old World plant, while our native wood sorrel, with its white, delicately veined flowers, or the variety with yellow flowers, is quite harmless. The same is true of the mallow, the vetch, or tare, and other plants.

The European weeds are sophisticated, domesticated, civilized; they have been to school to man for many hundred years and they have learned to thrive upon him; their struggle for existence has been sharp and protracted; it has made them hardy and prolific; they will thrive in a lean soil, or they will wax strong in a rich one; in all cases they follow man and profit by him. Our native weeds, on the other hand, are furtive and retiring; they flee before the plow and the scythe, and hide in corners and remote waste places. Will they, too, in time, change their habits in this respect?

"Idle weeds are fast in growth," says Shakspeare, but that depends whether the competition is sharp and close. If the weed finds itself distanced, or pitted against great odds, it grows more slowly and is of diminished stature, but let it once get the upper hand and what strides it makes! Red-root will grow four or five feet high, if it has a chance, or it will content itself with a few inches and mature its seeds almost upon the ground.

Many of our worst weeds are plants that have escaped from cultivation, as the wild radish, which is troublesome in parts of New England, the wild carrot, which infests the fields in eastern New York, and live-forever, which thrives and multiplies under the plow and harrow. In my section an annoying weed is Aethula, or velvet-leaf, also called "old maid," which has fallen from the grace of the garden and followed the plow afield. It will manage to mature its seeds if not allowed to start till mid-summer. Weeds have this virtue: they are not easily discouraged; they never lose heart entirely; they die game. If they cannot have the best they will take up with the poorest; if fortune is unkind to them to-day, they hope for better luck to-morrow; if they cannot lord it over a corn hill, they will sit humbly at its feet and accept what comes; in all cases they make the most of their opportunities.

Extracts and Comments.

In turning a sod for corn any breaks or "balks" in the work will prove an annoyance in after-cultivation, and should be avoided.—Farmer's Friend.

These "balks" are not only "an annoyance in after-cultivation," but are a positive detriment to the crops when planted, whether it be corn or any other. A good plow, properly set and properly held, will make but few, but these few should not be passed over. Avoid making them if possible, but under no circumstances leave them. Stop, "back up," and "try again."

If taken internally with their food, sulphur will almost invariably keep all kinds of animals free from lice, We have made a practice for years past of giving a heaping teaspoonful once a week in the feed of each of our cows, and the same quantity to about every ten hens in our flock, and they have never been troubled with lice in them. It may be given in the same proportion as to size when required in the food of poultry, pigs and sheep. Sulphur is a mild cathartic when desired for this purpose, and in small doses seems to have a general beneficial effect on the animal system, something like salt, though, of course, not of that nature.—Rural New Yorker.

The propriety of feeding sulphur in limited quantities cannot be doubted. It not only is a preventive of lice, but seems to have a beneficial effect upon the general health of the animal. Instead of mixing it with the food, however, we prefer to keep a mixture of, say, eight quarts of salt, four quarts of wood ashes and one quart sulphur in a sheltered box in

the barn yard, where all the stock can have a "lick" at it whenever they please. In this way the animals have the unerring guide of their instincts and appetites as to when and how much of it they may need.

An extensive chicken raiser has come to the conclusion that keeping them in too comfortable a house is conducive to disease. A little more roughness and exposure he thinks is better for them than being coddled and too tenderly cared for.—Farmer's Friend.

That may be all well enough for "extensive chicken raisers," but we apprehend that the average farmer needs but little encouragement to improve, in this direction, upon the care given his fowls.

THE sooner we can cool the milk the quicker will the process of creaming commence, and by keeping it at low temperature the more perfect will it be.

New Victor Sewing Machine--Harper Brothers, Agents. THE NEW VICTOR. SIMPLICITY SIMPLIFIED! Improvements September, 1878. Notwithstanding the VICTOR has long been the peer of any Sewing Machine in the market...

HARDWARE! WILSON, McFARLANE & CO. DEALERS IN STOVES, RANGES & HEATERS. Paints, Oils, Glass and Varnishes, BUILDERS' HARDWARE.

Business Cards. HARNESS MANUFACTORY in Garman's New Block, BELLEFONTE, PA. F. P. BLAIR, JEWELER. WATERS, CLOCKS, JEWELRY, &c.

BELLEFONTE & SNOW SHOE R. R. Time-Table in effect on and after Dec. 31, 1877. BALD EAGLE VALLEY RAILROAD Time-Table, December 31, 1877.

CONSUMPTION POSITIVELY CURED. ALL sufferers from this disease that are anxious to be cured should try Dr. KISSENER'S CELEBRATED CONSUMPTIVE POWDERS.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD. Erie Mail leaves Philadelphia... FAST LINE leaves Philadelphia... PACIFIC EXPRESS leaves Lock Haven... DAY EXPRESS leaves Renovo... ERIE MAIL leaves Renovo... FAST LINE leaves Williamsport...

FITS, EPILEPSY, OR FALLING SICKNESS PERMANENTLY CURED—No HUMBING—by one month's usage of Dr. GARDNER'S CELEBRATED INFIBLIBLE FIT POWDERS.