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EDITED BY DR. F. M. HEXAMER.
This popular Magazine, heretofore published by Messrs. BRADY, SON & CO., will hereafter be published by the present proprietors, in an entirely new dress, and will appear in January, April, July and October of each year.

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The Centre Democrat.

BELLEFONTE, PA.

AGRICULTURAL.

NEWS, FACTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

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.

We learn, with a great deal of satisfaction, that Mr. Leonard Rhone, of this county, has been elected a trustee of the State College. Mr. Rhone is a farmer of more than ordinary intelligence, and actively connected with the Patrons of Husbandry, and we have no doubt that under his fostering care, the agricultural feature of the College will rapidly develop into the prominence which we have long desired to see it attain.

COL. V. E. PIOLETT, who occupies the chief position in the Grange of this State, writes to the Farmer's Friend of last week, denouncing in his usually vigorous style, the "lawyer politicians" in Congress for having "dealt a deadly blow" at the usefulness of the Department of Agriculture, by requiring the Commissioner of Agriculture to hold three-fourths of all the seeds purchased by him subject to the order of members of Congress, instead of distributing them himself to individual farmers, as he has been doing under late regulations of the department. The immediate object of the Colonel's righteous indignation is Congressman Harry White, of the 25th Pennsylvania district, who succeeded in getting the provision attached to the appropriation bill, which takes this three-fourths of the seed business out of the Commissioner's hands. Col. Piolett closes his communication with this straight-forward bit of advice to the farmers of the twenty-fifth district:

"I desire to say to the farmers of Indiana, Jefferson, Clarion and Forest counties, do not give your votes to re-elect this man White. Retire this hero of the Kiskaminatas appropriation and send a man in his place to the next Congress that will listen to the farmers and not go into the seed business on his own account."

Now that "harvest" is over, the next important work for the farmer is preparation for the succeeding crop. We have neither space nor time to dwell at large upon all that this involves, but wish at this time to speak as we have often spoken before, of the great need we have for increased care in selecting seed. It is well to exercise great care in the preparation of the ground, that it may be brought into the proper mechanical condition, and to apply bountifully the best fertilizers; but after this elaborate preparation of the land, it is consummate folly to sow upon it any but perfect seed. Infinite wisdom could do no better, when pointing out the necessity of a correct life, than to turn to the culture of the earth for his illustration, and say "As ye sow so shall ye reap." To secure the best results, our seed must not only be pure, but good of its kind. That is to say, that to secure a good crop of wheat, we must not only sow clean wheat, but good wheat. After all foreign seeds are fully separated, still another selection should be made which will secure, for seed, only the fully developed, well ripened, perfect grains. The truth of all this most farmers will admit, but complain of the difficulty of accomplishing the desired separation. We have lately examined, and are now using, a fanning mill which will do it, and do it well. We refer to the "Osborne Mill," which we learn is being largely introduced in our county. We have seen this mill take very ordinary looking wheat, plentifully mixed with the foul seeds usually found in it, and at one operation, separate it into three grades, one of which filled the bin as perfect seed. For this purpose alone, to say nothing of the increased value of clean wheat for market, these mills are worth all their cost to every wheat grower, and we are glad to know that they are being generally distributed through the county. We predict that their faithful and intelligent use will soon

raise the standard of the quality of the wheat crop, and that its increased value, because of their use, will within two years repay their cost.

We have received, from Mr. Geo. Wood, No. 15 Warren St., Trenton, N. J., a sample of an exceedingly simple, but much needed little device for extracting the pulp from green corn for table use. We cannot give a satisfactory description of it without illustrations, which we find it impracticable to give in these columns, but quote the following from the Scientific American:

"The curved upright metal standard is provided with jaws and a thumbscrew for securing it to the table, and supports at the top two parallel blades, one serrated, the other plain. These blades are made in one piece with the standard, and are slightly concaved to conform to the shape of the ear of corn.

The corn to be grated is moved across the blades, the toothed blade first tearing open the kernels and the plain one pressing out the pulp, which falls into the vessel below. The curved standard readily admits a bowl or dish under the blades, and the clamping screw holds the device steadily while in use.

The use of green sweet corn as a summer vegetable is rapidly increasing. All of the half dozen different ways in which it is prepared for our own table are delicious, and healthful, the only drawback to its daily use, being the labor and difficulty of grating it. This useful little implement makes the operation rapid and easy, and its general use in farmers' kitchens would add many a cheap and savory dish to farmers' tables. It is simple, cheap, and wonderfully efficient.

Not Enough Leisure.

D. A. Baker in Tribune.
Can any one tell me how it is with all our labor-saving machines we don't get any leisure? When I was a boy we planted with a hoe by hand, hoed the corn three times, ploughed the summer fallow three times, mowed the grass with a scythe, and raked it all by hand, cradled all the standing wheat, and cut the lodged wheat with a sickle, etc., etc. Then we had time to go fishing when we wanted to, could go berrying when the berries were ripe, always went to "general training," etc. Now I don't go fishing once in ten years, we don't get a berry, unless we buy them; in fact, don't get any leisure. Can the Editor or any of his readers tell the reason?

This correspondent does not say, and we take it for granted does not mean, that a given amount of labor, "when he was a boy," produced the same return in products of the soil, that the same amount of labor, aided by "all our labor-saving machines," does now. We presume that a comparison of either personal or family expenses, between then and now, would show that in his case, as in that of most other farmers, the income which was the result of the hand labor system of the olden time, would prove altogether insufficient to meet the demands of these days of labor-saving machines, and that the additional amount of labor expended and time consumed only goes to produce the additional income demanded by the changed tastes, circumstances and requirements. It is very much with the mowing machines as it is with the sewing machines. No one will pretend that a woman can sew as much by hand, in a given time, as she can with a good machine, and yet the ladies would laugh to scorn any one who would suggest that because they have the sewing machines they have more time than formerly. The more rapidly they can sew, the more sewing they find to do. So it is out-doors: the more work we can do, the more we want to do, and the more labor-saving machines we have, the more we try to do with them, so as to "get our money out of them." But what we most wanted to say to this correspondent was that he makes a sorry confession when he says that "we don't get a berry unless we buy them." If he had a berry patch properly planted and cultivated, near the house, as he should have, it would require no time to "go berrying." The berries would be close at hand, and "the women and children" could gather all that are needed for a full family supply without missing the time, and would be only too glad to have an opportunity. The farmer who, in this day and generation, depends upon gathering wild berries for his family supply, is as much behind the age as one who would "mow the grass with a scythe, and rake it all by hand," or "cut the lodged wheat with a sickle." By all means, Mr. B., plant

a "berry patch," and begin now. Appropriate one-fourth of an acre to it, and let it be long and narrow. Plant a double row of strawberries the whole length of it, and follow these with rows of red and black raspberries, and blackberries and currants, and tip the end nearest the house of each row with a hill or two of rhubarb, and our word for it, you will never again complain of want of time to go berrying, nor will you have to make the mortifying confession that you do not get a berry, "unless you buy them."

Hilling Vegetables.

A writer in the American Farmer says: "At the beginning of farm life, in order to learn the most improved methods, I employed a first-class farmer and gardener fresh from England. He persisted in a mode of cultivation precisely the reverse of what I had been used to see—allowing the mangolds, sugar beets, the corn, potatoes, peas, beans, cucumbers, melons, tomatoes, cabbage, &c., to go without hilling up. The mangolds and sugar beets stood high above the ground, the bulbous part exposed to the sun, many of the mangolds falling over and growing crooked. The part of the cucumbers above ground, which I insisted was rather a root than stem, and should be surrounded by earth, was left entirely exposed to the sun. I thought the sun would parch the roots, and they would break or be injured when the stem should fall from the upright to the horizontal position. The Englishman would have his way, but agreed I should treat some of each sort of plants in my own way. So a few of all sorts were hilled up and fully as well worked in other respects as his during the season. For a few weeks mine grew as well as his, and the cucumbers, peas, &c., bloomed as early. After one gather of cucumbers, peas, &c., the dry season set in, mine perished, while his continued to bloom and bear, and so of the melons. My potatoes made about half a crop of small tubers, dug from dry hills; his yielded bounteously of large ones, dug from moist earth, at the same time and in the same fields. So with the mangolds, sugar beets, &c. The hilled peas, beans, &c., fired early in the season and succumbed to the drought. Without this experience, if one had said that hilling up growing plants would kill them I should have joined in the response of a million farmers denouncing it as false and contrary to experience, because they did not perish on the day they were hilled up. Ever since I have avoided hilling and rigging about growing plants and cultivated the soil as level as possible."

Take Good Care of the Horses.

There is no animal on the farm that is so likely to be neglected as the horse. The horse of the city truckman, or of the expressman, the driving horse and the saddle horse are well cared for, but the farm horse is too often irregularly fed, and so far as cleaning is concerned, regularly and systematically neglected. It is difficult to obtain a hired man brought up on the farm who thinks there is any necessity for taking special care of a horse. Some horses upon the farm are rarely, if ever, properly cleaned, and yet the condition and usefulness of the farm horse depend as much upon the manner in which it is cared for as any other horse. When brought perspiring to the stable he ought not to be allowed to stand over night with the dust drying upon him. A good cleaning is half a rest, and yet how often we see the farm horse brought out in the morning covered with the dirt of the day before and with the accumulated filth of the night still clinging to him. Under such conditions a horse is not much more than half a horse. Often, too, he is irregularly fed and indifferently watered. A horse at work should have water five or six times a day. If he does not drink more than two or three quarts at a time all the better. A horse that is kept from water till he will drink two or three pailsful will be very likely to have his digestive organs and bowels seriously deranged.

Corn.

Dr. Sturtevant says in the Tribune that Washakum Corn, in three years' breeding, has increased in weight from 56 pounds to 64 pounds per bushel for the selected ears; from an open ear to a close, compact, cylindrical ear; from a crop that varied greatly in size, shape and quality, of ear, to, at present, a crop of excellent uniformity, and extremely few unmerchantable ears. Per contra, a single ear selected for poor quality, yielded 181 ears, of which but two were of fair quality, the remainder, or 99 per cent., being soft, short, gnarled, etc. Where no culture gave two bushels of ears as good as seed, culture gave 16 bushels as good as seed, and the best culture gave 26 bushels of ears as good as the seed.

SLOVENLY work does not pay. See then that the work of the plough and hoe is done thoroughly.

Controlling the Sex of Off-Spring.

From the Live Stock Journal.

"The latest thing out" in this line is a discovery by one Fiquet, of Texas. He has ascertained, to a certainty (?), that the sex is governed by the degree of amorous passion aroused at the time of copulation! If the female is more amorous at the time of sexual intercourse than the male, the produce will be male, and vice versa.

This discovery of Mr. Fiquet is about as old as any of the other so-called theories upon the subject, and its fallacy has long since been proved. The man who now pretends to have discovered and formulated this law is the same person who, a few years ago, discovered that the so-called Texas cattle fever was simply a fever engendered by confinement and exhaustion, consequent upon transportation for long distances by rail (?). It is the opinion of most scientists, as well as of nearly all intelligent practical breeders of large experience, that sex is not controlled by any one cause—that a variety of causes exercise an influence in this direction, and that Nature has wisely so ordered it that the equilibrium of the sexes may not, from any single cause, nor even from any probable combination of causes, be disturbed.

As a general rule if you see one bird going in a flock by himself (if he is not a hawk), he is doing a good work for the orchard and farmer; but when you see more than two birds in a flock there is no good going on. So far as farm work is concerned birds and small boys come under the same rule—to wit: one boy is a boy, two boys are half a boy and three boys are no boy at all. When you see a crow or a blackbird walking in a furrow behind a ploughman, that bird is catching grubs and doing some good to humanity; but when you see either of these birds in a larger flock than there is mischief up. The best farm birds, aside from the toad, are those birds which climb around among the limbs of trees—all the woodpeckers, sapsuckers, yellow-hammers, flickers, nut-thatchers, butcher-birds, and in a word nearly all birds which go it alone.

THERE is much refuse fat from the kitchen that can be turned to good account by feeding to the hens. Of course, where soap is made it will be used in that way, but it is a question whether it is not much easier and more profitable to buy soap and make the hens lay by feeding them with fat. Every thing that is not wanted for drippings for cooking purposes should be boiled up with the vegetables for the cows.

An acre of good pasturage will afford sustenance for from five to eight sheep, keeping them in good condition. But on account of herbage taken and the closer feeding of the sheep it is believed that three acres of good pasturage will maintain one cow and, in addition, five or six sheep, the sheep choosing plants the cows would reject and feeding closer upon May-weeds and grasses not eaten by the cow.

The man has not lived in vain who plants a good tree in the right place; and the sentiment which prompted the tree planting organizations at the West, and caused a day to be set apart for a united, voluntary public effort in this behalf, is akin to that which set on foot our charitable and missionary societies.

An inventive genius filled a small tarlton sack with a spoonful of cayenne pepper, and tacked it over the rat-hole. When the rat bounced out his eyes were peppered by the sifting from the shaken sack. He squealed like a pig, and escaped. The whole tribe have since migrated.

A CELEBRATED raiser of long-wooled sheep says: "There is danger of keeping too many together. On a 100-acre farm ten would cost little and would do finely, twenty would occasion perceptible expense and forty would cost as much as they were worth."

The grand point in churning is to stop at the right moment. The mischief is done by over churning. Few people know when to stop, (in other things as well as churning), and to keep on churning when the butter has come will ruin the best of butter and spoil all the work.

"HAVING three hundred young chickens to care for I am interested in the Poultry Yard. I find mixing their feed with tansy tea a good preventive of gapes. I do so about once a day, for a few days, then omit till I hear one sneeze.

"HALF a cup" of pure hard-wood ashes finely sifted and mixed with the mash is recommended by a correspondent of the Rural New Yorker as sure cure for worms in horses—repeating the dose after a day or two, if necessary.

LAST year dogs in Illinois killed 27,338 sheep, valued at \$65,384—more than all the sheep killing dogs in the Republic are worth.

GIVE the potato ashes, lime, superphosphate, bone flour or plaster.