

THE BEST 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, Penna.,' that other farmers may have the benefit of it. Let communications be timely, and be sure that they are brief and well pointed.

COLONEL F. D. CURTIS expects to slaughter 125 pigs this fall, raised mainly on clover and roots at a cost of three cents the pound. That's as cheap as western corn-fed pork, and we'll guarantee it is better.

THE Degree of Doctor of Philosophy was conferred, the other day, by the University of Michigan, on Prof. W. J. Beal, of Michigan Agricultural College. The university has never conferred this honor but once before. The degree was conferred for his work in the direction of agricultural education.

MR. R. H. THOMAS, chairman of Committee of Arrangements, sends us a programme of the tri-state picnic and exhibition of the Patrons of Husbandry now in progress at Williams' Grove, in Cumberland county, and to continue until Friday of this week. The programme is full and interesting, and we have no doubt that those who can attend will have an enjoyable time. These days or weeks of recreation for farmers are multiplying in number, and it is in all respects desirable that they should be still increased.

THE Twenty-seventh Exhibition of the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Society will be held in the Main Centennial Building, Fairmount Park, in September, opening on the 6th and closing on the 18th. Following the State fair, and under the auspices of the same Society, an International Exhibition of Sheep, Wool and Wool Products will begin at the same place on the 20th and continue to the 25th. In all something like \$40,000 will be offered in premiums, and the managers confidently expect an aggregate attendance of fully 300,000 people. Premium lists are now ready, and may be had by addressing D. W. Seiler, Secretary, 10th and Chestnut Sts., Philadelphia, Pa.

Management of Calves.

From the Live Stock Journal. We have felt it a duty often to remind cattle raisers of the need of furnishing abundant nutriment to calves through the first year. It is food only that produces animal growth, and the more rapidly that growth is produced the greater the profit. The old-time Western cattle-raiser provided most completely for calves by having them run with the dams and take the whole product of milk. This was a liberal provision, but is considered quite too expensive in a region where the milk can be utilized for dairy products, as it will yield in butter or cheese as much as the whole value of the calf at the end of the season. This has caused, in all the well-settled States, an abandonment of the system of letting the calf run with the cow, except in the case of a few breeders of thoroughbreds who still adhere to the practice. There is other food much cheaper for a calf than new milk, after it is a few weeks old. The skimmed milk is well utilized for feeding to calves, and when given with other food containing considerable oil, will make a growth quite as rapid as whole milk. One pound of boiled flax seed, mixed with the skimmed milk for each calf, will cause a growth entirely satisfactory. This flax seed will cost, in most localities, about 2 1/2 cents, while the cream thus saved for butter will bring from 10 to 20 cents—a saving of from three to seven times the cost of the flax seed. But as most farmers are loath to take the trouble of boiling flax seed, they may use, with the skimmed milk, linseed oil meal, or the new process linseed meal instead. The latter does not supply much oil, but it is so rich in muscle-forming food, and phosphate of lime for growing the bones, that very strong and finely-formed calves may be grown. The linseed meal may be purchased for one cent per pound, in ton lots; and two pounds of this added to skim-milk will produce a most vigorous growth.

This refuse of our oil mills should all be used in this country to grow young animals, which would make our exports from this source at least \$20,000,000, instead of \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000 now received from oil cakes. It is a prodigious folly to export this raw material to make meat, instead of the meat it would grow. This highly nitrogenous food

is precisely adapted to growing calves and young stock, and then our great corn crop is exactly adapted to fattening these cattle after their frames are grown. Corn is now the fattening food of the world, but it has too large a proportion of starch for growing young animals.

We are pleased to see that our cattle feeders are becoming better acquainted with the use of oil cake, and are making more home use of it in feeding young cattle. If they could be induced to feed it all at home it would have a great influence in raising the quality of our beef and mutton for export.

Calves, while fed upon new milk, get into a very thrifty condition, and this thrift is easily continued by the use of other food when that is discontinued. In the first place, the calf lot should be well provided with water, and then, near the watering place, if this is convenient, there should be a trough or troughs for extra feed. This extra feed may be of various kinds, according to the productions of the farm. If the farm raises oats, one or two quarts of oats to each calf, given in two feeds, per day, will do much towards keeping the calves growing finely; or 2 quarts of bran and 1 1/2 lbs. of linseed meal, given in two feeds, or 2 lbs. of corn-meal with the oil-meal. This extra feed, after the calves cease to get milk, will continue their rapid growth.

We have often attempted to impress upon our readers the fact that it is only from the extra food that any growth can be made. For if the calf only gets food enough to support its present condition, it must remain without growth, and the food it eats is wholly lost; and perhaps worse than lost, for the calf cannot remain stationary without becoming unthrifty, and this unthrifty condition will greatly interfere with its future growth. Every consideration therefore requires that calves should not be permitted to remain stationary, but should keep up a steady, thrifty growth throughout the season. This is what some skillful, practical feeders mean when they say that calves should never be permitted to lose their calf flesh; and if this can be prevented they will continue to make a profitable growth till fitted for market. There is no feed given to a calf during its whole life that will pay a better profit than this extra food we have advised to be given during the first season. The feeder cannot afford to be illiberal in feeding his calves—his only profit depends upon his liberality.

Farms and Farmers.

From the Rural New Yorker.

Farmers, like poets, are born, not made. There are thousands who occasionally make rhymes but never a line of true poetry, and there are thousands who labor on farms all their lives and still are never farmers in the true meaning of the word. It takes but little skill to hoe a row of corn or to dig a hill of potatoes; but when we come to the real, serious, practical business of farming, we shall find it is, from first to last, an avocation that requires as much soundness of judgment and clearness of foresight to insure success as any other trade or profession. It is true that Nature is bountiful in her gifts, and in almost every instance he who expresses his desires by both faith and works receives something; but it is only those who work with the spirit and the understanding also who receive the fullness of her bounty.

There are but few who have not sufficient ability to plow and to sow and to reap; but to know when and how to do these things in order to secure the greatest return is given to but a very few of the many thousands who engage, either from choice or necessity, in agricultural pursuits. We say from necessity, for it often happens that we find on the same farm that has given employment and livelihood to his father, a man in no way fitted for the business, whose choice and success would have been in some other pursuit, but who as a boy was compelled to stick to the plow only for the reason that somebody must do it, and one son, at least, must remain to take care of the homestead and of father and mother in their old age.

Farming is not the only occupation in which those least fitted for it are employed. The fact that 90 out of every 100 who engage in mercantile affairs sooner or later go to financial ruin, and that the great majority of those who choose law, the ministry or medicine are never able to attain even moderate success, shows how little attention is given to the putting of a boy or a young man in the place for which he is by nature best fitted. This poor lawyer might have made an excellent farmer, while that poor farmer has in him latent power that, if cultivated, would have enabled him to take a high rank at the bar. But we did not set out to write an essay on the right man in the right place.

A successful farmer is one who is naturally a chemist. A farm is a laboratory where chemical changes are constantly going on either with or without the observation and aid of the farmer, and he only is the successful one who can make the forces of nature work for his profit.

There are certain things connected with farming that one not a fool cannot help learning; and a general rou-

tine may be followed that, taking one year with another, will result in producing average crops. But the true farmer is he who understandingly—we would say scientifically if the word was not so distasteful to many—departs from this routine and holds converse with nature, making a bargain with the soil, perhaps, that for a certain amount of particular care and fertilization a certain and large crop shall be returned.

It is said that a good chess player is able to give a reason for every move he makes, and a move that is made without an object in view is worse than useless. A commander in a battle field who has not clear and definite ideas of what he wants to do and why, sends his men to inexcusable slaughter.

So the farmer, who does not wisely plan and carefully execute his work, while his labors may not be entirely useless, only attains a partial success. There is hardly one item of a farmer's business that may be done strictly by rule. Everything must be changed or varied to meet circumstances. That which would be advisable to do with an early spring is hazardous in a late one. If the field is wet and the soil does not crumble when the furrow turns, let it alone and plow the other more sandy or higher one. This heap of manure, that in a dry time would be just the thing for a certain crop, must go elsewhere. Shall this field be plowed this fall, or left till spring? And so on through the thousand questions that are constantly arising. He who is competent, first, to see the necessity of asking them and afterward to decide them, is worthy of the name of farmer; others are laborers. Of the first there are few; of the latter, many.

A farmer should be a student of books as well as of nature, in order that he may profit by the experience of those who have gone before him. Every year people are repeating the failures of those who lived a thousand years ago. The necessity of an education for a farmer is not sufficiently appreciated. Thomas, who is to be a minister, and Richard, who expects to gather fame and riches as a lawyer, must be sent to college, while Harry, who is to work the farm, must be content, as he too often is, with such teaching as the district school affords. This is all wrong, and not until there is a change will farmers take the position in society to which they are entitled. As we sometimes see an eloquent minister or a talented lawyer who has attained his position by virtue of his own unaided intellect, so we sometimes find a thorough, scientifically practical farmer who has sought out in nature's own books, the fields, the knowledge necessary for making his labors successful and his life of use not only to himself but to all around him.

It should not be forgotten by those in other paths of life, that on the labors of the farmer depends their welfare. This is true to a greater extent than is often remembered. Suppose that every agriculturist in the country could, by some means, be changed instantly into a first-class farmer. It would be impossible to compute the wealth that would be added to this country during the next year. And everybody knows that a good year for farmers means prosperity to every branch of trade and commerce.

When one ton or ten tons of decorticated cotton-seed meal, linseed meal, malt sprouts, wheat bran, corn meal, or other food, is fed to sheep upon the land, you may determine, quite accurately, the amount of each of these important food elements added to the soil; but when you apply a ton of commercial fertilizer, purchased at the full value of a proper standard, the ordinary farmer knows very little of what he really adds to the soil. Under a proper system of feeding, the sheep farmer can scarcely err in applying fertilizers to the soil which are obtained by passing rich foods through the digestive system of his sheep. This will be a chemical analysis and determination which he may rely upon for accuracy.

A farmer of experience says that the feet of a horse require more care than the body. They need ten times as much, for in one respect they are almost the entire horse. All the grooming that can be done won't avail anything if the horse is forced to stand where his feet will be filthy. In this case the feet will become disordered, and then the legs will get badly out of fix; and with bad feet and bad legs there is not much else for the horse fit for anything.

An "incubator tournament" lately took place at Hernel Hempstead, Cape of Good Hope. Each of four competitors sent two machines; they were all manipulated in a locked apartment by "the manager of the gas and water works," according to printed instructions furnished by the inventors, and in the course of twenty-one days one hatched out 75 per cent. of the eggs and received a prize of \$100.

The annual destruction of sheep by dogs in this country amounts to \$1,600,000. And yet in the face of this fact, farmers, when they have a chance to vote for a law to tax dogs and protect sheep, vote the other way.

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We extend an invitation to everybody in want of anything in our line to call at our store room, opposite the Bush House, and see what we have, and learn from them in attendance more particularly the scope of our business. ALEXANDER & CO., Bellefonte, Pa., May 6, 1880. 154f

FOR THE CAMPAIGN. THE "PATRIOT" DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL CANVASS.

IN order that everybody, no matter how poor in purse, may read the news during the great political struggle of 1880, the DAILY PATRIOT (Sunday edition included) will be sent by mail to any address, postage free, from the present time until the fifteenth of November next, for \$1.00; to clubs of five or more, (and one copy free to the sender of the club), \$2.50 per copy. Without Sunday edition, the DAILY PATRIOT will be sent by mail to any address, postage free, for same period for \$2.50; to clubs of five or more (with one copy free to sender of club), \$2.00 per copy.

THE WEEKLY PATRIOT

From the present time until the week after the Presidential election will be sent to any address, postage free, for FIFTY CENTS; to clubs of five or upwards for THIRTY-FIVE CENTS per copy, with one copy free to sender of club. In every case the money must accompany the order. Now is the time to get up clubs. Democratic local organizations cannot circulate cheaper and more effective campaign literature than newspapers furnished at this extraordinarily low rate. Send in your order addressed to PATRIOT PUBLISHING CO., HARRISBURG, PA. 26.

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