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FOR THE CAMPAIGN.

THE "PATRIOT" DURING THE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN. 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 \$2.00; to clubs of five or more (with one copy free to sender of club) \$2.00 per copy.

BUSH HOUSE, BELLEFONTE, PA. IS OPEN. D. P. PETERS, Proprietor.

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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.

Epizootic.

A mild form of the troublesome horse disease commonly known as the "epizootic," and which some years ago almost brought business to a standstill in most of our large cities, is now prevailing in many places throughout the country. We have not, as yet, heard of it in our county, but judging the future from the past, we shall not long escape. Dr. Creevy, a veterinary surgeon of much ability and great experience, says the disease is atmospheric, and not contagious. He advises that "any animal showing symptoms of it, such as coughing, a slight discharge from the nose, etc., should be worked only moderately, protected with a woolen blanket when standing and given warm bran mash rather than meal. Very cold water should not be allowed."

How to Grow Soiling Crops.

F. S. Peer, of New York, soils his cattle all the year around. He has lately filled an old stone carriage house with one hundred and fifty tons of ensilage corn fodder, which he estimates has cost him but fifty-four cents per ton. This may do for an "estimate," but we must doubt its accuracy. Of Mr. Peer's soiling practice the Rural Home says:

For soiling cows and horses he makes two sowings of rye in the fall, two or three weeks apart, for first feeding in spring. As early as possible in spring, sows barley, because it will germinate and grow earlier than oats and endure more frost, and continues to sow every week until the rye is ready to cut. Makes two cuttings of rye and then ploughs and sows to corn. Makes one cutting of barley and follows with a mixture of oats and peas, which he esteems highly for soiling. Through the months of June and July he soiled ten head of cattle and three horses on three acres of land. Cuts his fodder with reaper, and one man does the milking, soiling and all the other chores, and gets six hours a day for field labor. He stables cattle in basements of barns, beds with shavings so as to have straw to feed, and has everything convenient. Water flows from a spring into the barnyard and into a trough under the shed, where a float regulates the faucet, stopping the flow when the trough is full and starting it again as it lowers.

He Was Not a Farmer, and We Will Not Own Him.

As to "one jockey," the unsophisticated would be surprised to know how many highly-considered, reputable farmers are engaged in that sort of thing. A wealthy citizen of New York once attempted to impose upon me thus, with a cow recommended by him as a great milker. I bought of him for a friend. The cow when sent me, I ascertained afterward, had not been milked for forty-eight hours. I was a little too sharp for him, and did not hesitate to tell him of the trick and make him take the cow back. He turned red and stammered when I told him, and laid all the blame to the superintendent of his beautiful country seat; but one of the laborers afterward told me the cow was thus sent me at the city by the owner's express order. How shameful for a rich, or indeed any man, to make the poor beast suffer thus, and endeavor to cheat a customer in such a small, mean way. But this is human nature—too often I am sorry to say.—SANDILA, in the Tribune.

Hold on, Mr. "Sandila." This

wont do. If the facts are as you represent them, you have undoubtedly been badly swindled in your purchase of a cow, and are justified in railing at farmers as a class, nor in calling them hard names. Your "wealthy citizen of New York" who gave an "express order" to the "superintendent of his beautiful country seat," certainly did "endeavor to cheat you in a small, mean way," but then he was not "a highly-considered, reputable farmer." By your own showing, he was not a farmer at all. Farmers are not "wealthy citizens of New York;" nor do they keep "beautiful country seats," under the care of "superintendents." The probabilities are that he was some "honest merchant" of

New York, who had grown rich by just such tricks as this in his mercantile business, and that his only claim to be called a farmer consisted in the fact that he was spending some of his surplus cash in providing for his selfish comfort a "beautiful country seat." We "highly-considered, reputable farmers" have enough to account for, and decline to be responsible for the dirty tricks of your New York sharpers.

The Uses and Benefits of Fall Plowing.

In no way is the progress of modern agriculture more clearly shown than in the general adoption of fall ploughing of land for next year's crops. It used to be thought, taught and practiced that all, or nearly all, crops did better if the land was not disturbed until a few days, or a few hours, before seeding—great benefits being claimed in having a fresh, moist bed to confide the seed to. If all lands were new, and if fall plowing deep did not contemplate spring plowing shallow, doubtless the old fashion were the better one. But since the farmer who adopts the plan of fall plowing is pretty sure not to neglect the essentials of preparing a proper seed bed when the time comes for seeding; and since modern experience has taught that all or nearly all soils produce better crops if the land is suffered to lay for months after plowing, these are sufficient reasons for the general following of the practice when once introduced. But it is not, perhaps, enough to simply say the thing is so and then leave it, therefore we proceed to give some of the many reasons which have led to the adoption of this system of agriculture.

On the ground of a wise economy and the husbanding of one's resources, it were certainly better to make all possible preparations for, and do all that could be done of spring work in the autumn months, because there is more leisure, the teams are stronger, the temperature is better suited to the work and a portion of the pressure is taken off the most stirring and active time of the year, when the main work in the preparation of the crop land is done in the fall. Under the old regime, before the war, fall and winter plowing was generally practiced on the cotton plantations of the South, and the results were such that the product per acre was a good deal above the average of the present time. The custom on the best plantations was, after the greater portion of the cotton crop had been gathered, to take the best hands out of the cotton fields, leaving the women and children to finish up the job of picking, and put the men and teams to making and repairing fences and plowing the land for the next year's corn and cotton crop. By Christmas, most of the work was finished and after a month's holiday the business of the new year was resumed. During the war this custom fell into disuse—the freedmen would not renew it, the preparation for the crops fell three months behind, and the result as we have seen it.

While it is no doubt true, that lands lying in latitudes subject to deep freezing, profit more by fall plowing than lands liable to no frost, or very little, it is nevertheless true, that on account of the character of the season, and the crops, the farmers of mild latitudes are quite as much benefited by it as those of colder ones—though not in the same way.

But the fertilizing and enriching effects of fall plowing have yet to be stated in part—we say in part, because if we went over the whole ground, several columns would be required. Before the surface accumulation of vegetable matter on lands intended to be cropped can be made to benefit that crop, they must first become wholly or partially decayed, or decomposed. And in order to bring about that condition, they must be covered under, by the plow, a sufficient length of time to have the process of decay do its work. When plowing is done in the fall or winter months these processes go on for weeks, even in times of hard frost, and when seed time comes the food is ready for the young plant, and it gets a good send off from the start. If plowing is delayed until spring these processes, if they go on at all, do so at the expense of the moisture in the soil, and to the detriment of the growing plant; and that is probably why it is we see so many failures of all kinds of crops if the season happens to be a dry one, and a considerable amount of weeds, rubbish and surface accumulation have been plowed under. But, contrary to what has generally been accepted as sound doctrine, the tendency or movement of plant food in the soil is upward, instead of downward, except during, and a few hours after, heavy rains; and it therefore often happens in the case of long cultivated and foul lands there is very great benefit in turning the surface deeply under—but as the sole condition that a considerable interval shall elapse between the plowing and the seeding in order for the decay of vegetable matter to take place, and thereafter that food get to the surface as needed. Therefore, the rule for wheat and corn both is, if to be sown on land

turned just before seeding, let the plow run light; if to be fallow during winter for the one and summer for the other crop, let the plow run deep. But perhaps what has prevented the early and general adoption of the practice of fall plowing heretofore, has been the difficulty of procuring plows which would do the work in the fall while the weed growth was still strong, the stubble and rubbish thick and heavy, and the sward perhaps tough. The wooden mould board and cast-iron plows made for the thin gravelly and sandy lands of the South, and portions of the West, the light steel plows adapted to prairie work, were all too light and wholly insufficient for the job, except under the condition that the weeds and stubble had been cut, and together with the rubbish, gathered and burned, and the surface made smooth and clean. But now, thanks to the invention of the sulky plow, all this previous clearing up of foul land has become unnecessary, for such is the capacity of some of the best, most improved and largest of these plows that they are capable of turning under any amount of weed growth to be found in the country anywhere. Of this new and useful implement the patterns are many and various, but each is good in its line.

Two Instances of Successful Farming.

Mr. Robert J. Swan, Geneva, N. Y., is a worthy son-in-law to the venerable John Johnston, that remarkably successful agriculturist and "father of tile draining in America." Each rod of his 350 acres is thoroughly underdrained, seventy-five miles of tile having been put down for this purpose at a cost of about 27 cents per lineal rod. Fifty acres of wheat yielded this year forty bushels per acre (five bushels less than is sometimes secured,) and "a fine, dense, uniform growth of clover was even with the top of the stubble." The corn usually gives eighty shelled bushels. "The condition of the land," the Cultivator says, "is gradually improving, through the agency of turning in crops of clover and by copious manuring."

Mr. C. M. Hooker, of Brighton, N. Y., has paid liverymen of Rochester \$10,000 for stable manure during the past twenty years for application to his 130 acre farm, seventy of which are in apples, mostly Baldwin. There is a pear orchard, the standard Bartlett trees of which, blighting down nearly to the trunks a few years since, were cut off below the diseased wood, and they branched out again into fine tops. Ten acres are in blackberries, twelve in red raspberries, five in currants, three in strawberries, and two in gooseberries. Small fruits also occupy some of the space between the trees, the soil being sufficiently fed to justify double cropping, and Mr. P. C. Reynolds says the farm is the most valuable he ever visited, considering the annual returns. There is a large evaporator (with capacity of 125 bushels in twenty-four hours,) in which black raspberries are dried when the price runs too low for selling fresh, and inferior apples are utilized in the same profitable manner.

How Roots are Beneficial.

By Hon. A. B. Allen. I have read Professor Caldwell's article on Mangolds for Growth and Milk with much interest and should judge from the different effect of them on different animals, it was owing to a better or worse digestion. It is unquestionably necessary that when fed, two to four, or even more pounds of linseed or cotton-seed meal should be added to the mangolds, according to the size and age of the animals. Sugar beets, however, would be much more nutritious, and they are as easily grown. But the preference is given to mangolds by many because a greater weight per acre can be grown from them, and they keep longer and maintain their quality better through the spring, and even into the summer months, at least in the cool, moist climate of Great Britain, if not in the drier and hotter one of America. It is said that by eating roots, the dry hay or straw which is taken into the stomach by neat cattle is softened and changed there by them into the same state as grass would be, and is consequently made more digestible and nourishing than if roots were not eaten at about the same time.

Keep Sheep.

Mutton is very healthful meat food. It is the cheapest meat for the farmer. Its cost is comparatively small, as the fleece from a good breed will pay for its keeping. Then there is an additional profit in the lambs. When the animal is killed at home there is the pelt, as well as the rich droppings, which will make an excellent manure. The pastures will also be well cleared of weeds. With the exception of poultry, mutton is also the most convenient meat for the farmer. A sheep is easily killed and dressed by a single hand in an hour and in the warmest weather it can be disposed of before it spoils. Science and experience both declare it to be the healthiest kind of meat and a foolish prejudice alone leads to a preference for pork.