



## SEPARATORS at fits of watchless quality ness and Plain Engin by other makers 7,500,000 Feet of Selected Lumber TRACTION ENGINES 8, 10, 13 Horse Power.

hermen are int NICHOLS, SHEPARD & CO. Battle Creek, Michigan

BROCKERHOFF HOUSE. W. R. TELLER, Proprietor. Good Sample Room on Second Floor. BELLEFONTE, PA.

AGRICULTURAL. NEWS, FACTS AND SUGGESTIONS. THE TEST OF THE NATIONAL WELFARE IS THE INTELLI-GENCE AND PROSPERATE OF THE NAMED

THE Rural New Yorker is out with another of its specials, and this time the subject is "Small Fruits." We shall not even try to give our opinion of its merits, but should be glad to see a thousand copies of it in Centre county. They can be had for the asking. Send a card to 34 Park Row, New York, saying that upon the advice of the DEMOCRAT, you ask for a copy of the Small Fruit edition.

THE DEMOCRAT believes that nothing will more rapidly advance the wealth and prosperity of Centre county farmers, than largely increased attention to the culture of tobacco. Every successful tobacco grower must necessarily be a good farmer-provided, of course, that he steadily maintains the fertility of his farm. It is one of that class of crops that cannot be produced profitably without good land, careful attention, and a great deal of labor, and therefore its tendency is all in the direction of better farming, unless, indeed, as hinted before, the land upon which it is grown is enriched at the expense of other portions of the farm. We are glad to notice a marked increase of interest in this valuable, moneymaking crop among our farmers, and propose to do what we can to stimulate and encourage it, by making the DEMOCRAT'S agricultural columns a vehicle for the dissemination of such reliable information upon the subject, n all its phases, as we may have, or nay be able to gather from the several sources at our command. As instalment number one of timely and most valuable information, we publish to-day the first of a series of articles, under the caption of "Tobacco Culure," that we have obtained permission to reprint from the columns of the New Era, published in Lancaster ity, the centre of the tobacco growng interests and experience of the State. The first paragraphs of the article in this issue explain their scope, and state the purpose of the author so fully that we need make no further reference to them here. They are from the very practical pen of Mr. Diffenderffer, one of the editors of the Era, than whom there is no better authority concerning the tobacco crop, in all its stages, from seed to sale, in the State. As evidence that we are not extravagant in our estimate of their practical value, we may say that Secretary Edge, of the State Board of Agriculture, has already all tobacco growers in our endeavor to advance their interests, by way of sons to believe this of any of the

The Centre Democrat. but will be occupied for the time whenever possible. Where this is not

hand. As the time is rapidly approaching when tobacco growers will be compelled to begin their preparations for The southern exposure gives tion of tobacco growing. Lancaster and value of her tobacco product, that the methods practiced by her growers must of necessity be valua-

ble to growers elsewhere, especially to those whose experience has been limited and who are not yet thoroughly posted in the most approved modes of tobacco culture. There are perhaps thousands of growers to whom what we shall say will convey no new information. It is not for such that these chapters are prepared, but for those in other and newer districts, who, while anxious to grow

an article that shall command the highest market price, have neither had the required experience nor requisite opportunities for personal observation to enable them to do so.

GOOD SEED. chance. Every step of the process must be taken with the final result in view. A defective link anywhere in the season's chain may render all previous or future efforts useless, and success is to be hoped for. It is true that accident or a favorable season may compensate for a blunder or two, but the tobacco grower must not rely upon any such stray contingencies.

Good healthy, vigorous seed must be had to start with. Too little at-tention is paid to this apparently small but very important matter by many tobacco growers even here in Lancaster county. At the proper season, which is of course topping time, the strongest and best plants should be allowed to develop their flower stem. Not all the seed pods must be allowed to mature. All of them except about a dozen at the top must be removed. This will insure the ground is not naturally rich much better and stronger seed, and enough, it must be made so. You consequently more vigorous plants, a most important consideration at all times and in certain seasons decisive of the quality and value of the crop. It would not be amiss if every seed plant had a stake driven into the ground by its side, to which it could be tied and thus be secured against damage from storms of wind. The pod worm should be carefully searched for and destroyed. When the bolls have turned black or dark brown the spike containing them must be cut off and hung up in a dry place, with the tops downward, and here they must be left until the time for sowing them comes round. New, fresh seed should always have the preference; it can be told by its dark brown color; it grows lighter in color as it grows older. A few growers have suggested, and, we believe, practiced, the planting of a few old seeds along with fresh ones in order to have a better succession of plants when the time comes for setting them out and in case they should be needed. Old seed, however, must not be regarded as valueless. It preserves its vitality five or more years. A asked and obtained permission to embody them in the quarterly reports of the board. Before leaving this an opinion current that the quality subject we desire to solicit the aid of of tobacco will gradually deteriorate unless renewed from outside sources

being with only that portion of the possible, then a southeastern one; a subject which covers the period at western one is not desirable, and a northern one is still worse. It must be sheltered on the north and west from the keen blasts of early spring. the coming season, we present our young plants the full benefit of the sin's rays early in the season and advances them rapidly, enabling the county has assumed such a command-ing position for the extent, excellence than he otherwise could, thus avoiding the hot weather of summer.

BURNING THE SEED BED. We desire to draw especial attention to a custom which is invariably fruitful in good results, which is al-most universally practiced in the Southern tobacco States, but which hardly one farmer in a hundred in Lancaster county practices; we of course allude to burning over the seed bed prior to planting. Anything that will burn may be employed for this purpose; brush, wood, corn stalks, old rails and logs, briars, in short anything that is at hand. Several hours hard burning is not too much. This has the effect not only of killing all weeds and seeds that may be in the soil, but also the noxious insects near the surface-no In order to grow good tobacco, it slight consideration. It would be is essential that nothing be left to difficult, in fact, to describe all the good results from this practice. After the bed has been carefully burnt over, the refuse matter should be carefully raked off, leaving only the ashes. The ground must then be dug therefore of the highest importance that a correct start is made if final carefully removed, and the soil made fine and friable. We feel as if we could not strongly impress the good results of this fact upon our tobacco growers. In those portions of the State where timber is still plentiful and cheap, the custom ought to be universally followed

> The ordinary custom is, however, not to burn over the seed-bed. It should be dug over as early in the spring as the weather will admit or the ground is dry enough. A rich virgin loam is the best soil ; black, if it is to be had, is preferble, as the color absorbs the sun's rays better and advances the plants faster. If cannot make it too rich. Well-rotted stable manure is much the best article that can be used; chicken or hog manure are not nearly so desirable, nor are the artificial manures. A compost made the previous year of the various manures produced on the farm and plentifully applied would, no doubt, produce excellent results. This must be spaded in and care be taken to render the soil on the surface, and indeed throughout, as fine as if run through a fine sieve. Lumpy ground would impede the free sprouting of the minute seed by covering them. The bed is now ready to receive the seed.

SPROUTING THE SEED.

Most growers sprout the seed be-fore planting, but a few do not. The former course is much the best. It is surer, because it enables you to see whether your seed is good. It also gives you plants sooner, as unsprouted seed in an unfavorable season sometimes lie in the ground a long time before germinating. When the season is late and inclement weather prevents the early preparation of the seed bed, it is sometimes all important that the plants are brought forward as rapidly as possible. There are different methods of sprouting the seed. The more common way is to tie it in a little bag and place it in slightly tepid water for a day or two; it is then removed and placed under to advance their interests, by way of sons to believe this of any of the sone intoise intoise interests, by way of sons to believe this of any of the sone intoise intoise interests, by way of sons to believe this of any of the sone intoise intoise interests, by way of sons to believe this of any of the sone intoise i those who are yet novices in the bus-iness. All such communications up and even improve the varieties thandling the seed at this critical pe-iness. All such communications up and even improve the varieties than the provident of the tender of tend should be addressed to the "Agricul they have by careful cultivation. The riod. Any injury to the tender sprout plants set apart for seed should stand that issues from the minute seed is tural Editor of the DEMOCRAT, How-ard, Pa." He is himself largely in-terested as a grower of the crop, and having a high estimate of its import-ance to the material interests of the tification. This plan ought to be observed instead of the present plan cur, might also result disastrously. An old and very successful grower of our acquaintance sprouts his to-bacco seed in an entirely different manner. He selects a lot of chip soil ultimate success of the grower who from the site of an old wood pile, sifts it carefully to remove all foreign substances and to pulverize the earth The seed bed may be fairly regard- thoroughly. This is then moistened with warm water, placed in earthen pots, or some other vessels, and the proper quantity of seed thoroughly mixed with it. The pots are then placed near a stove the soil is kept moist by the addit on of sufficient water, and it is besi as carefully stirred over several ti es daily to pre-vent packing and to expose the seed to light. Much care is necessary when the tiny shoot begins to emerge from the seed, as rude handling would soon break it off. Either of the two methods just given, if carefully fol-lowed, will give good results. We find that the minute details into which we have entered will prevent our giving this portion of our subject in a single issue. The con-cluding portion of our remarks con-cerning the seed bed will be given next week.



GARMAN'S HOTEL, Opposite Court House, BELLEFONTE, PA. Opposite Court House, BELLE TERMS \$1.25 PER DAY. & good Livery attached. 1-1

CI LAW AND COLLECTION HOUSE, 620 F STREET, WASHINGTON, D. C. Make Collections, Negotiate Lossis and attend to all business confided to them. LAND SCRIP, soldiers Additional flomestead Rights and LAND WARRANTS bought and sold.

NEAR LATROBE, PA., NEARLY half a Century old, from bich the most prominent and cultivated women sylvamia have graduated, offers most thorough unal nids and highest standard of refining in-. Pripile admitted at any time. Yearly ex-bout form

Beatty's P. O., Weetmoreland county, Pa.

tural Editor of the DEMOCRAT, Howas circumstances will admit.

TOBACCO CULTURE.

How to Grow our Next Crop.

FIRST OF A SERIES OF ARTICLES ON THE SUBJECT-THE VALUE OF GOOD SEED-PREPARATION OF THE SEED-BED-

ITS LOCATION -OUGHT TO BE BURNED OVER.

The New Era has lately been requested by many of its subscribers to publish an essay on tobacco culture for the benefit of those who are already classed among the growers of the weed, as well as for such as have concluded to enter upon the cultivation of this crop during the coming season. Such an essay, if it entered fully into all the details, from the preparation of the seed bed until the

ture, which will appear at seasonable periods during the year, each one having a special reference to that portion of the subject which engages

county, is making such a study of it tification. This plan ought to be of letting the seed plants stand in

every part of the field. These are apparently trifling points, but they all contribute their due share to the observes them carefully.

## THE SEED BED.

ed as the starting-point of the tobacco grower. It is here that the future

wrapper, rich and brown in color, generous in size, thinly veined and silky in texture, is nourished into life. Its proper management will demand his closest attention, and barring accidents, including the contingencies of the season, his future success depends in a large measure upon his careful preparation of it before plant-ing the seed and his increasing attenpacking of the crop, would take up tion to it afterwards. At no period much more space than could conven-iently be allotted to the subject in a and good management go further tosingle issue of this paper. We have therefore determined to prepare a series of articles covering the general subject of tobacco cul-

must be begun.

the tobacco grower's attention when it appears. In this way the reader's attention will not be confounded by a multiplicity of unseasonable details,

LAW AND COLLECTION HOUSE, ET, WASHINGTON, D. C. Hons, Negotiate Losus and attend to all

ST. XAVIER'S ACADEMY,