

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.

The great requisite to success in farming is thoroughness in everything.

Are the cultivator hoes in proper order, the harrow teeth sharp, and the hand hoes ground or filed to a knife edge? If not see to them the first rainy day.

GARDENING made easy means gardening made profitable, and we know of nothing that will contribute more to this result than the use of the "Planet" garden implements, advertised in the DEMOCRAT by Messrs. S. L. Allen & Co., of 229 Market street, Philadelphia. Read their advertisement and adopt the good advice given in it.

In planning your garden don't forget vegetables for next spring's use. Most farmers find their fare reduced, during the early spring months, so far as vegetables are concerned, to cabbage and potatoes. A little care and forethought now will make desirable additions to this list by way of parsnips, celery, salsify, and so on, and it is well worth while to take the trouble.

See that the mowing fields are in good order. Roll them when a little soft from a shower. This will level the little bumps, and mash the smaller stones into the ground,—the larger ones can be carried off to the end of the field on the roller. The large stumps will show for themselves, and no danger to the mower need be apprehended from them. The small ones—all those which can be hidden by the grass when it comes to full size—should be marked with a stake.

We notice some of our contemporaries advising to "begin cultivating the corn as soon as it is all up nicely." This is too late. The right time to begin is before it comes up. A light harrow, with teeth sloping backward can be run over the ground a day or two before the corn appears with great advantage, smoothing and leveling up the rows, and killing multitudes of the little weeds which have been improving every minute of time since the last harrowing was given the corn ground before planting.

The tent caterpillars can easily be destroyed if, when they are first seen to form the web, you ascend the tree to where they are located, either after sundown or early in the morning, and with an old glove on your hand just roll them in their web and squelch them. If there are any of these pests on the end of small twigs which trouble you to reach, tie a cotton rag to the end of a long stick, saturate it with kerosene oil and set it on fire; apply this to the web and sure destruction is the result, and without injury to the tree.

BULLETIN No. 58, of the Connecticut Agricultural Experimental Station, issued April 28, gives analyses of eight different "commercial fertilizers," the samples investigated being taken from lots sold to farmers for fertilizing purposes. In every one of the eight lots tested, the cost to the purchaser exceeds the actual value of the so-called fertilizer, by from \$1.67 to \$23.64 per ton. So long as this state of affairs remains we are perfectly safe in increasing our supply of the good old "barnyard manure" and saving it with the greatest care.

Now is the time for a repetition of our annual advice not to poison or frighten away the crows. Soak some refuse corn until it is soft, and scatter a few handfuls of it thinly on the most exposed parts of the field every day or two. The crows will not bother any that is planted as long as they can find that which is more to their taste on top of the ground, and while they are making search for "more" they will come across and "gobble up" many a cut worm that would destroy the young corn but for this intervention.

In reply to a correspondent who complains of the large amount of labor involved in the culture of root crops for stock-feed, Col. F. D. Curtis, a gentleman of large experience, makes the following suggestions:

Good land will produce from twenty to thirty tons of mangels to the acre, and what crop is there which will return a larger yield? With appropriate implements such a crop can be raised and put into a cellar, or pit out of doors, at just about the cost of a crop of corn. New beginners should start with a small area, say two or three acres, and when they have learned how to do it, they can enlarge the work. A drill which will sow the seed evenly and cover them is essentially the first thing, and a cultivator which will allow the most of the tillage to be done with horses is the next most important auxiliary. These implements can be made to lessen the labor more than one-half.

Land which is in a condition to produce a heavy crop of corn will also grow a satisfactory crop of mangels. Like corn they will bear liberal manuring, which should be well mixed into the soil. Barnyard manure is the best, and this should be well rotted, or not coarse, such as unrotted straw or cornstalks. The land should be well ploughed when it is in the best condition, and thoroughly furrowed, and then it may be thrown into ridges by turning the shallow furrows together for the rows, or it may be marked out on an even surface and the seed sown in the marks. In either case it is best to roll the ground before sowing, and if it is very dry it is well to roll it afterward. The manure should be ploughed under. The land will work easier by having the roller follow the harrow, and the rows either by marking or ridging may be followed much better. The rows should be two feet apart and as straight as possible. Three pounds of seed will plant an acre, but five will make it more certain, as there may be a free delivery from the hopper and less liability for skips.

Early and frequent cultivating will keep the weeds down, and only a small strip will require to be cleaned out by hand. A broad hoe struck across the rows will at one motion remove the weeds and plants for its width and reduce the hand labor to a small bunch the right distance apart, which must be thinned out by hand. When the hand labor can be reduced to this small portion, the bug-bear of too much work about beets is exploded. The hind teeth of the cultivator should turn the soil from the plants, and scrape the ground, so that the weeds are all destroyed. Such teeth have been inserted and are in use in this section. When run along the rows a strip not more than an inch in width is all there is left for the hoe and hand. Mangels may be rapidly gathered and housed or pitted. They are easily pulled up, and the tops being cut off they may be thrown into rows to dry. They can be tossed into a cart and from it into a pit, where they will keep sound and fresh. Freezing hurts them, causing rot. They are unlike Swedes or turnips in this respect, and should be gathered before the hard frosts come.

## Clover Bloat.

It frequently happens that cattle having access to luxuriant young clover in the early spring, and particularly on damp mornings, will so gorge themselves that the gases which result from the rapid fermentation in the stomach, cause them to swell enormously, giving great pain, and unless speedily relieved, resulting in death. In a recent letter upon the subject, Prof. James Lane, of Cornell University, says:

In all urgent cases the paunch should be punctured, and the operator must not delay for the sake of a better instrument. A pocketknife, penknife, scissors, or indeed any clean cutting instrument may be used, though a canula and trochar is to be preferred. The point to be punctured is on the left side, equidistant from the last rib, the outer angle of the hip bone, and the lateral processes of the backbone. The wound may be covered with oil or tar. The removal of the contents of an overloaded paunch with the hand is often an essential condition of recovery, and in bad cases a corn-basket full of material may easily be obtained. Careful cleansing and closing of the wounds should never be neglected.

We are under obligations to Dr. E. L. Sturtevant for a generous sample of his Washakum "thoroughbred" corn. We prize this very highly, and if it should prove to be adapted to our soil and climate it will prove a great acquisition to the corn growers of this section. For years Dr. Sturtevant has taken the greatest pains and trouble in breeding this corn, not only selecting the seed, but removing from the field at "tasseling time," all stalks which failed to show at least one good ear, believing that "like begets like" as well in the vego-

table as in the animal kingdom, and that nature's law of the "survival of the fittest" should hold good in one as well as the other. As a result of their continued practice this corn has so confined its habit of producing at least one good ear to each stalk that it is properly called "thoroughbred," possessing the power of transmitting its good qualities to its progeny precisely as do thoroughbreds among animals.

## Protecting Sheep from Dogs.

As a remedy for the loss of sheep by dogs, A. B. Allen, whose opinion carries great weight with it, suggests that large, powerful dogs be raised with the sheep from puppyhood, and thus become the protectors of the flock. He says:

A Newfoundland or St. Bernard and some other breeds, perhaps even the mastiff or formidable Russian or Siberian bloodhound, might be trained for the protection of sheep, if nursed from puppyhood by a ewe. These would be formidable enough to scare away a small bear, to say nothing of a coyote or one of their own race. I have seen flocks of sheep follow their dogs and the shepherd wherever he desired to lead them, over broad hills and plains, along the public highways, and even in the streets of crowded towns and cities, and nothing could stop or turn them either to the right or the left. The way to train a dog to become a perfect protector to sheep is to rear him in such a manner that he shall become familiar with no other animal, and especially with any of his own species, except the one or more necessary to associate with him in guarding the flock. As soon as the pup is born, or at least as its eyes are opened, he must be taken to a ewe to nurse, depriving her at the same time of her lamb for this purpose. This of course should be done as soon as the mild weather of spring is settled, so that the pup can live safely out of doors, unless the shepherd has a camp or hut near his flock to shelter the pup and ewe inside when the nights are cold or the weather is stormy. The ewe soon takes to the pup, and becomes as fond of it as if her own lamb. As the pup grows up and requires other food than the milk of the ewe, it is given him alongside of the flock. Thus he knows nothing else than the sheep, the dogs who are his companions, and his master.

## The Former Hog and the Present Hog.

The former hog had more muscle and less fat than the present hog—had more vitality—had fewer diseases, but oh! fatal objection, the feed he ate was of more value than his flesh.

The present hog fattens, but is seldom healthy. Scarcely any oxygen colors his red blood, as formerly, but the sluggish black blood, propelled by a heart smaller than it should be, enables him to live along, with great care, until he is ready for market. His lungs are so delicate that one "dogging" kills him. His liver is discolored and spotted. He has kidney worms. His bones are soft and easily broken. His intestines are full of wind. He has catarrh, trichina, cholera, &c. The improved (?) hog is fast degenerating—and what next?

So says an Iowa correspondent of the Farm Journal. Well, we think that "next" will be the abandonment by Iowa and other western farmers of their "hog and corn" system of farming,—particularly the abominable feature of it which fattens the hogs by permitting them to "follow" the cattle which are fed on whole corn ears,—and a return to the more natural and rational way of raising pigs chiefly on grass and roots, with such limited rations of grain as will be sure to cause a healthy and sufficiently rapid growth. The hogs are all right, but the crowding and stuffing methods of growing and fattening them are all wrong.

## Raising Tomatoes.

Correspondent of American Farmer.

My idea in raising tomatoes is different from some of my neighbors. I am surrounded by gardeners, and have often heard them say they preferred their ground for raising tomatoes, but my experience has been to the contrary. I find we can raise earlier fruit on thin ground, but not as large a crop. I noticed also that when the plants grew strong and rank, the tomato worms, which for the last few years have so infested and almost destroyed the crop, did not trouble them so much.

If you have but little ground it is, better to grow small fruits, currants and berries, than attempt growing fruit trees. If you have room for a few fruit trees, choose cherry or pear trees before apples.

Stale bread moistened with sweet milk is recommended very highly as good feed for young chickens the first few days. When a week old they may be fed on cracked grain scalded. When old enough to swallow grain give them plenty of it.

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## TRAVELER'S GUIDE.

## BELLEFONTE &amp; SNOW SHOE R. R.—Time-Table in effect on and after March 1, 1887.

Leaves Snow Shoe 5:30 A. M., arrives in Bellefonte 7:24 A. M.

Leaves Bellefonte 9:12 A. M., arrives at Snow Shoe 11:25 A. M.

Leaves Snow Shoe 2:30 P. M., arrives in Bellefonte 4:20 P. M.

Leaves Bellefonte 4:45 P. M., arrives at Snow Shoe 7:25 P. M.

S. S. BLAIR, Gen'l Superintendent.

## BALD EAGLE VALLEY RAILROAD.—Time-Table, April 29, 1880:

Exp. Mail. WESTWARD. EASTWARD. Exp. Mail.

A. M. P. M. A. M. P. M. A. M. P. M.

10 7:02 Arrive at Tyrone Leave 7:32 8:48

8 3:55 Leave East Tyrone Leave 7:39 8:55

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