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Hannah
Port Matilda
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Milesburg

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AGRICULTURAL. NEWS, FACTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

THE TEST OF THE NATIONAL WELFARE IS THE INTELLI GENCE 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 are under obligations to Mr. Diffenderfer, of the New Era, the author of the valuable papers on the culture of tobacco, which we are valuable information tendered during a recent business visit to Lancaster

THE Williamsport Gazette and Bulletin tells of the removal of the fence surrounding the premises of Jno. T. Coryell, one of the oldest citizens of that city, and states that "many of the boards are well preserved, and the locust posts are scarcely any decayed." Mr. Coryell states that "portions of this fence have been standing for ninety years." Our contemporary does not affirm, however, that these well preserved boards and nearly sound posts are to be found in these particular portions of the fence.

GEN. LE Duc, the great American tea grower, was on the 18th instant requested by President Garfield to send in his resignation as Commissioner of Agriculture and Hon. Geo. B. Loring, of Massachusetts, was appointed as his successor. The nomination was promptly confirmed by the Senate, to take effect June 20. Without meaning to detract from the real worth, or under estimate any of the good work done by any farmer incumbent of this office, we are of opinion that Dr. Loring brings to the position a greater degree of fitness, and a better adaption to the proper performance of its important duties than did any of his predecessors. A gentleman of high scholarly attainments, broad culture, and intimate knowledge of public affairs, he is at the same time, a most enthusiastic inton counties.

Office opposite Lock Haven National Bank. 20-ly and successful agriculturist, as his own well-managed and productive farm testifies. He has long been prominently connected with whatever is best in New England agriculture, and is now, and for sometime has been, President of its inter-state agricultural society. We believe the new commissioner has in a high degree, the qualifications needed to give the farmers of the country a sucessful administration of their department of

> FROM all parts of the county reports come to us that the corn is fully looked after at this season. ports come to us that the corn is failing to come up because the seed was not good, and that where it does come, the cut worm is preying upon it with ususual rapacity. This is most unfortunate and will probably have the effect of reducing the crop much below the usual average of the much below the usual average of the to wait a week or even ten days for county. So far as lack of germinatcounty. So far as lack of germinat-ing power in the seed is concerned, the plants continue to grow in the plant our readers will remember that the DEMOCRAT predicted this state of affairs several times during the winter, and repeatedly urged upon farmers and repeatedly urged upon farmers
> the unusual necessity which existed
> for testing the seed corn before planta large tobacco field need not to be told for testing the seed corn before planting time. In many cases the neglect to do this will amount almost to a to do this will amount almost to a disaster, and in all cases where the seed proves to be deficient, it will bring much trouble and expense. To say that this vexatious state of affairs is the logical result of our careless, shipshod habits of farming, will not be very consoling, but the recognition of the fact may prove salutary. Notwithstanding the soft condition of the corn when harvested last fall, and the exceptional severity of the winter, those who selected their seed at the proper time, and cared for it in the proper way, will be able to congratulate themselves that they have no re-planting to do, and can turn a nice penny, by selling "seed-corn that will grow" to such of their neighbors as those who selected their seed at the

tions upon the cultivation of the to-bacco crop. We have given it a period of several weeks. careful perusal with a view to abridgement, but find that this cannot be is well to note that the tendency of packing case.

TOBACCO CULTURE.

How to Raise the Coming Crop.

THE TIME FOR SETTING OUT THE PLANTS-HOW TO SET THEM OUT-A MOIST SOIL IMPORTANT—THE CUT WORM TO BE LOOKED AFTER—VARIOUS OTHER MATTERS.

In our last article we gave minute directions about the preparation of the tobacco ground for the reception of the plants. The time is now near at hand, in this latitude, when the plants will be in a sufficient state of forwardness to transplant. As the seed was sown late, however, they are not so far advanced as is usual at this time. The untoward season also retarded work on the tobac-co fields, and every effort should be made to get them ready at the earliest possible moment, so that when a favor-able spell of weather comes along the tobacco grower will be ready to take advantage of it. All depends upon doing the right thing at the right time; in being ready to avail yourself of any favorable circumstances that may turn

Plants may be set out at any time from the 20th of May to the same time in June. From the 1st to the 10th of June we think a better time than either of the first mentioned dates. The plant requires in an average season about 100 days from its removal from the seed bed to grow and mature fully. If set out too early, and the weather proves unfa-vorable, it is likely to become stunted, mature prematurely without attaining the fullest development of leaf, and, besides, be deprived of the August and September dews, which are well known to be very beneficial to it. If, on the other hand, it is set out too late, there is danger that the early frosts of fall may come before the crop is ripe, and the hard labor of the sesson rendered administration of their department of affairs at Washington, and we take pleasure in thus early wishing him abundant success.

The fact of the session is a single night. Early in June is, perhaps, as good a time as any, although the tendency here in Lancaster county is to plant as early as the season and the plants will admit.

THE WEATHER AN IMPORTANT FACTOR. Then, too, the weather must be care showers that will put the ground in bed, and if the soil is sufficiently damp afterwards they will grow right along and make a better "stand" than if set out a week previous in the dusty earth. We are well aware plants can be made no one needs to be told that nature's plan of irrigation is far more beneficial than that of man. We say, then, do not be too much in a hurry. Wait on the hoped-for rain at least a few days. If it does not come in time, the farmer will still have the opportunity of re-sorting to the slow and tedious process of hand watering. Remember, the long-er the plants remain at a stand-still in their dusty beds the longer the dreaded cut-worm will continue to work its rav-ages. If the soil is in good condition and the plants make an early start they are soon beyond the reach of this ever present enemy. Replanting, of course, is unavoidable, but the less of it the

any other kind upon well-enriched ground, give it the best cultivation possible, remove all barren stalks before tasseling time, and when harvested, care for it in such a way as to have it thoroughly dry before hard freezing comes.

We give a very large proportion of our space again this week to Mr. Diffenderfer's current chapter of instructions upon the cultivation of the to-

Few of the operations in tobacco farming require greater care and nicety ment, but find that this cannot be done without seriously imparing its value to those for whose instruction and benefit the series is intended. It is well to not a series in the decision of the series is intended. It is well to not a series is intended. It is well to not a series is intended. It is not a series in the series in the series in the series is intended. It is not a series in the series is intended. It is not a series in the seri can be easily put into this condition publishing from time to time, for all Mr. D.'s articles is towards an by careful watering. Each plant should be removed by itself, and care must be improvement in the quality of leaf exercised not to tear the roots or bruise grown, and not to an increased quantity; and upon this point we desire to moval. The plants should be carefully emphasize and reinforce all he may after-value of the plant bed. Only a say. The extended observations and single plant should be drawn at a time. close study which a personal interest lif the removal of more is attempted small ones are often taken with the in the crop leads us to bestow upon large ones, giving the field an unequal it, confirms us more and more in the opinion heretofore expressed that the the best plants are, of course, those grower who will in the future realize the most satisfactory returns from it, are those who confine themselves to a small acreage, and give to this the enemies of the tobacco field. Thin very best possible attention, in all sowing will generally do away with much its stages, from the seed-bed to the annoyance on these points. They may be carefully placed in a

basket and in this way carried to the field. Here the planting should be done as rapidly as possible. A boy with the basket in hand passes between two rows and drops a plant on every spot marked, and drops a plant on cree, plant on a pre-as we have already explained in a pre-ious article. He will be able to drop ious article. He will be able to drop the plants quite as fast as two men can plant them. A variety of methods and devices are in use for this purpose. Some use a light trowel, which is thrust into the ground, pressed to one side, and in the opening thus formed the roots of the plant are inserted, when the trowel is withdrawn and the earth closely pressed around them. This at least has the merit of speed, but we do not advise its practice. The more nearly the roots are placed in the position they were while in the seed bed, the more likely and more quickly the young plants are to grow. A better way is to use a planting peg, about six inches long by one and a quarter in diameter, round, the lower end tapering with a rounded point. This the planter must throw about two inches into the hill, then withdraw it, and into the opening made the roots of the plant must be put and the dirt carefully pressed about the roots. If there is time and the If there is time and the field is not large the hands can be used with better results than either the trowel or peg. The necessary opening in the ground can be scooped out and the roots of the plants put into their naturthe grot al position and the ground drawn over them. This is a slow process, but it is the best. Few care to practice it, not the best. Few care to practice it, not is to be planted, will most likely prebeing willing to encounter the labor it entails. The ground around the plant must not be left higher than the plant amply repaid him for his trouble. itself or a heavy rain may cover the lat-ter with dirt. If possible, a slightly shallow disk may be left around the plant the better to catch the rain apid planting is desired the peg system gives the best results. Let the planter tart in on his row with a plant in his punched into the hill the plant is eady to be inserted; a moment is suffi-tion to give the required compression, after which, before rising, let him take the one dropped on the hill, adjust while moving to the next hill, and be ready to place it in the hole as soon as he gets there. If not too stiff in the back bone one man can set out from 3,000 to 5,000 plants in a single day. Here again the skill of the grower will manifest itself. If the plants are of good size and strong, and have been carefully planted, nearly all will grow, while weak, tender ones, badly planted,

will compel you to do much of your PLANTING IN DRY WEATHER.

When the ground is too dry and the lants are getting too large in the seed ed, the farmer will be compelled to do the best he can under the circumstancs. Watering the plants on the ground be comes a necessity. There are several comes a necessity. Inere are several ways of doing this, and each one has its advocates. Commonly, water is hauled to the field in barrels and a small quantity is applied to every plant set in the ground; this has a tendency to bring the ground closer to the roots as well as to supply the required moisture. This operation must, of course, be repeated on the succeeding days until the plant has commenced to grow, or until timely rains render it unnecessary. It has also the tendency to bake or harden the soil around the plant and thus impede its rapid growth.

rapid growth.

A few farmers, however, pour the water in a shailow hole a few minutes previous to setting out the plants, and on the ground thus moistened set the roots of the plant and draw the earth around them. A grower of much ex-perience assures us he has had better results from this plan of planting in dry weather than any other. The moisture does not dry out so rapidly, neither does the surface ground bake nor become hard. He informs us that he does not find a second watering necessary, but his plants come along without further trouble. Of course, when the ground is wet or the necessary rains put in their appearance, all this tedious watering is not required, and the planter is spared a world of trouble.

SOME OTHER POINTS.

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Should the weather be very warm and the sun pouring down its hot rays on the newly-set-out plants they will on the newly-set-out plants they will wither readily unless protected in some way. Any method will do, provided it is effectual. A clod of earth, a piece of paper, a bunch of grass, the leaf of a weed like a burdock, either of these will act as a shield. A piece of old shingle stuck on the south side of the plant is a favorite method with many farmers. All except the last mentioned must of All except the last mentioned must of course be removed in the evening and replaced in the morning, which entails a vast amount of labor.

THE CUT WORMS.

No sooner are the plants removed to

the field before they are compelled to encounter another enemy in the cut worm, which seems to await their comworm, which seems to await their coming to make its presence known. This
insidious and destructive enemy does
his evil work in the darkness of the
night. Within twenty four hours after
the field is planted the worms are at
work. No time must be lost in looking
for them. There is no trouble in finding them. When you see a leaf eaten
off, or the entire plant, and partly
drawn into a small hole in the ground,
search for the enemy and you will find
him in the shape of a brownish black
worm, near the mouth of the hole. Kill worm, near the mouth of the hole. Kill him and look whether he has any companions. The early morning is the best time for this work, as he is then nearer the surface; later in the day he goes down further, doubtless driven there by the heat of the sun. Keep going over the field every day or two until the plants have grown beyond the reach of the cut worms. Replace the plants thus destroyed, as well as those that have died from other causes. There must be no vacant hills; our land is too valuable for that. It is well to have some large plants in reserve for this purpose, so that there be no noticeable inequality in the appearance of the field. Plants with leaves five or six inches long and a stalk perpertionately stout can almost bid the cut worm defi-

grown in this country last year—only a half acre, however—was raised in this wise: After the plants were out of the ground a few weeks they were trans-planted into small flower pots used by florists. Here they were left until the leaves were two and a-half and three inches wide and of corresponding length and the stalk stout and vigorous. They were then carefully removed from the pots and set in their places in the field, with all the ground still on their roots. They never drooped, grew from the hour they were set out, hardly any were attacked by worms, and the result was the highest priced leaf we have seen. The cost of the earthen pots and seen. The cost of the earthen pots and the additional labor, where a large field

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