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TRAVELER'S GUIDE.

BELLEFONTE & SNOW SHOE R. R.—Time-Table in effect on and after March 1, 1881:
Leaves Snow Shoe 5.36 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. A. M.	Mail. P. M.	WESTWARD.		EASTWARD.	Mail. P. M.	Exp. Mail. A. M.
8 10	7 02	Arrive at Tyrone	Leave		7 32	8 48
8 3	6 55	Leave	East Tyrone	Arrive	7 39	8 55
7 59	6 51	"	Vail	"	7 42	8 58
7 55	6 47	"	Bald Eagle	"	7 47	9 02
7 48	6 36	"	Fowler	"	7 52	9 09
7 42	6 33	"	Hannah	"	7 55	9 13
7 35	6 25	"	Port Matilda	"	8 00	9 19
7 27	6 17	"	Martha	"	8 07	9 25
7 18	6 08	"	Julian	"	8 15	9 32
7 9	5 57	"	Unionville	"	8 23	9 39
7 00	5 48	"	Snow Shoe In	"	8 32	9 45
6 56	5 45	"	Milesburg	"	8 34	9 48
6 46	5 35	"	Bellefonte	"	8 43	9 57
6 36	5 25	"	Milesburg	"	8 54	10 08
6 25	5 15	"	Curtin	"	9 06	10 19
6 18	5 10	"	Mount Eagle	"	9 12	10 25
6 9	5 01	"	Howard	"	9 20	10 37
5 55	4 50	"	Eagleville	"	9 38	10 49
5 50	4 45	"	Beech Creek	"	9 40	10 54
5 34	4 33	"	Mill Hall	"	9 54	11 16
5 29	4 30	"	Flemington	"	9 57	11 20
5 25	4 25	"	Lock Haven	"	10 01	11 25

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.—(Philadelphia and Erie Division.)—On and after December 12, 1877:

WESTWARD.

ERIE MAIL leaves Philadelphia	11 55 p m
" " Harrisburg	4 25 a m
" " Williamsport	8 35 a m
" " Lock Haven	9 40 a m
" " Renovo	10 55 a m
" arrives at Erie	7 55 p m
NIAGARA EXPRESS leaves Philadelphia	7 20 a m
" " Harrisburg	10 50 a m
" " Williamsport	2 20 p m
" arrives at Renovo	4 40 p m
Passengers by this train arrive in Bellefonte at	4 35 p m
FAST LINE leaves Philadelphia	11 45 a m
" " Harrisburg	3 35 p m
" " Williamsport	7 30 p m
" arrives at Lock Haven	8 40 p m

EASTWARD.

PACIFIC EXPRESS leaves Lock Haven	6 40 a m
" " Williamsport	7 55 a m
" arrives at Harrisburg	11 55 a m
" " Philadelphia	3 45 p m
DAY EXPRESS leaves Renovo	10 10 a m
" " Lock Haven	11 20 a m
" " Williamsport	12 40 a m
" arrives at Harrisburg	4 10 p m
" " Philadelphia	7 20 p m
ERIE MAIL leaves Renovo	8 35 p m
" " Lock Haven	9 45 p m
" " Williamsport	11 05 p m
" arrives at Harrisburg	2 45 a m
" " Philadelphia	7 00 a m
FAST LINE leaves Williamsport	12 35 a m
" arrives at Harrisburg	3 58 a m
" " Philadelphia	7 35 a m

Erie Mail West, Niagara Express West, Lock Haven Accommodation West, and Day Express East, make close connections at Northumberland with L. & B. R. R. trains for Wilkesbarre and Scranton.
Erie Mail West, Niagara Express West, and Erie Express West, and Lock Haven Accommodation West, make close connection at Williamsport with N. C. R. W. trains north.
Erie Mail West, Niagara Express West, and Day Express East, make close connection at Lock Haven With B. E. V. R. R. trains.
Erie Mail East and West connect at Erie with trains on L. S. & M. S. R. R., at Corry with O. C. & A. V. R. R., at Emporium with B. N. Y. & P. R. R., and at Driftwood with A. V. R. R.
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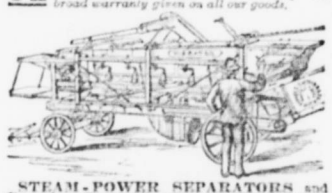

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The Centre Democrat.

BELLEFONTE, PA.

WE publish to-day the last of Mr. Diefenderfer's series of articles upon the cultivation of the tobacco crop. The points which it covers quite as important as any of those which have already been discussed and they are treated in the same masterly manner. We counsel those of our readers who are interested in the growing of this crop to preserve the copies of the DEMOCRAT in which these articles have appeared, as they constitute the most practical and best-written essay upon the subject that has yet appeared.

THE "mid-summer number" of *Vick's Magazine* is a beauty outside and in.

EX-COMMISSIONER LE DUC'S tea farm in South Carolina, has proven a failure and Mr. Sanders, recently sent by Commissioner Loring to inspects and report upon it, recommends its abandonment. As a sample of Mr. Le Duc's capable management the report states that "about $300 per month are expended for the supervision of $60 worth of labor," and adds that the climate is too cold to grow tea. We have taken pleasure in commending Mr. Le Duc for whatever efforts be put forth in the real interests of American agriculture, but this whole tea business has been an absurdity from beginning to end, and we hope that Commissioner Loring's sterling common sense will decide him to adopt Mr. Sanders' suggestion.

SPRING is the best time for setting strawberry plants. The next best time is now.

IN speaking of its experimental corn-field the *Rural New Yorker* says: "The advantage of flat cultivation and having the plants stand a foot apart instead of crowded together in hills, is very apparent during this drought. The leaves up to this time have curled far less than those of neighboring fields." Tally one more for flat culture. Carefully conducted experiments in plowing and leaving unplowed alternate strips through the corn fields would soon convince farmers of the impropriety of present modes.

LANCASTER county papers report the tobacco crop in that section as suffering greatly from dry weather, and in several townships from hail storms.

Clean, Pure Wheat for Seed.

In England, when they wish to avoid cockle or other noxious weeds, the seed is brought into the house and the family are employed for weeks in picking over it carefully and rejecting every unsound or imperfect grain, frequently using a magnifying glass to facilitate the operation. In this country we cultivate on too large a scale to use such means, but, however, as there is considerable time during evenings between now and October the spare time could be profitably spent in overlooking the seed. The utmost care is necessary, and future labor will be saved thereby. —*Cor. of Philadelphia Record.*

It is scarcely practicable for any ordinary farmer to hand-pick all his seed wheat, but it is by no means a formidable task to give his care to a single bushel. This we know from actual experience. This one bushel carefully drilled in upon one acre of well enriched and thoroughly prepared land will furnish from thirty to forty bushels of pure, clean seed for next year sowing. Try it.

SECRETARY EDGE has announced that the Fall meeting of the Pennsylvania Board of Agriculture will be held at York, on Tuesday, October 4, at 1 P. M.

TOBACCO CULTURE.

HOW TO GROW THE PRESENT CROP.

How to Tell When Tobacco is Ripe—The Proper Time for Cutting—How to Cut—Putting on the Laths—Tobacco Scaffolds and Wagons.

Special Contribution to the Lancaster New Era.

We come now to the final operation of the tobacco grower on his crop while still in the field—cutting and housing it—and here as everywhere else along the line, the utmost care, prudence and judgment must be exercised. It is just as possible for the planter to damage his crop through ignorance or neglect at this final stage, after having safely brought it through all its previous besetting dangers, as at any previous period of the season's operations. What has been so carefully watched and guarded, therefore, through the many weary days of early spring and summer, deserves especial attention at the final moment when the farmer can almost see that his season's work is about to be amply rewarded. To cut and house his crop in the best possible manner is all important, and to tell him how to do this, will be our aim in the present chapter.

THE TEST OF RIPENESS.

In from two to three weeks after it has been topped the tobacco plant begins to ripen. The change that then occurs in the plant is very marked and not to be mistaken, even by an observant novice. The uniform green color of the leaves is no longer maintained. They assume a mottled or spotted appearance. These spots are not always alike in color, but are by turns yellowish, reddish and brownish. They are discernable at a considerable distance from the plant. The upper leaves should also have expanded until they approach the lower ones in size, and the plant generally presents something of a uniform appearance. If, however, these signs are not sufficient, another is at hand to lend its confirmation. When ripe, the leaves become more brittle and when taken between the thumb and fingers and doubled up they break easily. Either of these indications is an infallible sign of maturity, although the former is much the safest guide to a new beginner. By watching it closely he cannot be deceived or make a mistake.

WHEN TO CUT TOBACCO.

In a plant that matures as slowly as tobacco, there are as a matter of course various stages of ripeness, which may perplex the grower somewhat. At what particular stage shall he cut it? While under ripe—fully ripe—or over ripe? And this we may say is a very important matter for the grower of seed leaf tobacco, as experience has demonstrated to the old growers of this county. Several important considerations come to the front which cannot be ignored. If the heaviest possible yield is the only object, then, undoubtedly, a fully ripe plant will give the most weight. Then the plants have attained their fullest possible development, and are richest in gum, which does not evaporate as the ordinary juices of the plant do, but remains, adding to the weight. Cutting tobaccos, those grown in the South and used for the manufacture of plug tobacco, are not cut until they are fully ripe. If not cut when fully matured it will begin to lose in weight. Among many of the growers in Pennsylvania, this same course is followed. But just here the matter of color steps in and largely directs the matter. Our best growers have demonstrated to their entire satisfaction that tobacco when cut before it is fully ripe will cure a richer, darker brown than when left to mature fully; and as the ultimate value is largely dependent on its dark chestnut color, this settles the matter. There may be a slight loss in weight, it is true, but the increased price the product commands more than compensates for the loss in pounds. But this is not the only reason that might be urged for early cutting, although it is amply sufficient in itself. Rain and hail storms are not unfrequent in tobacco-growing regions, and all are aware how these can damage a crop. We have seen a splendid crop, ready to cut, reduced to fillers in five minutes. This is a contingency likely to occur at any hour and not to be lightly regarded. A single day may decide whether the crop will sell for 25 or 5 cents. Then, again, if the tobacco is a late crop, a well-known acquaintance of the farmer, familiarly called Jack Frost, sometimes comes along when his presence is little desired, and he will settle the value of the crop even more effectually than the tobacco worms, the grasshoppers, or the flea beetles. A timely removal of the crop from the field is the only remedy against this destroyer. A single day may make all the difference to the planter, and in this matter, as everywhere else along the season's chain, he cannot afford to run any chances. He will, therefore, endeavor to keep on the side of safety, even though it be to cut his tobacco two or three days earlier than he would prefer to cut it. The weight of the various advantages is, therefore, clearly on the side of early cutting, and the Lancaster county planters have, as a rule, made that fact one of the vital points in their tobacco growing.

WHEN NOT TO CUT TOBACCO.

One of the essential constituents of tobacco is the resinous gum so palpable to the touch when a green leaf is handled. It is one of its most valuable properties, and being freely exuded by the glands of the leaf, is liable to be washed off by rains. Tobacco should, therefore, never be cut immediately after a rain. Wait three or four days, during which time the plant will again secrete the necessary supply of gum, and then it may be cut without danger from this cause. Neither should the plants be cut while covered with dew. If laid on the ground in that condition dirt is likely to adhere to them. Try and avoid a very hot day if possible in which to cut tobacco. If left too long in the heat to wilt it is likely to sunburn, whether it be in the morning or afternoon. The afternoon is the favorite time to cut tobacco with many farmers, but there is no good reason why this should not be done in the morning as well, especially when the day is cloudy and the general conditions favorable. It must not be forgotton that care is necessary to prevent sunburn. Half an hour is enough under certain circumstances to produce this result. If there is danger from this source, the tobacco should be turned as it lies on the ground. Never cut more in the morning than you can put away by noon, or more in the afternoon than can be taken care of on the same day.

HOW TO CUT TOBACCO.

The cutting off of the plants should be carefully done. Small saws, large knives and sharp cutters such as are in cutting corn are used. Some prefer one instrument and some another; so that the work is done quickly and easily it don't matter what instrument is used. The operator seizes the stem of the plant—not the leaves—with his left hand, bends it over slightly and cuts or saws it off with his right hand near the ground, below the lowermost leaf. The plant must be laid on the ground, carefully so as not to injure the leaves. If several rows are cut through the field at the same time the plants from both may be laid together which will give ample space to perform the operation of spearing afterwards. If a number of stalks are placed in one heap less walking will have to be done later in the day. The tobacco is left lying in the rows until it has wilted sufficiently to admit of easy handling; the leaves lose their brittleness and can be manipulated more easily.

PUTTING IT ON THE LATHS.

Formerly there were many methods in vogue to hang up the tobacco, but the almost universal practice now is to string the plants on laths one and a half inches wide, from five-eights to three-quarters of an inch thick and four feet long. This is done by means of an iron spear head, beveled on both sides, moderately sharp at the cutting edge and with a socket into which the lath fits closely. One end of the lath is placed firmly on the ground while the iron spear is affixed to the other and held with the left hand; with the right hand pick up a plant at the butt end and affix it against the spear, then with both hands grasp the plant and press it against it until the stalk has been pierced and the plant pushed to its place on the lath. Another practice rapidly coming into vogue by the most advanced growers is to have a socket affixed to the tobacco wagon itself, which leaves the lath in a horizontal position, and by which the leaves of the plants can be kept from becoming entangled, as each stalk is pushed to its proper place on the lath at once, and requires no further re-arrangement. The leaves are also kept from the ground during this operation, which is an important matter. The size of the plants must govern the number that is put on each lath. When they are large, five or six will be enough, for crowding must be avoided; but where they are small seven or eight can be strung on a single lath. When left in the field to wilt first, of course they can be put closer together. Years ago, before the spear was known, the plants were strung up with strings sometimes, or fastened to the rails in the barn with nails. Both these processes were more tedious and did not give such good results. Latterly a few growers have adopted a plan which we believe possesses advantages over the method of spearing the plants. This is to use laths a little heavier than those now employed, drive nails into them on alternate sides at a sufficient angle to prevent the plants from slipping off while handling them, and on these hang the plants by making a small incision at the butt. It is generally conceded that the splitting of the stalk by the spear allows that portion to dry out too rapidly, quicker than the unsplit portion, and thus the leaves cure unevenly. It is also held that the more slowly the stem dries, the finer the leaves will be. Both these advantages are obtained by hanging the plants on the laths by hooks or nails firmly attached to or driven into the laths. The one objection to this plan is that the laths prepared on this principle are much more costly, and as most of the growers have the old kind, they are unwilling to incur the expense of getting the other ones. These laths also allow the filling up of a given space more evenly as the leaves are hung on both sides alternately instead of right in the centre as by the old method. Those who use them unite in speaking very highly of their many advantages. When used in the field, a lath is hung on the rear end of the tobacco wagon in a place specially designed for that purpose, where it is held firmly in its place and when filled a second man on the wagon can hang it over the rails and substitute an empty one to be filled in turn.

THE TOBACCO WAGON.

There is no more useful implement at the tobacco growers command than the tobacco wagon. It is the great tool of his trade and the wonder is it was not invented long before it really was. By means of it the tobacco is safely carried to the field scaffold and from thence to the tobacco barn. No progressive tobacco planter should be without one. It is so well known that we deem it unnecessary to described it here. Suffice it to say that instead of being piled on each other to a height of from three to six feet and liable to great damage thereby, and thus hauled to the scaffold or barn, the plants after being speared are easily hung on the four feet wide upright frame and transported without sustaining any damage whatever.

THE TOBACCO SCAFFOLD.

The common practice in Lancaster county is now to scaffold tobacco prior to putting it in the barn. The advantages are less danger from overcrowding and heating, greater security to the leaf and economy of space, as wilted plants will occupy far less room in the tobacco shed than green plants just out of the field. The practice has everything to recommend it. The scaffold is erected in some suitable place in the tobacco field, generally under the shade of some trees. Here posts, forked poles or some other contrivance is set up and on these at intervals of four feet rails of some sort are affixed horizontally, and sufficiently high not to allow the tobacco to touch the ground: on these the tobacco laths with the plants speared on them are hung, and left to dry for a period, varying with the fancy of the planter, from three to ten days, when the leaves will hang loosely apart, and they are once more removed upon the upright frame of the low tobacco wagon to be carried where they are to be cured and receive their final manipulation.

CONCLUSION.

As we adopted for this series of articles the general title of "how to grow the coming crop," our task properly ends when the matured plants are safely hung in their appropriate barns to undergo the process of curing. But as the tobacco shed or barn has been vastly improved during the last ten or fifteen years, and as no really first class seed leaf can regularly be cured and further manipulated without a barn constructed purposely to this end and on certain well recognized scientific principles, there is a most important part of the tobacco grower's art left untold. For the present at least it must remain so, so far as the writer is concerned, although the subject of tobacco barns, curing the leaf and preparing it for the market may at some future period form the subject of several other chapters on the great agricultural industry of tobacco growing.