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Passengers by this train arrive in Bellefonte at.

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The Centre Democrat.

BELLEFONTE, PA.

AGRICULTURAL. NEWS, FACTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

THE TEST OF THE NATIONAL WELFARE IS THE INTELLI-GENCE AND PROSPERITY OF THE FARMER.

discovers 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.

WITH the costly lesson before us of the enormous losses to this year's crop from defective seed corn, it is to be hoped due precaution will be taken to lay in a store of seed by selecting and carefully preserving good sound ears; and it will be well to make the supply abundant. Your neighbors may want your surplus at remunerative prices, and if they are fortunate enough to have good seed of their own, what you may have left over will be none the less salable as feed for the extra care you have given it.

WE do not remember any seeding season in which the use of the field roller was in such constant demand its services were so important. The lumpy condition of many soils, consequent upon their extreme wetness early in the season, succeeded by the severe drouth, has required its repeated use to bring them into anything like the proper mechanical condition for sowing. Now that this has been, in a measure, accomplished, continued absence of rain leaves them in such a loose and dusty state that its use after sowing is essential to germination of the seed. We regard the roller at all times as one of the most important and useful of farm implements, but the peculiarities of the present season seem to have made its good qualities more than ever prominent.

CENTRE county farmers are not only just but generous, and would not think of rejoicing over any reported failure of crops, consequent upon the drouth, in other sections of the country. Nevertheless, "Misery loves company," and we confess to being a little less uncomfortable on the score of the discouraging emptiness of our barns and cribs, when we learn that we are "no worse off than our neighbors" of other counties and other States. The Rural New Yorker comes up smiling with an amusing cartoon of "The Long Island farmer gathering his crops." His face wears a most forlorn expression as he trudges homeward with a basket upon one arm containing his entire crop potatoes and garden truck, a small plumpness of grain-which is sickel in the same hand, and in the other his whole grain crop, done up in a single sheaf of wonderfully slender proportions.

In our reply, in the Democrat of 150 pounds per acre is enough for the 22d instant, to the inquiry of our correspondent, W. A. K., as to where last year, a field of twenty acres was certain seeds could be obtained, we partly top-dressed with fermented inadvertently omitted to include in the field without manure. With the the list of dealers our local farmers' supply store, of which Messrs, Alex- was drilled in, except on about two ander & Co. are the proprietors. The there was no phosphate used. At omission was wholly due to a slip of the pen, caused by the haste in which | ference in favor of that portion where a press of duties compelled us to manure and phosphate were both ap-write, as we had taken pains to refer plied. The next best portion was to the files of the DEMOCRAT, and found that Messrs. Alexander & Co. advertise seeds of all kinds as well as farming implements. Justice to our correspondent, who, of course, wants to obtain his seed at the nearest point; to Messrs. Alexander & Co., who are among our most prominent and enterprising business men; and as the plot with the commercial fer-tilizer is ahead of the plot with no to our own uniform practice of updressing whatever .- Orange County holding and encouraging home enterprise, demand the prompt correction of the omission.

The success of a fair, especially of a local one, depends mainly upon the work of few—often one—very enthusiastic and hard-working persons. We believe so thoroughly in fairs, and especially in the local ones—county in preference to State fairs, and town fairs rather than those of the county, that we would increase the number of workers, and have every one within the district included by the fair feel that he is a committee of one charged to make it a success.—Am. Agriculturist.

We are sure that the officers of one

found other than official neglect Possibly you, reader, may have failed to properly support them.

Superphosphate in the Wheat Field.

Superphosphates have been used in this season's sowing of wheat in this county, to a much greater extent than ever before, and the question of the ultimate profit to be derived from their use receives a large share of attention whenever and wherever farmers congregate. In view of this interest in the subject the following paragraphs are not untimely, though the wheat for the season is sown, and the corn nearly harvested: The quantity of superphosphate

usually used in this section, where this fertilizer has been extensively employed in wheat culture for several years past, and where the soil is much of the character described by an inquirer-"light clay"-is from 150 to 200 pounds per acre, with which is usually mixed 50 or 100 pounds of gypsum (land plaster). It has been my practice to drill in about 200 pounds per acre, deeming that a lib-eral dressing, and it has not failed to add largely to the crop, and in some cases the superphosphate would seem to be the making of a fair crop, when without it there would have been a failure, as shown by leaving a cast of the drill without the fertilizer. as the present one, nor one in which I have grown forty bushels of wheat per acre where no other fertilizers had been used for three preceding crops. The quantity that can be used with profit will doubtless depend much on the condition of the soil. A crop can assimilate only a certain amount of mineral plant food and we assume that the maximum crop of wheat in our climate is seldom above fifty bushels per acre, hence if we apply directly to the plant the mineral element contained in that bulk of grain we have supplied all the crop can use. A soil that is much exhausted will

> superphosphate than a soil that is less exhausted. Observation has taught me that in some cases a much greater quantity than is usually applied can be made profitable on lands reduced low, and a less quantity is all that is profitable on land in good state of fertility. I have used super-phosphate on land in such state of fertility that no effect could be seen from it, and I have observed instances where a double quantity had been sown with proportionate increase of growth. On an occasion the feedbottom of my drill became so worn that two drills sowed about double the quantity of phosphate that others did and those drills of wheat showed a ranker and heavier growth of wheat, which was observed by many during the season. In the use of super phosphates the farmer must be governed by circumstances, as in most other farm operations, to gain the most profitable result. On a fertile soil no gain there may be profit in using 300 pounds mixed with plaster.
>
> When yard manure is applied to When yard manure is applied to wheat land, a sufficient growth of straw is usually produced, but some-times there will be a failure in the effect of too much ammonia and not enough phosphate in proportion. The application of superphosphate

use profitably a larger quantity of

improve the quality of grain and will give a profitable return in such case, but a less quantity is needed; I think seed the usual quantity of phosphate barvest time there was a marked difwhere phosphate was applied without manure and the poorest wheat on the field was that portion where manure was applied and no phosphate.—F. P. Root, in the Tribune. The corn could hardly be much better and the only dressing the plot has received is the common barnyard manure. This plot is as far ahead of the plot with the commercial fertilizer

Stable manure must not be lost sight of, in this increasing interest in these concentrated fertilizers, for we cannot produce our crops and have enough for ourselves and others, without its aid; and there is nothing in all the list of commercial mixture,

knows to other interested and eager farmers. Now the first paper that the farmer looks for, and opens when he gets it, on his weekly visit to the post-office, is his agricultural journal. And the farmer who is most respected and consulted by his neighbors. and whose farm and work are models and examples for the neighborhood, is the one who reads and studies the agricultural papers the most carefully.—Rural New Yorker.

Alfalfa, or Lucerne, in California.

We quote the following paragraph from a California correspondent of the American Agriculturist for the further information of such of our readers-as W. A. K .- as may be interested in Alfalfa as a forage plant :

This is particularly adapted to our soil and climate. It has been in successful cultivation in the central and southern parts of the State for a number of years. Here from two to five crops a year are harvested, the yield varying from five to eight tons, and in some instances as high as ten tons per acre in a single season. The first cutting is usually considered the best, being sweeter than the succeeding crops. As a pasture it is highly appreciated, owing to its almost perpetual growth; there being only a short period (the cold wet season) in which it does not thrive. Care must be taken when stock is first turned on it to avoid bloat, afterward there need be no uneasiness on that account. Some such pasture is especially necessary to the success of the dairy interests. It is claimed by some that Alfalfa (both fresh and cured) affects the flavor of milk and butter, but if fed, mixed with other feed, there seems to be no such trou-If it be fully cured, and cured with especial reference to dairy feed. it undoubtedly will not affect either taste or scent of the milk or butter.

Here is a good and sufficient explanation of the present high prices asked and paid for butter:

Butter comes from milk, and milk comes from food. This is not a re cent discovery; but it has occurred to us, from an examination of the herds of some dairymen, that they do not yet realize the fact that "milk must come from the food," as their cows have received but scant food to keep them in respectable condition, without yielding milk. They act, practically, as if the cow had power to produce milk independently of any food. Her mechanism is intended for a most liberal production of milk but she must have the raw material out of which to manufacture it. The generous cow, striving to do her duty, will yield a small amount of milk at the expense of the flesh of her own body.

But if all the butter sent to market were made after the following formula there would be less reason for

growling at the price: Honest butter is the perfect product of the perfect dairy. The perfect butter dairy contains several essential and indispensable factors. 1st. The best cows of the best breed, for the finest quality of butter. Perfect management, good fodder, pure water, convenient and clean sta-bles, cool and clean creamery, systematic and judicious manipulation of the dairy products. 3d. Cleanliness. 4th. Cleanliness. 5th. Cleanliness. 6th. Cleanliness. 7th. Clean-liness, with the cows. 8th. Cleanliness in feeding, milking, stabling, handling milk, cream and butter. 9th. Cleanliness and taste in packing for market. 10th. A devout spirit of appreciation in eating a clean, aromatic, waxy, naturally golden colored, solid, sweet and delicious dairy product-honest butter.

Weather Prophesies

Here is how Bob Burdette, of the Burlington Hawkeye, gets ahead of Vennor, the Canadian weather clerk:

If the corn husks are very thick, the Winter will be colder than the

If the corn husks are very thin, the Summer will be warmer than the

If the corn husks are neither too thick nor too thin, the Winter will be cold and the summer will be warm.

This paragraph, clipped from the Rural New Yorker, is not strictly 'agricultural," but we have no doubt that if it were read aloud in the family of every farmer in the land, and duly pondered by all who hear it, the agricultural interests would be great-

ly the gainer:
The best "luck" that can fall upon believe so thoroughly in fairs, and especially in the local ones—county in preficulty in the local county in preficulty in the local ones—county in preficulty in the local county in preficulty in the local county, in all the list of commercial mixture, which give so good an average return for the money invested in it, as well-in the man preficulty in the district in the local county in preficulty in the local county, even in the most prominent and counting in all the list of countries in the most preficulty in the local in the most prominent an