

S.	BELLEFONTE, PA.
	AGRICULTURAL
	NEWS, FACTS AND SUGGESTIONS.
	THE TEST OF THE NATIONAL WELFARE IS THE INTEL GENCE AND PROSPERITY OF THE FARMER.
	Every farmer in his annual experien discovers something of value. Write it a send it to the "Agricultural Editor of t DEMOCRAT, Bellefonte, Penn"a," that oth farmers may have the benefit of it. I
,	communications be timely, and be sure the they are brief and well pointed.
_	Le Duc and Sugar.

The Centre Democrat.

In his preliminary report for 1880, ex-commissioner of agricultural, Gen. Wm. G. Le Duc, after detailing his attempted experiments in the manufacture of sugar from sorghum, says : On the whole these experiments, although made under very unfavorable circumstances, have been attended with so fair a measure of success as to give ssurance that, with the machinery now in position and an adequate amount of cane, planted at the right time and cultivated in the right way, both sorph-um and corn-stalks can be profilably employed in the production of sugar for market. It is to be in the sorth for market. It is to be hoped that Congress will vote the funds necessary to continue these experiments as long as they promise to be of great value to the people. .

tabular statement showing the condition of the industry among the people at large will be found appended to this report, by which it will be seen that very decided progress has been made during the past year in the di-rection I had the honor to propose some two years since, to wit, the manufacture at home of all the sugar we consume, with some to spare for export. This statement and the many letters upon the subject from intelligent correspond-ents in every part of the country justify the belief that the crop of 1884 will terminate our dependence on foreign nations for this article of prime necessity.

Congress did, at its last session, "vote the funds necessary" to the amount of \$45,000, and Gen. Le Duc "purchased the machinery and other apparatus, appointed several additional chemists," and caused to be the report in this issue. planted one hundred and thirty-five acres of sorghum cane, which it is fair to presume was "planted at the right time, and cultivated in the periment, the manufacture of the of newspaper readers : cane into sugar, was carried out unannual report just published the new commissioner says that "forty-two acres of the 135 planted in sorghum were overtaken by the frost before sufficiently ripe for use, and the crop was so badly damaged as to be regarded as unfit for experiment;" leaving ninety-three acres to manufacture. On the first page of his report we find the following :

The process of manufacturing sugar from sorghum has been conducted by the best skill I could obtain in the country, under the eye of experienced chemists, and with ample and somewhat expensive machinery, run by an accomp-lished and faithful engineer.

lished and faithful engineer. The crop was gathered with the great-est possible economy of time, labor, and expense, and the work was carried on with as much expedition as the season would allow. The result of this work will be found under the appropriate head of this communication and in the elaborate report of the chemist of the department. department.

### Books, Catalogues, &c. We have received from G. W. Fisher,

of Rochester, N. Y., a copy of his little book known as Fisher's Grain Tables. The grain tables contained in it are very complete, showing at a glance, the value of any number of pounds of grain, at any price from ten cents to two dollars per bushel. The title does not, however, by any means express all the contents of the book, as in addition

to the grain tables, it contains many others of special value to the farmer, such as tables of wages, board, rent, interest, capacity of grainaries and hay mows, cost of pork and numerous miscellaneous tables. Price 40 cents.

ONE of the most interesting catathat of Mr. N. W. Dunham, of Wayne, Du Page county, Ill., the widely known importer and breeder of Percheron than thirty-eight full page portraits of every owner or lover of good horses. good service by his activity in the introduction of these splendid animals, reward is abundant.

W. E. BOWDITCH, Seedsman and Florist, of 615 Warren street, Boston, sends us his catalogue of flower seeds and plants. Seventy pages illustrated, and of interest to all who grow flowers. Mr. Bowditch also publishes The Ameri can Florist and Farmer, a monthly magazine devoted to floriculture, at \$1.50 per year. Those of our readers who are lovers of flowers will please take notice.

WE are indebted to Dr. Loring for ed copies of his report of the Department of Agriculture for 1881. It appears with a somewhat unwonted degree of promptness, which promises well for the new commissioner's administration. We make one or two brief extracts from

#### The Farmer's Vacation.

We quote the following excellent and timely paragraph from our neighright way." For reasons entirely bor, the Ciinton Democrat, whose vetbeyond his control Gen. Le Duc sur- ran chief is not only one of the best rendered his commissionership to his editors in the State, but a practical successor, Dr. Loring, on the first of farmer as well, and knows the needs July, and the remainder of the ex- of farmers as well as he does those

Many of our exchanges will not der Dr. Loring's supervision. In his issue during the present week-there-annual report just published the new by giving their employes a week for recreation. Our schools are closed and the teachers and scholars are enjoying a vacation. This is customary and is right. But the farmer who needs a vacation as much as any business man needs one, seems to find it impossible to lose a day. A week's run to town after the busy season is over will do him a world of good. And he needs to visit other farmers, to learn, if possible, easier and better methods of tilling the soil and living. He should attend farmers' conventions and organizations to gain new ideas-something to broaden and enlarge his views of life. During the coming month a week could be spent both pleasantly and profitably by an attendance upon the course of thirty lectures which will be given at the Pennsylvania State College, Centre county, commencing January 17th. These lectures will be free and treat upon farm topics and will not fail to benefit the listener.

On page eighteen we find the "re- sure to see the dark side of iife. On page eighteen we find the "re-sult in tabulated form, from which sult in tabulated form, from which storms and droughts and thunder will "pass away and be at rest." showers and freshets visit other

# The Horseshoe and Its Applica-tion.

Dr. Blade, in American Agriculturist for Januar The number and disposition of the nails depend upon the kind of shoe. For speed and light draft, from five to seven may be employed, while for heavy horses and for heavy draft the number may be increased. Where few nails are used they should be more widely distributed than is usually the custom. When it is remembered that the introduction of every nail is so much injury to the struct-ures of the foot, it will readily be seen that the smaller the number requisite for the purpose the better for the animal. In driving the nails, it is essential that a thick short hold of the crust should be had, rather than a long thin one. Not only is the ogues which has lately reached us is shoe thus held more firmly, but there is a probability that the nail holes may, by the downward growth on the horn, be removed at the next by the downward growth of importer and breeder of Percheron horses. The catalogue contains no less not exceed an interval of four or five weeks. The points of the nails should the most noted and important of Mr. be shortened to just that length Dunham's horses, besides a descriptive which will permit them to be turned and extended history of the Percherons, over and hammered down smoothly, which make it of great interest to with perhaps the least possible rasping. The common method of rasping notches for the extremities of Mr. Dunham is doing the country the nails is not advisable. In fact, as I have already said, the rasp should never be used upon the exterand we shall be glad to know that his nal walls of the hoof except in cases of absolute necessity to prevent striking of the opposite limb. Its use destroys the natural polish, exposes parts beneath which are not fitted for such exposure, and renders the horn brittle, and liable at any moment to quarter cracks and other

## Rotation of Crops and Manures.

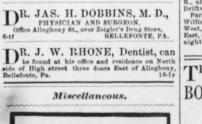
maladies.

Dr. Miles, in American Agriculturist for January In summing up the advantages of

a systematic rotation of crops, the supply of manure that can be obtainin the residual produce of the feed provided for animals in the course of cropping, and the ultimate profits that may be derived from the manure when applied to the soil, must not escape attention, as they are matters of great practical importance. From the wide variations observed in the action of farmyard manures on different soils, we cannot decide upon any standard that will enable us to determine their absolute value, in promoting the growth of crops in any given case. For example, a dressing of manure on a heavy soil would not produce precisely the same results that would be obtained by the same manure on a light soil. and the different effects observed in the two cases would be still farther complicated by variations arising from peculiarities of seasons. The direct method of experimentation for determining the absolute value of manures, which would at first sight be suggested, cannot, therefore, from the complex conditions involved, be applied with any prospect of succes.

It will be readily seen from what has already been presented, that a variety of crops grown in succession will tend to economize the elements of fertility in the soil, so that the greatest aggregate return for natural productiveness, or for manures ap-plied would be obtained; while the continuous growth of a single crop would result in the waste of some of the valuable constituents of the soil which are not in a form available for it, but which could be made use of by other crops.

IT will be a bright day for the world when agriculture is shorn of its pres-ent nonsense and takes its proper place among human avocations. That place is the first place because it is the most important and the noblest for developing true men and women. And then it will rule the world in-stead of being ruled by it, and the



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esting extracts :

sold 2-328 gallons, at 33 cents per gallon, and the money covered into the treasury. Thus we see that "an adequate amount of cane, planted at the right time, and cultivated in the right way," by one commissioner, and manufactured by his successor "under the eye of experienced chemists, world." with ample and somewhat expensive

machinery," and "with the greatest possible economy of time, labor and expense, produces from ninety-three and one-half acres of land one hundred and sixty-five pounds of sugar, and a residium of two thousand, nine hundred and seventy-seven gallons of sirup, worth \$972.41, at a cost for raising and manufacturing, in addition to the somewhat expensive ma-

chinery, of \$8,257.04. This gives us only \$41.05 per pound. "This statefor this article of prime necessity.

farms besides their own; that weeds longitude; that flies and dirt accumulate and annoy other households beof the sirup made there has been people live. Could farmers manage so as to be confined less to their farms, could they work more in partnership as do men in other business, or could they believe it profitable to employ men competent to properly manage affairs while absent on a short season of recreation and enjoyment, they would then be in reality what they have the name of being, the most "independent people in the

> THE time has arrived when the crop-reporting system should be made more thorough and accurate and its results should be communicated to the public at the earliest possible moment. A synopsis of such results, furnished to the press by telegraph, should command general publication throughout the country in advance of the full printed report forwarded by mail.—Comissioner Loring.

THE successful farmer, like the successful teacher, is an experimentthe sugar at a cost of \$7,374.63, or alist. He does not run his experiments all over the farm, but while ment" will hardly "justify the belief the main business proceeds according ment" will hardly "justify the belief that the crop of 1884 will terminate our dependence on foreign nations work.

THAT in agriculture we have still and insects thrive in all degrees of great room for improvement every one must be aware who realizes that a large proportion of our staple crops sides the ones they preside over. In is as yet, as it were, a spontaneous short, they need to learn how other production of the earth, and that exhausted soils are abandoned for more fertile regions as the best method of farming .- Commissioner Loring.

> THERE is no wisdom in working a thirty acre field year after year to get five bushels of wheat or ten of corn to the acre, when with the same expense for fertilizer you could raise fifteen bushels of wheat or thirty of corn on ten acres .- Practical Farmer.

> WATER is a good thing, either as a beverage or a solvent; but it loses its beneficent qualities when falling through an orifice made by a missing shingle on top of a barn.

PLASTER scattered over the floors of the fowl-houses is a powerful ab sorbent, preventing the smell which arises from the droppings.

EVERY observing man sees, in the East at least, that the future of farm-ing depends upon live stock. It is the one great essential to success.

It is poor policy to have even the kindling wood to prepare during the busy and hot days of summer.

HALF fed, half cared for cows, exposed to the cold are a bill of ex-pense instead of a profit.



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