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TRAVELER'S GUIDE.

BELLEFONTE & SNOW SHOE R.R.—Time-Table in effect on and after March 1, 1881.

Table with columns for Train Name, Direction, and Time. Includes routes like Bald Eagle Valley Railroad and Pennsylvania Railroad.

PENNSYLVANIA RAILROAD.

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

Table with columns for Train Name, Direction, and Time. Includes routes like Erie Mail, Niagara Express, and Day Express.

ERIE MAIL leaves Philadelphia at 11:55 p.m. Harrisburg at 12:25 a.m. Williamsport at 1:55 a.m. Lock Haven at 3:25 a.m. arrives at Erie at 7:35 p.m.

NIAGARA EXPRESS leaves Philadelphia at 7:20 a.m. Harrisburg at 10:50 a.m. Williamsport at 12:20 p.m. arrives at Erie at 4:40 p.m.

PACIFIC EXPRESS leaves Lock Haven at 6:40 a.m. Williamsport at 7:55 a.m. Harrisburg at 11:55 a.m. Philadelphia at 3:45 p.m.

DAY EXPRESS leaves Erie at 10:10 a.m. Lock Haven at 11:20 a.m. Williamsport at 12:40 p.m. Harrisburg at 4:10 p.m. Philadelphia at 7:20 p.m.

ERIE MAIL leaves Philadelphia at 4:35 p.m. Harrisburg at 11:45 a.m. Williamsport at 3:35 p.m. Lock Haven at 7:30 p.m. arrives at Erie at 8:40 p.m.

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The Centre Democrat.

BELLEFONTE, PA.

AGRICULTURAL.

NEWS, FACTS AND SUGGESTIONS.

THE TEST OF THE NATIONAL WELFARE IS THE INTELLIGENCE 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, Penna.," that other farmers may have the benefit of it. Let communications be timely, and be sure that they are brief and well pointed.

It is a rare thing to have so long continued a low range of the thermometer as prevailed since the 10th instant, at this season of the year. It seems almost impossible that fruit shall not have suffered to a very great extent. We shall be much interested in reports from those of our readers who sowed their clover seed during the first ten days of the month. We fear many will mourn that "clover is not a good catch this year."

THE old Quaker said to his son: "John, never get trusted, but if thee gets trusted for anything let it be for manure, because that will help thee pay it back again."

THERE is no "guess work" and no shade of uncertainty as to the manner of producing good crops. Plants must be fed if they are to be productive and the farmer who uses but little manure should not complain if his crops are small.

A New York farmer states that he uses only coal gas tar to prevent the ravages of the potato beetle. He puts a gallon of tar in a tub, over which he pours boiling water, which is allowed to settle and cool. This is sprinkled over the vines with an ordinary sprinkler. A gallon of tar, costing 75 cents, suffices for several acres of potatoes.

I AM fully convinced that farms can never grow old and worn out if clover and sheep are grown on them. One with the other is better than either alone. Taking into consideration the benefit our farmers derive from sheep, we can afford to sell wool very cheap; so cheap that I do not care to say how low the price can be. The safety of sheep stock is another point not always considered, as, if he dies, he leaves his wool or pelt to pay his board since his last clip. He dies out of debt to his owner, and if the owner does not secure the goods and chattels of the deceased, it is not the sheep's fault. In fact, from the hour of his birth he begins to pay his board, by scattering manure wherever you allow him to run. —V. F. Richmond.

Relentless War on all Insects. If boxes are placed in the orchards with holes small enough to keep out the blue birds and our pugnacious sparrows, the wrens will build in them, but not unless the holes are small enough for them to barely enter. Being very small in size, the wren will seek such boxes for protection, and they will wage relentless war on all insects.

Washing the Bark. We have always regarded good cultivation as more important than washing the bark of fruit trees with lime, soap or potash, and that is one reason why trees which are washed grow better than others is because those who take the pains to wash the bark take better care in other ways. Nevertheless, the washing of the bark may benefit the trees to a certain extent, at the same time that the appearance will be improved. If lime is used, it should be so thinly mixed with water as not to form a crust, or to give a white coating to the bark. Potash should be so weak as not to corrode the bark of young trees. One of the best applications, however, appears to be a solution of aloes in warm water, which readily destroys the insects and their eggs in the bark.

Where and How to Apply Fertilizers. It is often difficult to decide—whether for barn-yard or stable manures, or for any artificial fertilizer—whether to apply it on the surface, or bury it deeply. Here is a hint or two. If not strong enough to injure the first tender roots, a little manure near at hand gives the plant a good send off, like nourishing food to the young calf or other animal; the aftergrowth is much better if the young animal or plant is not dwarfed by imperfect and insufficient diet. Therefore, drilling innocuous hand fertilizers in with the seed is useful, as is putting some well-rotted manure or leached ashes into hills of corn, potatoes, indeed with all planted seeds. But there are good reasons for distributing most of the manures or fertilizers all through the soil, and as deeply as the plant roots can possibly penetrate. The growth and vigor of all plants or crops depend chiefly upon

a good supply of strong roots that stretch out far, and thus gather food over the widest extent of soil. If a flourishing stalk of corn, grain, or grass, be carefully washed, so as to leave all its roots or rootlets attached, there will be found a wonderful mass of hundreds and even thousands of roots to any plant, and they extend off a long distance, frequently several feet—the farther the better, to collect more food and moisture. Put some manure or fertilizer in place two feet away from a corn or potato hill, or from almost any plant, and a large mass of roots will go out in that direction. So if we mix manures or fertilizers well through the whole soil, they attract these food-seeking roots to a greater distance; and they thus come in contact with more of the food already in the soil, and find more moisture in dry weather. A deeply stirred soil, with manure at the bottom, develops water-pumping roots below the reach of any ordinary drought, and the crops keep right on growing—all the more rapidly on account of the helpful sun's rays that would scorch a plant not reaching a deep moisture.

Keep the Lambs Over. It is profitable to keep lambs over one winter and sell in spring as "shearings," clipping the fleece early in the spring. I speak now of "Southdowns." With judicious feeding, Southdown shearing lambs will weigh 150 pounds, and if the market is watched will bring 6 cents per pound, bearing in mind the high favor in which Southdown mutton stands compared with other sheep. This price can easily be obtained from year to year. The wool of the Southdown always tops the list, and is worth on an average 40 cents per pound.

I am yearly being more convinced that the farmer who sells a lamb when 4 months old commits a grievous blunder to his own hurt. Let us figure a little: The value of a fleece of say 7 pounds, at 40 cents per pound, is \$2.80; the carcass of, say 150 pounds, at 6 cents, is \$9.—in all, \$11.80. Deduct \$3, the selling price of a lamb at 4 months old, and we find the farmer has \$8.80 for the keeping of the lamb from 4 months old until sold as a shearing.

Southdowns are a shearing; more can be kept to the acre than any other breed; their wool and mutton always brings a high price, and in other respects for general utility they stand ahead of all others. I have not any Southdowns for sale, and these lines are penned hastily for the purpose of eliciting still more information upon the point touched as to the keeping of all lambs till they are "one shear."

Cultivation of Millet. Some ten years' experience in growing millet for a forage and hay crop, has given me such a very favorable opinion in regard to it, that I think it is more profitable to farm without meadows—relying upon clover, in rotation with other grain crops and millet, to supply the want of the stock for fodder—than to devote so much land to meadows. This crop is rich in the albuminoids, so essential for the production of milk, and I know of no dry food that is more valuable, and I esteem it above the best timothy or red-top for that purpose.

I always sow a full bushel of 50 pounds per acre, for several reasons: When sown thickly, the growth is more to foliage than to stalk, and by crowding, a finer quality of fodder is produced. The price of seed usually ranges from \$1.25 to \$2 per bushel. As last summer was a most remarkable season to mature crops, it is to be presumed that prices will be low the present season.

When a person has once commenced to raise millet—and finds that he has a genuine variety of any of the popular sorts—the better way then is for him to save his own seed, which can be very cheaply done if he has a tight barn floor. As no one will usually need over ten bushels of seed, a fourth of an acre of the best of the crop can be allowed to stand until thoroughly ripe. It can be easily cut and brought to the barn, and the seed when dry, can be trodden out with horses or colts, and then cleaned up. If the seed is not all removed no loss will result, as the straw will be fed to stock. Another way is to run it through a threshing machine, saving the greater part of the seed.

Top-Dressing is Always a Benefit. It was noticed, a long time since, that in sections where the soil was very or only moderately fertile, the dust blown from highways on the adjacent fields acted, in some cases, as a strong, and, in nearly all, as a beneficial fertilizer. The conclusion was thus jumped at that livestock rock, ground fine, would act in the same way; but experiments with it did not justify the expense incurred, and that method of fertilizing was abandoned. Nevertheless, practical men have long since discovered that a top-dressing of any kind has an influence for good on crops out of all proportion to the amount used. Thus, for example, on the strong clay lands of the winter wheat regions of Illinois, where the

soil lacks nothing for the wheat crop but vegetable matter, and nothing for corn except that of moisture, it is found the lightest kind of a top-dressing of manure acts marvelously in increasing the yield of the cereals. By some these astonishing effects are attributed to the fungous spores in the manure, which act as yeast acts, and set up the phenomena of nitrification, which seems to be essential to all soils where great crops of the cereals are produced. Just why these things are so we do not yet know, but we do know that a top-dressing of almost any kind is a benefit, both to the crops and the land, and may be indulged in, in almost any case, with the certainty of getting well paid for the work done.

Why Some Farmer Do Not Succeed. They are not active and industrious. They are slothful in everything. They do not keep up with improvements. They are wedded to old methods. They give no attention to details. They think small things not important. They take no pleasure in their work. They regard labor as a misfortune. They weigh and measure stingily. They burn wood when there is no need. They are wasteful and improvident. They are fretful and impatient. They ruin stock by low fencing. They let their gates sag and fall down. They will not make compost. They let their fowls rove in the trees. They have no shelter for stock. They do not curvy their horses. They leave their plows in the field. They hang the harness in the dust. They put off greasing the wagon. They starve the calf and milk the cow. They let their pigs thump in the dust. They go to town without business. They don't know the best is the cheapest. They have no method or system. They go out too often to 'see a man.' They have no ear for home enterprise. They see no good in a new thing. They never use paint on the farm. They plant very late in the spring. They stack fodder in the field. They prop the barn door with a rail. They let the horse stand in the rain. They let the clothes dry on the fence. They let the hoops fall from the tubs. They neglect to trim up the trees. They have no shelter for wood. They milk the cows late in the day. They burn out the stoves with a blaze. They have no time to do things well. They have no garden in the fall. They don't believe in rotation of crops. They see no use in variety. They see no difference in seeds.

Points for Sheep Growers. At the annual meeting of the Kansas Wool-Growers' Association, held at Topeka in January last, it was substantially agreed to as the expression of the meeting that, as a general thing, washing is not likely to prove profitable; that dipping in tobacco juice will eradicate lice, with which a number of flocks were reported troubled; that the bounty on wolf scalps should be increased, and the legislature earnestly urged to pass an effective dog law; that straight breeding, rather than crossing of the different breeds, was most desirable; and that millet, given in reasonable quantities, was not harmful to breeding ewes.

Sure to Come. The large loss of milk from the protracted drought of last season should admonish dairymen of the danger of letting the spring go by without making some provision in time for supplying green food in a mid-summer drought, which, for a longer or shorter term, will be very sure to come. A stitch in time, etc. But no one need beg the delusion that applying to one part of a farm the products of another part, will make one part rich without impoverishing the other.

The man who year after year, allows manure to lie in his barnyards is pretty sure, sooner or later, to lack the money to pay for phosphate and other fertilizers. CAREFUL thought may involve hard work, but when it is devoted to the legitimate business of the farm, it invariably proves to be labor well invested.—Farm and Garden.

FARMING without judicious reading and careful study, has the odds against it. Toiling and sweating is not enough. SUPERPHOSPHATE, guano, nitrate of soda, etc., are the soap, and dung is the roast beef of the plant's dinner table. THERE is no danger of using too much manure for early cabbages.



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