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Good trout fishing in the immediate vicinity. A cool
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CHAS. L. L. & A. V. 3 & 4 CO.,
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"For Neuralgia in the limbs, stomach,
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The Centre Democrat.

BELLEVILLE, 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
CENTRE DEMOCRAT, Belleville, Penna.," that other
farmers may have the benefit of it. Let
communications be timely, and be sure that
they are brief and well pointed.

Poultry Notes.

By the Free Special Contributor.

Neglect is the prime reason why so
many people have what they call
"poor luck" with fowls.

The fear of lice is the beginning
of wisdom in the hen business. The
breeder who masters that difficulty
will find other things comparatively
easy.

It is less difficult than many sup-
pose to know every fowl of a flock by
sight. Variety in form and features is
not confined to the human race.

The habit of feeding a flock of
fowls a little each morning, not half
enough to fill their crops, and then of
giving no more until the next day, is a
common practice and a short-sighted
one. No domestic stock can be
profitable if kept in a half starved
condition. Comfort is the first re-
quisite.

When fowls are forced to roost in
trees or under open sheds in winter,
don't make any serious complaint if
dishonest neighbors steal them. Death
puts them out of a great deal of mis-
ery. When forced to sleep in this
way at night it is a rational conclu-
sion that their comfort and happi-
ness by day are not much studied.

When fowls are very wild it does
not speak well for the care and kind-
ness of the owner. There is gener-
ally good reason for excessive fear
and shyness that does not all pertain
to the breed. Better have fowls that
will take corn from between your
teeth than have them dash through a
window when you unexpectedly enter
their premises. To chase them with
dogs is not the way to gain their con-
fidence nor to deserve it.

Variety in food is what the poultry
owner should bear in mind. Not all
corn, nor all fresh meat, nor all of
anything else which is excellent, but
a little of nearly everything by turns
that a fowl likes. Corn may predom-
inate, but corn will ruin a flock in
time. Still it must be said that not
enough corn ruins a great many more
flocks; in other words, starvation. A
hen or pullet that is thin and poor
about the 1st of November need not
be counted on to be profitable through-
out the winter.

A room for fowls to roost in at
night, into which a man cannot get,
is an excellent place in which to
breed hen cholera. Fowls can stand
considerable in the way of bad smells
and bad air, but to roost month after
month over a fermenting pile of their
own droppings a foot deep or more is
pretty sure to bring about results that
will lead the owner to say that "hens
don't pay." Have a place into which
the owner can get every day and keep
it clean, the cleaner the better. If a
horse stable is to be cleaned out
every day, why not a hen house two
or three times a week?

DEEP TILLAGE AND DROUGHT.

Last week three of the leading agri-
cultural papers of the country dis-
cussed the value of deep tillage as a
preventive of damage by drought.
No fact is better established than this.
If the soil is stirred deeply before
planting the roots will find a more
enduring supply of moisture to carry
the crop through a season of dry
weather. Opinions differ as to the
propriety of stirring the surface
when the air contains little moisture,
but it is not unreasonable to suppose
that under these conditions the up-
per stratum of soil will dry out more
rapidly than if left alone. But, on
the other hand, if made to lie more
loosely it may be more effective as a
mulch upon the finely pulverized
stratum below, where the roots are
feeding. It is to be remembered, also,
that this preparation for drought is
also the best safeguard against exces-
sive moisture. Indeed, it would be
difficult to find a season, wet or dry,
when deep cultivation and thorough
drainage would injure an ordinary
farm crop.

The Peach Borer.

"I have received much information
from the farmers' department of your
paper, and now come to you for ad-
vice. I bought a farm this fall, and
on it are about seventy-five young
peach trees. In digging around the
roots I find in some of them borers
and in others a multitude of small
worms, pure white, from one fourth
to one-half inch in length, about the
size of a coarse thread, and very
tough. Can you tell me what these
are, and how to save my trees? I
dug the worms out as well as I could
and put ashes around the trees." The
grubs infesting your peach orch-
ard are peach tree borers. The eggs
are deposited in the summer on the
base of the trunk near the collar.
There they are hatched and bore
their way under the bark of the tree,
either in the stem, root or both, pro-
ducing usually, though not always,
an effusion of gum. The usual treat-
ment of trees affected by these bor-
ers consists in removing the earth
from around the collar of the root,
scrapping away the gum, destroying
any cocoons that may be found and
tracing the grub through their holes
in the tree with a wire or other prob-
ing and killing them, being sure to de-
stroy every one; then filling up
around the tree with fresh earth and
placing a shovel or two of ashes
around the base. John Rutter, the
well-known Pennsylvania peach grow-
er, after removing all grubs, rubs
around the base of the tree, an inch
or so beneath the surface, about an
ounce of hard, yellow soap, and ap-
plies the same quantity to the place
injured by the worm or in the inci-
sion made in probing after it. The
soap, in his opinion, repels the insect
and the borer and acts as a stimulant
to the trees. Some of our corre-
spondents have attested to the efficacy
of boiling water poured in all around
the neck of the tree, so that it may
flow into and fill up every hole, thus
destroying all by a scalding flood. An
objection to this plan is there is no
certainty that all the grubs will be
reached. If one grub is left in the
tree the work is not well done. Wood
ashes and strong soapsuds are excel-
lent applications for the peach trees.
Ashes and lime form an excellent
dressing to be applied about the trees
spring and fall.—Cor. N. Y. World.

A HOG SHED.—Prof. S. R. Thomp-

son, Superintendent of the State Ag-
ricultural farm of Nebraska, reports in
The Farmer, of that State, some
preparations made for winter. Among
these is a shed built for the stock
cows of the farm. This imposing
structure stands on a knoll in the pig
pasture, and is thirty-two feet by
twelve. Its walls on three sides were
made by setting up two panels of our
movable fence two feet apart, and fil-
ling the space between with straw
closely packed. The front, which
faces the south, is boarded up, except
three feet square at each end, which
is fitted with swing doors. The up-
per boards, for two feet down from
the highest part of the shed roof, are
fastened together and hung with
hinges, so that they can be opened
in pleasant weather to let in the sun.
This edifice took the united labors of
two men a day and a half to build
it, requiring 200 feet of lumber and
fifty cents worth of hinges. The roof
is made by laying poles across and
covering deeply with straw. For
wintering stock hogs, a pen like this,
which can be changed to a new place
next year, has some advantages over
a fixed one, and no doubt the swine
will be as comfortable as any of their
brethren on the prairies.

SETTING OUT SMALL FRUITS.—The

advice of E. P. Roe is to set out
small fruits in the fall in well pre-
pared and deeply pulverized soil. The
following simple directions will secure
almost uniform success: Set the
plants so that there is four inches on
light soil and three inches on heavy
soil above the branching of the roots
after the ground is leveled off. Give
to each hill one or two shovelfuls of
manure on the surface around the
plant after the ground is leveled.
Just before freezing weather—say in
November in our latitude—mound up
the earth against the plant. This pre-
vents it from ever being heaved out
by the frost. Level these mounds as
soon as the frost is out in the spring,
and maintain level culture. I have
rarely lost a plant, and have usually
secured double growth by this course.

How to Avoid Disease.

Young chickens frequently die, and
it is almost an impossibility to raise
every chick that is hatched, more es-
pecially where the broods are large.
It does not follow that whole broods
should be lost. That so many die, is
the result of carelessness and negli-
gence. Unforeseen accidents happen
in every one's experience, but can be
avoided the second time. The gapes
is not the worst disease known to the
fraternity, for when this difficulty is
once thoroughly understood, it may
be avoided. There are also some
weak, puny birds among the broods,
that can never reach maturity. It is
better for these to drop off while
young, as no amount of care or nurs-
ing can be of avail. The strong, ro-
bust ones can be raised. To avoid
weakness, which is the hand-maid of
disease, the fowls should not be close-
bred. In order to secure strong
chicks from the start, the breeding
birds should be young, and in full vig-
or. They must be well fed and cared
for. Then the chicks come from the
shell strong and active. To avoid
weakness feed this strength with
strong hearty food.

Eggs from well kept hens are bet-
ter than those from poorly fed fowls;
therefore it is better to keep the fowls
well. If the chicks are well fed and
kept dry and warm, they are proof
against all disease. It is only the
poor half starved ones that are attack-
ed with disease. A strong, vigorous
constitution will stand a good deal
moistened meal, as many young be-
ginners are apt to think, is not good
for them. It is almost an impossibil-
ity for them to endure it day after
day, even if freshly wet, and not in
acid and fermenting state. Chicks
should be given whole grain, and fed
corn as soon as old enough to man-
age a kernel, which they will do quite
young. Strong, hearty food is sure
to prevent gapes, and full crops keep
the young blood in motion.

Strength and activity keep the an-
imal's blood in motion, and this pro-
motes growth. All of this is brought
about by giving good food, and keep-
ing the chicks clean, dry and warm.
Anything which retards growth, and
interferes with temperature and ac-
tion, promotes disease. Any damp-
ness of apartments where the fowls
are confined at night or throughout
the day, brings on roup, which is
often incurable. Dampness and cold,
chilly quarters provoke the gapes,
which often ends in death. Chicks
can endure quite a degree of cool air
if it is dry, without receiving an in-
jury, but dampness and cold are al-
most sure death. The diseases to
which chickens are subject may all
be avoided with care and forethought.
Fowls are regular in their habits, and
strict regularity should be observed
in feeding.

FARM AND HOUSEHOLD HINTS.—

Barley fattens young geese.

Salt sown under fruit trees kills
the codling moth.

Gas lime sown in the fields in winter
drives away moths and moles.

Plant the quick growing Virginia
creeper around trellises and out-
houses.

Keep chickens on clean runs and
away from manure heaps if you want
them to be free from gapes.

When forked trees threaten to split
twine and tie twigs from opposite
limbs together. They will unite.

Muslin full of stiffening matter
bleaches butter. Wash in clean water
before laying clothes on the butter.

Grease is said to be a sure remedy
for apple tree bark lice. It should be
applied caniously, however, for it in-
jures the twigs.

As the season has arrived when
curing meat is in order, we republish,
as of old, our famous receipt for cur-
ing beef, pork, mutton, hams, etc., as
follows:

To one gallon of water

Take 1 1/2 lbs. of salt,

1 lb. sugar,

1 oz saltpetre,

1 oz potash.*

In this ratio the pickle can be in-
creased to any quantity desired. Let
these be boiled together until all the
dirt from the sugar rises to the top,
and is skimmed off. Then throw it
into a tub to cool, and when cold,
pour it over your beef or pork. The
meat must be well covered with
pickle, and should not be put down
for at least two days after killing,
during which time it should be slight-
ly sprinkled with powdered saltpetre,
which removes all the surface blood,
etc., leaving the meat fresh and clean.
Some omit boiling the pickle, and find
it to answer well, though the opera-
tion of boiling purifies the pickle by
throwing off the dirt always to be
found in salt and sugar. If this re-
cipe is strictly followed, it will re-
quire only a single trial to prove its
superiority over the common way, or
most ways, of putting down meat,
and will not soon be abandoned for
any other. The meat is unsurpassed
for sweetness, delicacy and freshness
of color.

*omit the potash, unless you can get the pure arti-
cle. Druggists usually keep it.

Business Cards.

GEM BARBER SHOP.
Under First National Bank,
BELLEVILLE, PA.
R. A. Beck, [may 2 83] Prop.

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in Garmans New Block
BELLEVILLE, PA. 1-13

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