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The Centre Democrat.

NEWS, FACTS AND SUGGESTIONS. THE BEST OF THE NATIONAL WELFARE IS THE INTELLECTUAL 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, Penn'a," that other farmers may have the benefit of it.

Precautions against Drought. On account of the plentiful rains thus far it is not too much to expect that before the season is over we may experience some weeks of dry weather.

The leaves of plants give off moisture very rapidly. When we sprinkle a plant with water the moisture is not absorbed by the leaves as many suppose, but it arrests, temporarily, the rapid evaporation that constantly takes place, which is greater when the season is very warm.

The present wheat harvest has satisfied our farmers that none of the bearded varieties are to be relied on for the fullest crop. The soft nature of the straw throws it on the rich soil before the grain has time to fill.

COMFORT FOR STOCK—If stables generally could be warmed with safety by stoves there is no doubt that a saving in the amount of fodder would result. Much can be done in this direction by keeping animals in well built stables, and free from all chilling currents of frost-laden air.

WEEDS growing upon footpaths are easily destroyed by the liberal use of salt scattered over them. The salt should be scattered over the weeds when they are wet with dew, and as much as will quite whiten the ground should be used.

Not too great or too immediate effects should be expected from drainage. In loose, porous soils, draining easily and quickly, the effect is marked within a month after drainage, but in tenacious clays and soils which have been for a large part of the year under water, the change is slow and often requires a year to convert the drained field into friable and productive soil.

If you are a careful cultivator and have cultivated a particular kind of field corn for a dozen years or more, selecting the ears from the most fruitful stalks, while they stood in the field, and kept the corn improving from year to year, you have corn with a pedigree, and it can hardly fail to give a better crop next year than any seed corn you can buy, far or near.

When a horse is not doing well a pint of linseed oil may be given with benefit. It improves the digestion and softens the skin. A quart of linseed-cake-meal given once a day will have the same effect, and a pint of molasses put in the crib feed will be taken and then with relish and benefit. A teaspoonful of ground ginger may also be added occasionally.

Market gardeners find the growing of small cucumbers for pickles one of their most profitable crops. In most farm neighborhoods a patch for pickles will find a market among farmers at better prices than the market gardeners obtain at wholesale for their crops.

The Department of Inland Revenue of Canada has decided that tea-dust as an article of food is injurious to the public health, and cannot be admitted into Canada.

Utilizing Waste.

DIRT, it has been well said, is only "matter out of place." The waste of large cities, which occasions so much disease, can be so manipulated as to add to the fertility of the soil and increase the well-being of mankind.

The amazing growth of cities in the modern world is forcing upon us the consideration of sanitary problems unheeded by our fathers. It was considered in former generations a simple enough matter to convey sewage through pipes or conduits to some neighboring river or bay; but as the city grew and its sewerage increased, the water became poisoned and the once healthful shores were made the seat of all manner of foul diseases.

The sewers of the latter city are among the wonders of the world. An army can be marched to any part of Paris by making use of the underground passages. In this country we have paid far less attention to this important matter than it deserves.

Cities have grown so rapidly that the requirements of sanitary science have been overlooked in our haste to profit by improvements. It is only recently that Boston has built a great sewer to discharge the foul accumulation of that growing city into the ocean, yet it is admitted that this is sheer waste as the sewerage might be utilized to render fertile great tracts of land west and north of the city.

New York city, although surrounded by water, with two swift rivers on either side of it, is most imperfectly sewered. The health maps of the metropolis show large areas where fever and diphtheria claim a steady crop of victims due to dammed-up streams, dishonest plumbing and imperfect sewerage.

The reckless citizens of New York from ruining their noble harbor by dumping their garbage and debris into the channels used by deeply laden steamships, whose coming and going enrich that city. Some of the younger communities realize the importance of this matter.

Any one who visits the town of Pullman, near Chicago, will notice that the great Corliss engine, which attracted so much attention at the Philadelphia Centennial, is made use of in that artificially laid out city, to pump the sewerage to farm lands three miles away. This example is worthy of following.

The greatest of modern benefactors are those who are insisting upon the necessity of sanitary reform. He who puts dirt in its place—who rids a neighborhood of a centre of fever affection, who improves the plumbing of houses, and thus adds to the general health of the community, is the real philanthropist of our age, the true friend of humanity.

Drink Buttermilk. In warm summer weather many persons feel an irresistible craving for something sour, and often gratify the desire by a free indulgence in pickles, or vegetables made acid with vinegar.

This demand for acids indicates a deficiency in the acid secretions of the stomach, and the demand for an artificial supply is a natural one, but vinegar is not the best substitute. Lactic acid is one of the chief agents that give acidity to the gastric juice of the stomach in health. This is the acid of sour milk, and, therefore, one of the best summer diet drinks that we can use is buttermilk.

It satisfies the craving for acids by giving to the stomach a natural supply, and at the same time furnishing in its cheesy matter a good supply of wholesome nutrition. A man will endure fatigue in hot weather better on buttermilk than on any diet drink he can use.

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Wheat in Chester County.

The present wheat harvest has satisfied our farmers that none of the bearded varieties are to be relied on for the fullest crop. The soft nature of the straw throws it on the rich soil before the grain has time to fill.

and also tempts the new enemy that cuts the heads off, and has devastated so many fields within the past three seasons. This will exclude all the Mediterranean varieties, and many of the so called ambers. Among the latter, however, is a smooth headed variety known as "Martin's Amber," with very fine heads and quite promising, only it is slow about ripening, and of very sappy straw like rank oats.

Fultz is our standard, smooth headed variety, and very hard to excel for large yield, early ripening and stiff straw, but rather soft grain for making good flour. A new sort that I have been testing for the last three years, known as "Lemon," resembles it, but is a greater yielder of splendid grain and very stiff straw, without a fault that I have been able to find so far. I expect to seed with it altogether this fall.

"Golden Eureka," a Russian variety, is coming rapidly into favor. It is a great yielder, of immense growth, head measuring as long as six and even eight inches, and counting up to seventy-five grains to the head. It has the fault, however, of being too soft for good milling purposes.

I am testing a new sort called "McGehu," a nice looking amber wheat, with short, strong straw; grain sown first week of October, shooting May 23. I cannot speak reliably from one season's test, however.

—Wm. T. Smalley.

COMFORT FOR STOCK—If stables generally could be warmed with safety by stoves there is no doubt that a saving in the amount of fodder would result. Much can be done in this direction by keeping animals in well built stables, and free from all chilling currents of frost-laden air.

A few hours patching the walls, flooring and doors, with very little expense for lumber, would have made its good effects evident within a single week at the dairy-room. A cow is not at her best when she must shiver with the frost and snow of a severe winter night.

WEEDS growing upon footpaths are easily destroyed by the liberal use of salt scattered over them. The salt should be scattered over the weeds when they are wet with dew, and as much as will quite whiten the ground should be used.

It is better to use too much than too little, as in the one case no harm is done and the plants are totally destroyed, while with an insufficient quantity the weeds are only checked and soon recover, and both salt and labor are expended worthlessly.

By using salt to keep down the weeds a very good walk may be made of common earth or loam mixed with sand. A gravel walk appears very bright and clean after a dressing of salt. If the soil is clayey the walk should be well rounded, and then sanded and rolled. No walk should be made flat so as to retain water; if so it is never dry.

Gleanings. Not too great or too immediate effects should be expected from drainage. In loose, porous soils, draining easily and quickly, the effect is marked within a month after drainage, but in tenacious clays and soils which have been for a large part of the year under water, the change is slow and often requires a year to convert the drained field into friable and productive soil.

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