Agricultural Department

Renovating Worn Soil.

Crusoe asks for information in regard to renovating land by feeding instead of plowing under clover. This has often been answered, but will as often be asked as now farmers begin work. I have had experience in this line, dating from the beginning of my active life. I began with a naturally barren soil and raised it to average productiveness, and then improved a worn out farm to more than average productiveness. Now that I am pretty well used up, body and mind, with excessive toil, I want to say to all to let such farms and soils alone until nature and wild beasts have reclaimed them. There is enough good land id this country to produce all the markets require; therefore use your health and strength in working land which will pay now as you go along, instead of wearing yourself out in work for which the distant future alone can reward you. In the present state of the markets, and probably for years to come poor land will not pay for the working, and I know from hard experience that a renovated farm costs more in the end than one which needs nothing but well directed labor to insure a remunerative crop. The only exception to this rule with me is when the public health requires the reclamation of marsh or swamp land, or where some wealthy philanthropist wishes to give employment to the deserving poor, and at the same time indulge his desires for farm life. This may be at a variance with some of the teachings of our papers, and my own also, yet it is my candid opinion. Still, if one has a farm which must be renovated throughout and cannot sell it, let him make the best of it and endeavor to so improve it that it will pay and become more desirable.

I never grew clover for the sole purpose of plowing under. It has always been necessary to save it for hogs. My practice has been to seed heavy with clover and timothy, so that if one failed the other would occupy the ground. I never mow but once in a year, and never pasture the first year. If the land is intended for meadow and tillage, no stock is ever allowed to pasture it. One great cause of failure is pasturing the first year and taking off the second crop on poor land; especially pasturing with cattle after haying. Another cause is allowing the sod to grow too long. In improving land with clover, the rule must be to break up and seed down as often as possible. It should not in any case exceed two years in grass, and if possible only one, and only two crops of grain must be taken of before reseeding. *This is very important.* If the seed fails to grow, sow it again in the fall and harrow in. If the land is pastured, it is deprived of protection for winter, which is worth double the profit derived. Cattle bite off and tread and destroy the crop at the very time it needs the most care and assistance. As a clover plant arrives at maturity the second year, the greatest benefit is derived from plowing it then.

Only two crops should be taken off for then the land is right side up, with rotted turf just where it is wanted. Apply to this all the manure it is possible to procure, and reseed. Three rotations like this plowing no more than can be top-dressed when seeded, will make any land which is not entirely barren produce good crops. In all my experience in working every kind of soil known in eastern New York, I have never met with one really barren. The difficulty seems to be, not the absence of plant food, but its availability. The subsoil is to wet, cold or compact, and must be drained or gradually deepened. Perhaps the land by long cultivation has become deprived of vegetable matter; this must be supplied by turning down clover very often. All the land needs is thorough and scientific cultivation to produce bountiful crops. As a rule, poor crops are more chargeable to the farmer than to the farm. In looking back over my life, I see three kinds of farmers—the old fogy, who does so because his father did so; the theoretical man, who has a hobby to ride, and who will ride it every where, and the true enlightened scientific farmer, who uses the ability, energy and common sense which insures success where success is attainable. Some day I may give my experience in these methods and the results.

Troy Farmers' Club.

Meeting called December 7th, at the usual hour. President, A. H. Thomas in the chair.

Secretary Card—How wide should a stable floor be laid between the stanchion and the drop?

L. P. Williams—It should be four and one-half feet.

F. P. Cornell—The width of a stable floor must be varied to accommodate different breeds of stock. Jerseys, Ayershires, and natives will occupy from 4 feet 2 inches to 4 feet 6 inches. Durhams and Holsteins should have five feet and upwards. The drop should be from 6 to 8 inches deep and 12 inches wide.

Mr. Andrus—I have a cow that has an appetite for paper, cloth, mittens, etc. Can it be cured?

Cornell—She will probably lose that appetite in a year or two.

Williams—I wou'd advise fattening her.

A. H. Thomas—Can any member tell me how I may determine whether a certain cow is with calf or farrow?

Calkins—If she is six months gone you can hear the calf's heart beat—if your hearing is good—by listening with your ear near her flanks.

How much is a good cow worth?

S. Sherman—A good cow will yield two firkins of butter per year, and when butter is worth 20cts per pound, she is worth fifty dollars.

Thomas—I honor your judgement. A good cow will yield milk and butter in accordance with the food consumed. I would not be afraid to wager one of my cows that I can increase the flow of milk in my dairy, one qt. each within a week.

Williams—That is not my experience. I consider such cows worth $100 each. My cows with a few exceptions have shrunk very rapidly with liberal food.

Thomas—I think it best to feed corn liberally, and when they begin to fail in the dairy turn them off for beef.

McMahon—Have any of the members had experience with commercial fertilizer.

Sherman—Perhaps Cornel can tell of its effects.

Gladding—I have studied and experimented with the commercial fertilizer of our country and cannot recommend it. Swamp muck mixed with our stable manures make a fertilizer that is superior to any of them.

AUSTIN LEONARD, Sec'y

Educational Department

E. E. QUINLAN, J. A. WILT, J. T. MCCOLLOM, G. W. RYAN, A. T. LILLEY.	*Committee of Associate Editors.*

Communications may be sent to either of the above editors, as may be preferred, and will appear in the issue of which he has charge.

J. T. MCCOLLOM Editor.

THE HIGHER RULE AND SUPERVISION.

We are yet working blindly, and through a most circuitous and doubtful channel, for the perfecting of our public schools. Our dominant aim is to *educate teachers*. We are pushing hard to secure *better teaching*. All wise and well, but not enough. And simply because, just beyond the teacher, stands a public able to neutralize or thwart all his efforts at true teaching. That public is not only ill-informed as to the wants of such teaching, but it is also unaroused as to the superior importance of good schools. It is absorbed in politics, business accumulation, or securing a subsistence. Education is made, like religion, wholly secondary to these. The feast is spread for all these; only the crumbs that fall from the table are given to the real wants of the public schools.

What we mean by this is, that except in the few Athenian city-centres of education and culture, of which our riper New England happily claims some of the foremost and finest, the great mass of village and country schools, are solely destitute of means and appliances that are vital to good teaching. Insufficient and rude accommodations; the lower grade schools with a totally inadequate clerical force, the primary department often crowded with pupils beyond all possibility of just *individual attention and effective teaching*; and books, charts, apparatus, illustrative appliances, not only in the bare skeleton of a supply, but more often reduced, as it were, to the mere typical bone of the comparative anatomist, out of which the teacher must, if he can, *reconstruct the missing parts*. How deplorably deficient our schools are in these latter means! how disgracefully behind the older nations, over whom we have been so disposed to plume ourselves, everyone knows, who has studied the several exhibitions at the Centennial Exposition.

The key to the correction of this dominant evil, we are losing sight of altogether. And the secret of this in the application of our extreme democracy to our educational system. However fully we may, or must, leave our civil institutions to the care and control of the masses, the principal and method applied to our school system must be directly the opposite. All true and higher education is the creation and gift of the more enlightened and liber l minds. They only know what good schools and good teaching are, and must have. They only are so far lifted above the narrow, mercenary spirit of the masses, as to be willing to secure for both what is thus vitally necessary. Hence, the power to do this must, in some way, be lodged chiefly in their hands. They must be authoratatively empowered to control and direct in all these matters. There is no alternative.

Now what we mean by this, that there should be a vigorous and unyielding effort made to secure the withdrawal of the controlling power, from all mere *school district* authorities, and its lodgment in *the hands of select boards more thoroughly* removed from the penuriousness and prejudice of the masses. In other words, the State should make, modify, and perfect the schools, in the true interest of the people; instead of leaving them to counteract its own system, by marring or unmaking the school, at the *local* option. The higher authority should determine the grade of teacher to be employed; the number and classification of the different departments; the books and appliances to be used; and the supervision requisite to secure their just and effective use. To this end, our legislation should be speedily and resolutely pressed by the whole power of educators and teachers. It is the desideratum. Schools educate trained teachers to little good purpose, so long as the petty trustee determines the selection of the teacher in the interest of ignorance and narrowness of the district. The skilled teacher struggles in vain to introduce better methods, *so long as he is overborne* by numbers, and is at the mercy of the neighborhood. Schools and newspapers unavailingly spread before teachers the multiplied and marvelous artistic and mechanical appliances which duplicate his tact, and touch as with inspiration the interest of their pupils, so long as the people, who themselves need to be educated into the first right notion of good schools and true teaching, have power to bar the introduction of all these practical aids, in their blind content with a ragged dictionary, a discolored wall-map, a seven-by-nine blackboard, and a pound of lump chalk. Only the higher rule and supervision of the schools by the State, can correct all this. The State must leave the schools less at the mercy of incompetent, petty, local teachers. She must bring them more directly and effectively under her own control.

PRIMARY SCHOOL WORK IN NEW YORK.

In no part of the Union is the Common School so completely illustrated as in the city of New York. Nowhere is it exposed to *such peril from sectarian ecclesiasticism*, private dishonesty, official timidity, and the gross incompetency of many of its teachers. Spite of the heroic efforts of the friends of public education, and the vast amount of money appropriated (nearly four millions this year), the real *work of educating the masses is only begun*. Not half the children who enter the public schools at the age of five years, ever reach the lowest grammar grades,—indeed, we are assured that three and four years of actual instruction is the sum of their achievements. Only twenty-five hundred pupils are *receiving the benefit* of its splendid system of high and normal school and free collegiate training. The new compulsory education law seems to fail, especially in respect to great numbers of young girls, who are kept at home for domestic uses. A considerable body of German politicians are moving Heaven and earth to force their language into the lower, as it already is admitted to the higher grades.

The head of the Catholic and Episcopal Churches are openly opposed to the whole system. The school-house accommodation is miserably insufficient, and the architectecture of its average school-house *one of the marvels of the age*. The great mass of primary, and many of the grammar school pupils, are crowded upon benches, without keaks, in rooms utterly unsuitable. This miscellaneous herding of the children compels the separation of the sexes, even in primary schools. Another evil effect of this huddling of children, is the confusion of tongues that comes from the recitation of several classes in one room, compelling the teachers and children to cultivate that peculiar shrillness of tone known abroad as "the American war-cry." It also seems to us that the intensity and "snap" of the ultra-military features of the system, will tell on the nerves and health of these armies of little school soldiers.

It is only when all these disadvantages of the New York school system are seen, that the distinguished merit, especially of much of its primary school work, can be appreciated. Among the general disorder of this half-vagrant multitude that floods the school-buildings, a group of teachers of the highest order of ability have steadily wrought with a purpose. With the little sympathy from the clergy and other professional classes of the city, always in a state of siege by the ward politicians, by sheer force of high character and consummate ability, they have established many schools that can be shown as models of their kind.

Happily for the people, more of this work has been done in the primary than in other departments. Much of this success is due to the labors of Mr. N. A. Calkins, who for more than twelve years as instructor and lecturer in the Saturday Normal School, and, more recently, as assistant superintendent in charge of primary instruction, has been connected with the schools of New York. To appreciate his admirable services, one must overlook the work of the large number of lady principals and assistants trained by *him*, and *working constantly under his* criticism. Nowhere can the full merits of the object and oral system of instruction be so well seen as in these primary schools.

The most striking feature of this system is its adaptability to the practical *wants of the varying crowd of children* that frequent these primary schools. It is evident that it would be a hopeless task to attempt the instruction of such a changing multitude by the old system, which makes the primary course of study simply an introduction to a closely graded *curriculum of twelve years*. Acting under the pressure of this necessity, the primary school course has gradually atjusted itself to the wants of the pupil, and seems like a revolving rifle, charged and trained to hit these birds of passage on the wing.

In a school like the Thirty-Seventh St. *primary, an average child, between the* ages of five and nine, can really be *grounded* in the elements of a good education. The admirable discipline and drill keep alive the attention. The constant use of the blackboard and slate enables the teacher to individualize, while the exhilarating effect of class work tells on the laziest child. Every thing is done in the shortest, simplest, most direct, and natural way. In addition to the regulation reading, spelling, writing, and elementary arithmetic, these children are introduced to and thoroughly interested in geography, elementary grammar, the beginnings of natural science, geometrical forms, music, and drawing. In each of these departments real work is done, while a general enthusiasm for study pervades the classes. The regularity of attendance is remarkble.

In short, under the pressure of a provoking necessity, there h s been wrought out in these primary schools that imperative desideratum of the American common school,—*a practical course of study for the immense masses of American children whose school life is closed at the age of ten years*. The greatest waste of school effort in the country, is in the slovenly and aimless fumbling everywhere going on in this region of the system. As a rule, our high and upper grade of grammar schools will always be watched and made effective by the superior intelligence and interest of the parents of the small class there educated. But it is down at the bottom of the scale, where the myriads of the children of the poor are crowded together, that teachers become hopeless, working without aim or effect. It is not alone in the great cities that this evil prevails; but over east regions of the open *country, especially in the South*, the methods of primary instruction need complete revision. We be believe no book would be of such universal interest and value in this direction, as a little pamphlet of twenty pages, containing the actual course of study and methods of teaching wrought out in the best *primary schools* of New York. It should be written by the most wide-awake and successful lady principal of the city, and contain not a mere skeleton form of words, but a vital woman's talk to teachers, setting forth the ways by which her crowd of children are handled. Such a volume sown broadcast over the country just now, would bear rich fruit in every part of the Union. —*New England Journal of Education.*

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And examine the elegant

IMPORTED HATS AND BONNETS

that will be exhibited. Also the fine line of

CHILDREN AND MISSES' HATS,

OLD LADIES BONNETS AND CAPS.

The beautiful assortment of Satin and Gross Grained Watered Ribbon, comprising all the newest shades,

ORNAMENTS, FLOWERS AND FEATHERS

of every variety and style. In fact the

CHEAPEST,

most complete and elegant stock of goods ever offered in Towanda. "To see is to believe."

Remember the Grand Opening Sept. 26, 27 and 28

Towanda, Pa., Sept. 25, 1878. 17tf

MILLINERY!

FANCY GOODS!!

TRIMMINGS!!!

The ladies of TOWANDA are respectfully invited to call at

SNELL & FARNHAM'S

MILLINERY STORE and examine the NEW GOODS just received from the cities. Our stock comprises everything in the line of MILLINERY, FANCY GOODS and TRIMMINGS, and we are selling *at astonishingly LOW PRICES.*

Having secured the services of Miss SOUTHARD, a FASHIONABLE DRESS-MAKER, we are prepared to do all work in this line on the shortest notice.

SNELL & FARNHAM.

Towanda, Pa., Sept. 17, 1878.

FOR FINE MILLINERY,

FANCY GOODS,

TRIMMINGS, AND LADIES' GARMENTS OF EVERY DESCRIPTION,

At Low Prices,

RAPELYEA & HILL,

227 EAST WATER STREET, ELMIRA, N. Y.

apr Lead all Competitors 1878.

THE SUBSCRIBER TAKES Pleasure in calling the attention of his numerous patrons and the public generally, to the fact that he still continues a

GENERAL MARKET BUSINESS

At the OLD STAND of MYER & RUNDELL, in Carroll's Block, nearly opposite the Means House, and that he is prepared to furnish

SALT AND FRESH MEATS,

FRESH POULTRY,

VEGETABLES AND BERRIES

Of the very best quality, at as low rates as any other establishment.

C. M. MYER.

June 1, 1876-tf.

NEW ARRANGEMENT IN THE COAL BUSINESS.

The undersigned having purchased from Mr. *McKean the COAL YARD*

AT THE FOOT OF PINE STREET, NEAR THE COURT HOUSE,

Invites the patronage of his old friends and the public generally. I shall keep a full assortment of all sizes.

PITTSTON, WILKESBARRE AND LOYALSOCK COAL,

AND SHALL SELL AT

LOWEST PRICES FOR CASH.

NATHAN TIDD.

Towanda, Pa., Aug. 21, 1878. 12tf

Wagons and Carriages.

THE OLD ESTABLISHMENT STILL TAKES THE LEAD!

Carriages CHEAPER THAN EVER, and Platform Wagons at a GREAT REDUCTION.

JAMES BRYANT

Proprietor of the Old Carriage Manufactory, cor. Main and Elizabeth streets, would call the special attention of FARMERS and others to his large and complete assortment of

OPEN AND TOP BUGGIES AND PLATFORM WAGONS,

All of his own manufacture, and warranted in every particular to be equal to the most expensive city work.

NOW IS YOUR TIME TO BUY!

Look at the figures, and remember that every vehicle is warranted:

PLATFORM WAGONS.....$100 to $110
OPEN BUGGIES.....80 " 100
TOP BUGGIES.....135 " 150

The prices are far below the cost of manufacture and will not be maintained after the present stock is disposed of, so you must make selections NOW.

Don't be imposed upon by inferior work and poor materials, but purchase at the establishment which has been in operation for nearly half a century and is permanently located.

REPAIRING PROMPTLY ATTENDED TO.

Office and Factory cor. Main and Elizabeth streets.

JAMES BRYANT.

Towanda, June 21, 1877.

NEW CARRIAGE FACTORY!

East of the Reporter Office.

McIntyre & Spencer

Respectfully announce to the public that they are prepared to build all kinds of

FAMILY CARRIAGES,

TOP AND OPEN BUGGIES,

PHAETON & PLATFORM SPRING WAGONS,

TROTTING SULKIES & SKELETONS,

Made of the best material and in the best style. All work warranted to give perfect satisfaction.

PAINTING A SPECIALTY.

We have one of the best Carriage Painters in the country, and do all work in this line at the lowest rates.

All kinds of

REPAIRING

Neatly and promptly done at reduced prices.

Making new springs and repairing old ones a specialty. All work guaranteed. Please give us a call.

MCINTYRE & SPENCER.

Towanda, April 26, 1877.

Crockery Ware.

NEW FIRM AND NEW GOODS!

H. J. Madill

Has filled up the old store of O. A. Black with a full line of

CROCKERY, CHINA, CHINA, GLASSWARE!

CUTLERY, SILVER PLATED GOODS, STONEWARE!

BABY WAGONS, FANCY GOODS, TOYS, TOYS!

HOUSE FURNISHING GOODS!

A great variety of

LAMPS, LANTERNS, CHIMNEYS!

A NEW DEPARTURE

Sewing Machines of the leading makes sold for Cash at store, at wonderfully low prices.

MACHINE NEEDLES & OIL

LADIES, GENTS AND CHILDREN

Are invited to look over our assortment, as we are determined to do all in our power to please. Remember the place,

"OLD CROCKERY STORE."

Towanda, May 10, 1877.

Musical Instruments.

L. B. POWELL,

115 Wyoming Avenue,

SCRANTON, PA.,

has a large stock of second-hand PIANOS and ORGANS, which he offers so low that no one CAN AFFORD to buy an instrument elsewhere without first getting prices from him. During the past few years, he has been doing an extensive renting business, and, in consequence of the unprecedented stringency of the times, many of these instruments have been returned. As soon as a PIANO or ORGAN is returned, it is immediately put in thorough order by his repairer, and, when offered again, is in as good condition as possible. Some of these he can warrant for five years, the same as new ones, an opportunity being thus given to obtain a THOROUGHLY-GOOD INSTRUMENT at a very moderate price.

MR. POWELL has now in stock one 5-octave Prince Melodeon, piano-case, $40; one 6-octave Portable Melodeon, $45; one 5-octave Jubilee Organ, 6 stops, $55; one 5-octave New-England Organ, 6 stops, $60; with 7 stops, $65; with 8 stops, $75; one 5-octave Mason & Hamlin Organ, 5 stops, $65; one 5-octave Mason & Hamlin Organ, $75; one Lighte, Newton, & Bradbury Piano, 7-octave, $105; one Haines Brothers' Piano, 7-octave, $140; one Chickering Piano, 7-octave, 4 round, $275; one Chickering Piano, 7-octave, 4 round, $325; one Hazelton Piano, 7-octave, $275; and many others which can not be specified here. ALWAYS IN STOCK, the celebrated CHICKERING PIANOS and the unrivaled MASON & HAMLIN ORGANS, which he is prepared to furnish to either WHOLESALE or RETAIL purchasers at BOTTOM PRICES.

L. B. POWELL,

115 Wyoming Avenue, Scranton, Pa.

W. H. DODGE,

AT

FIRST NATIONAL BANK, TOWANDA, PA.

REPRESENTS

GIRARD FIRE INSURANCE CO., of Phila'a

AND

PHŒNIX MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE CO. of Hartford.

Over $130,000 insurance on lives in Bradford Co.

Towanda, Pa., Feb. 1, 1877.

Railroads.

LEHIGH VALLEY

—AND—

PENN. & NEW YORK RAIL ROADS.

Arrangement of Passenger Trains to take effect

NOVEMBER 10, 1878.

EASTWARD. 31	9	7	STATIONS.	WESTWARD. 8	30	2	32
A.M.	P.M.	A.M.		P.M.	P.M.	A.M.	P.M.
....	2 00	7 20	Niagra Falls	1 03	....	1 05	....
....	8 00	7 00	Buffalo	11 40	6 20	12 05	....
....	8 15	7 30	Rochester	10 00	4 10	10 05	....
....	4 30	9 05	Lyons	8 17	2 25	8 10	....
10 20	5 45	9 25	Geneva	7 41	1 45	7 15	....
1 55	9 25	11 45	Ithaca	4 05	9 45	4 40	....
11 20	5 25	8 00	Auburn	10 50	....	9 22	4 40
4 45	9 00	10 50	Owego	6 25	....	6 30	2 25
5 25	9 05	11 17	Elmira	5 25	12 40	5 15	1 50
6 10	9 45	12 45	Waverly	4 45	11 40	5 00	1 15
6 20	10 10	1 15	Sayre	4 25	11 20	3 15	12 45
6 25	10 15	1 20	Athens	4 21	11 15	3 07	12 42
6 35	....	1 30	Milan	....	11 04	2 57	12 35
6 45	....	1 40	Gladder	....	10 54	2 47	12 25
7 00	10 45	2 30	TOWANDA	4 00	10 25	2 27	12 05
P.M.	....	10 10	Wysauking	....	10 48	2 24	A.M.
....	....	10 20	Sta'y Stone	....	10 38	2 14	....
....	....	10 30	Rummerfield	....	10 20	1 57	....
....	....	9 19	Frenchtown	....	10 20	1 05	....
3	11 25	2 00	10 45	Wyalusing	....	10 05	1 52	....
3	11 42	2 27	11 15	Laceyville	3 02	9 45	1 31	6
....	....	11 20	Skin's Eddy	....	9 42	1 20	....	6
....	12 10	3 44	11 40	Meshoppen	....	9 26	1 15	....
A.M.	....	11 44	Mehoopany	....	9 13	9 00	P.M.	....
7 10	12 23	4 12	12 20	Tunkhan'ck	2 18	8