

CENTRE FARMER.

BELLEFONTE, PA., JUNE 1876.

OUR PAPER.

A meeting of the Executive Committee of the Centre County Agricultural Society, was held at the office of Gen. BEAVER, on the 26th of February last, from the minutes of which we make the following extracts:

Messrs. Woodward, Hamilton and Shaffer were appointed a committee to conduct the publication of the CENTRE FARMER, for the ensuing year:

Resolved. That the Committee be authorized to commence the publication of the CENTRE FARMER, in May, and to continue it for six months, and that they be empowered to make all contracts necessary to carry out this resolution.

It was also **Resolved.** That the premium list be printed in one of the earlier numbers of this paper, instead of in pamphlet form as heretofore.

In compliance with the above resolutions, we print the first number of our paper for 1876. Because of circumstances entirely beyond the control of the Committee, its first appearance is two or three weeks behind the time designated by the resolutions under which we act. We hope to be promptly "on time," hereafter. Perhaps we cannot better express the purpose and aim of our publication than to quote from the opening number of last year's volume. "Our object is to have a medium of direct, frequent and thorough communication with the people, through which to make known what we are doing for the accomplishment of the object for which our Society was called into existence, viz: the promotion and advancement of the Agricultural interests of our county."

Our Society is founded on the idea embodied in our motto, "Progressive Agriculture," and our paper designed to be its exponent. In the execution of this design we promise nothing but our best endeavors. Our columns are open for short communications on all practical farm subjects, and as the paper belongs to, is controlled by, and published for the benefit of the farmers of Centre County, we hope to hear from them.

Now is the time to make your plans for a good exhibition, and good time at our next fair. To such as think the time taken to attend the county fair wasted, we commend the following, from the pen of JAMES VICK:

A little play, a few days of recreation and relaxation, is not necessarily wasted time. The Hyacinth bulb lies in the ground, apparently useless, a large portion of the year. For many months, and summer months, too, it bears no bright flowers, not even a pleasant leaf. It is not idle, however, but gathering from earth and air, and dew and sunshine and shower, a precious store, to be changed, by the mysterious alchemy of Nature, into gems of loveliness. In its own good time the stately spire will arise from the earth, bearing aloft its floral chime, more beautiful than the world's philosophy ever devised, or its highest art can produce. Let us, as Nature teaches, rest awhile from labor and care, if we feel that we too, like the flowers, have earned repose; and while we do so, lay up a little store of knowledge that will aid in making the future both pleasant and useful. It is easy to combine pleasure and instruction; indeed, we can hardly conceive of very great enjoyment from amusement that is not spiced, or at least slightly flavored with instruction.

THE way they weigh hogs in Kansas is as follows: They first tie the hog to one end of a rail, balance the rail on a fence with rocks tied to the other end, and then guess how much the rocks weigh.

MEETING OF THE AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

The stated meeting of the Centre county Agricultural Society was held in the Court House on Monday evening last. President Woodward in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

The committee appointed to consider the subject of abolishing horse-racing at our county fairs, was then called upon to report. In the absence of the Chairman, Judge Orvis, one of the other members, stated that no meeting had been held to the best of his knowledge, and that consequently they were unable to report. On motion the committee was continued with instruction to report at the next regular meeting in August.

The Secretary stated that, in accordance with the resolution of the society passed at the January meeting, the Executive Committee had requested Prof. Hamilton of the State College, and Hon. J. H. Orvis to prepare papers to be read at this meeting. Prof. Hamilton was called upon and read a very able and interesting essay on the question as to "What is the best plan for Centre county farmers to pursue in reference to fences under our laws as they do exist?" in which he advocated the total abolition of inside fences, and demonstrated, by facts and figures which appear indisputable, the expediency of such a plan. He showed the amount of land that was rendered useless for farming purposes from year to year, the loss of time occasioned in turning, the enormous expense of maintaining and keeping these fences in repair and the positive injury done to the land by the tramping of cattle in pasturing. He contended that the cattle should be kept in the barnyard during the entire year, that by so doing the manure pile, the real source of the farmer's prosperity, would be largely increased, the land saved and its productive powers enhanced, and the necessity for all inside fences would thereby be removed. He also alluded to the fact that our fence timber was annually becoming scarcer and more valuable, and unless some such plan was adopted, the entire profits of the farm would before many years be consumed in repairing and making fences.

After Prof. Hamilton concluded, the discussion of the question was continued by Messrs. Beaver, Hoy and Orvis, all of whom coincided with the views of Prof. Hamilton, and gave the society the benefit of their experience in carrying them into practice.

On motion, the thanks of the society were tendered Prof. Hamilton for his able production, and a copy or condensation thereof requested for publication.

On motion, the President was authorized to appoint three electors to represent the society, at the annual election of trustees of the State College in June next. Hon. J. H. Orvis, Gen. Beaver and Jos. L. Neff, Esq., were appointed.

Adjourned to meet on the fourth Monday of August. J. W. GEPHART, Sec'y.

HANG an old stub of a broom in the tool-shed now, to clean the plows and cultivators. And saw the handle short from a light one and keep it close by the place for hoes and shovels. The stupidest man will see the use of it, and from brushing cultivator teeth might, after awhile, get the motion of brushing his own.

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