

Centre Farmer.

"PROGRESSIVE AGRICULTURE."

VOL. 2.

BELLEFONTE, CENTRE CO., PA., SEPTEMBER, 1876.

NO. 4.

CENTRE FARMER.

PUBLISHED BY THE CENTRE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY.

JOHN A. WOODWARD, Howard,
Prof. JNO. HAMILTON, State College,
B. F. SHAFFER, Walker,
Publishing Committee.

Officers of the Society for 1876 :

President—JOHN A. WOODWARD, HOWARD.
Vice Presidents—GEN. GEO. BUCHANAN, of Gregg,
GEO. L. PETERS, of Union,
A. S. TIPPON, of Curtin,
SAMUEL GILLILAND, of College.
Secretary & Treasurer—J. WESLEY GEPHART, of Bellefonte.
Librarian—JOHN T. JOHNSTON, of Bellefonte.
Executive Com.—JAS. A. BEAVER, of Bellefonte,
JOHN RISHEL, of Bender,
JOHN A. HUNTER, of Halfmoon,
LEONARD RHONE, of Potter,
JOHN HAMILTON, of College,
B. F. SHAFFER, of Walker.

THE CENTRE FARMER will be issued monthly, and is devoted exclusively to such subjects as have a direct bearing upon the interests of the farming community in general and the CENTRE COUNTY AGRICULTURAL SOCIETY in particular.

Terms Free, and Postage Prepaid.

To Advertisers.

The CENTRE FARMER will be published for six months, with a total of twenty six thousand copies, and distributed, through the mails, postage prepaid, to every farmer in the county, whose address can be obtained. The object of its publication is to advertise, and create a renewed interest in the County Agricultural Society, and its annual fair, and no pains will be spared to have it thoroughly circulated. This makes it a very desirable medium for that class of advertisers who desire specially to reach the farming community. We have still room for a limited number of advertisements which will be inserted at the following rates :

One eighth column.....	\$ 6 00
One fourth do	10 00
One half do	20 00
Whole do	40 00

Address,
CENTRE FARMER,
Howard, Centre Co., Pa.

—Our next Annual Fair will be held on the Society's grounds, at Bellefonte, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, being the 3d, 4th and 5th days of October, 1876.

DR. E. GREENE'S

Liver Pills.

BEWARE OF COUNTERFEITS.

Dr. E. Greene's Liver Pills are always and only put up in OVAL boxes, not round—and have on the bottom of each and every box—the name of the Sole Agents and Manufacturers.

J. ZELLER & SON,
No. 6 Brockerhoff Row.

See other advertisement in this paper.

W. S. WOLF & SON,

BELLEFONTE, PA.

MANUFACTURERS

and Dealers in all kinds of

STOVES, TINWARE,

&C., &C., &C.

Roofing & Spouting a Specialty.

ALL WORK GUARANTEED.

BALLOON ASCENSION.

We understand from the chairman of the Executive Committee, that propositions have been received from five different balloonists, (one of them a lady,) to make one or more ascensions from our grounds during the fair week, and that it is altogether probable that some one of them will be accepted. The committee are holding them under advisement, and their determination will be duly announced in our next issue.

Since the above was put in type we learn that arrangements for the ascensions have been concluded with Miss IHLING, a niece of the celebrated Prof. JOHN WISE. Particulars in next issue.

THE AGRICULTURAL HORSE TROT ABANDONED.

The Executive Committee of the Michigan State Agricultural Society are reported to have declared that the trials of speed at their annual fairs could not be attempted without bringing in all the objectionable features of gambling incident to regular horse trots, and have decided to abolish it accordingly. Illinois has followed suit.—*Semi-Tropical.*

And so has Centre county, as will be seen by the minutes of our last meeting held in the Court House, at Bellefonte, on the 28th ultimo.

In view of all the circumstances we think this action eminently wise and proper, and have no doubt that it will be fully vindicated by the experience of the approaching fair. Complaints both loud and deep have been made by the farmers that the Society neglected the more useful classes of farm and road horses for the trotter, and now that the cause for this complaint has been removed, and the premiums offered for the useful classes materially increased, we shall expect to see the entry books for these classes filled, and such an exhibition of horses for general purposes, draft horses, and roadsters, on the grounds, as will full justify the Society in the radical step they have taken.

No more useless animal, for all the practical purposes of life, exists, than the mere trotter, and the time is not far distant when he will be excluded from all agricultural fairs.

SOCIETY MEETING.

A meeting of the County Agricultural Society was held in the Court House on Monday evening August 28, President Woodward in the chair. The minutes of the April meeting were read and approved. The Committee appointed to consider the subject of horse-racing at our County Fairs submitted their report, which was embodied in the following resolutions :

Resolved, That the Centre County Agricultural Society shall not offer greater premiums for trotting horses than for horses for any other purposes, and that the premiums so offered shall not be awarded for speed alone, but also for perfect form, well trained action and freedom from blemishes.

Resolved, That the Society shall offer no purses for racing.

The report was adopted, and directed to be entered at large on the minutes of the Society. General Beaver stated that the Annual Meeting of the National Agricultural Congress would be held

in Philadelphia on the 12th, 13th and 14th days of September, to which the Agricultural Societies throughout the country were invited to send delegates, and suggested the election of a person to represent our Society. On motion, President Woodward, who expects to be in Philadelphia at that time, was elected, and, in consideration of the distinguished honor conferred upon him, was authorized to pay his own expenses. The Chairman of Executive Committee made a verbal report of the proceedings of that body, and of the steps taken to put the grounds in order for our annual exhibition. After the discussion of one or two questions in reference to rotation of crops, which was participated in by several members, the Society adjourned to meet on the fourth Monday of November.

J. W. GEPHART,
Secretary.

THE FARMER PAYS ALL.

Agriculture is the grand motive power of the world. If tillers of the soil were to discontinue their operations, commercial affairs would come to a speedy termination; and manufacturers would soon become insolvent. Where do the manufacturers of woolen and worsted procure their supplies? From the sheep reared on the farm. Who feeds the untold numbers of operatives in the numerous manufactories of the country, villages and cities? Who can do it if the farmer does not? By whose industry are all the markets supplied with poultry, with butter, cheese, eggs, bread, vegetables and fruit? This question scarcely requires a reply. Yet our ears and eyes are incessantly saluted with the whining and murmuring complaint: "Farming don't pay." Illustrious stupidity! One might affirm with equal propriety, that it does not pay to live. If it will pay to maintain our existence in comfortable and respectable circumstances, it will pay to till the soil. The grave trouble in the premises is that great wealth over and above the annual products of the land, is not accumulated in the brief space of four or eight years. A farmer's wealth lies in his land, his live stock, his agricultural appliances and his home comforts to which the citizens of populous cities, and the operatives of extensive manufactories are forlorn strangers.

The human race is usually estimated at 1,000,000,000 of individuals. If the sustenance of a portion of these multitudinous millions is derived from other sources than agriculture, this circumstance is balanced by the fact that there is a great deal of agricultural produce raised in excess of the total demand for food. Let the thoughtful husbandman who desires to form a just idea of the importance of his pursuit reflect when he gathers his little flock around him to partake of the morning's meal that 1,000,000,000 of fellow-men have awaked from sleep that morning, craving their daily bread with the same appetite which reigns at his family board; and that if by a superior power they could be gathered together at the same meal, they would fill both sides of five tables reaching all round the globe where it is broadest, seated side by side, and allowing eighteen inches to each individual, and that these tables are to be renewed twice or thrice every day. When tillers of the soil are really masters of their employment, farming will prove quite as remunerative as almost any other livelihood.—*Practical Farmer.*

READ THE "Rules and Regulations," as published in another column.

KEEP THE MACHINE IN ORDER.

In a certain sense, judicious and intelligent husbandry regards the farm simply as a machine for turning out crops. The machine is the matter of first importance. This is always to be kept in good running order, and its efficiency is to be increased by all economical methods. The man who farms upon this system will never sacrifice soil for a great crop. His aim is to have every succeeding crop fully equal to, if not a little more bountiful, than the preceding one. The improvement of the productiveness of the land is a matter of greater importance than the complete development of a crop.

The progressive farmer aims in every working of the soil to manage it in such a manner as to add to it more elements of fertility than he removes in the crops, and to make the crops not only pay for themselves but to pay for the improvement of the acres upon which they are grown. In carving out this aim, so as to realize these results, a man shows his skill as a cultivator. It is a comparatively easy thing for any one who has money to improve the soil so that it shall produce crops paying for the labor of growing them and the interest on \$200 or \$300 an acre. Stable manure enough, well ploughed in, will do this. But it is altogether another matter to make this improvement pay for itself. Yet it is a possible thing to do this, and there are farmers skillful enough to accomplish this result, and this we hold to be the true aim in the cultivation of the soil. The most judicious improvements—those which finally pay the largest profits—require several years to bring in their full returns. It is a matter of great importance that our farming population should not only be settled, but that they should feel settled, and plan all their operations upon the farm as if they expected to spend their days upon it. Nothing has resulted in so much real injury to the agriculture of our country as the prevailing practice of ploughing and working the land to accumulate light crops, without making adequate efforts to maintain and improve the fertility of the fields cultivated.—*Practical Farmer.*

THE FAIR SEASON.

Under this heading we find some very truthful and seasonable remarks in the current number of the *Practical Farmer*, and take the liberty of transferring a portion of them to our columns :

In addition to usual considerations it should be remembered that this is the Centennial year of our history as a nation, and in no better or more appropriate way can it be celebrated than by an exhibition of what the brain and the muscle of the country can now produce. Headed by the grand Exhibition at Philadelphia, the list of State, District, County and Local Fairs should be a succession of successes from first to last, and without a single exception each should be the best ever held on the grounds. Such a result can be easily secured by a little extra effort, which we earnestly hope will be made without delay. The season has been unusually favorable to farmers. Thank Heaven, stagnation in business does not prevent rain and sunshine. Amid universal financial depression, Providence has smiled upon the labors of the husbandman, and from ocean to ocean the land rejoices in plenty. Under these favorable circumstances, and in view of the year we celebrate, let farmers everywhere turn out *en masse* in support of the fairs, and thus make them what they should be, the true exponents of agricultural progress.

If you want an errand done, go yourself. If not, send some one.