

The Bloomfield Times.

HOUSE, FARM AND GARDEN.

We invite communications from all persons who are interested in matters properly belonging to this department.

That Cultivated Wheat.

A delegation from Hagerstown, Md., of practical farmers and gentlemen interested in agricultural development arrived in this city Monday, with a view of visiting the famous wheat fields of Levi W. Groff in West Earl township, where his new methods of cultivating wheat have produced results that have attracted great attention throughout this district and have drawn thither hundreds of curious spectators from all parts of Pennsylvania and adjoining states.

The fields lie across the road from Mr. Groff's house and are three in number of about ten acres each. At first view the results of the new mode of cultivation are not as apparent in the distinctness of the rows as might be expected, but a glance at the tall and erect standing grain and the well filled heads that would weigh it down were it not so stiff in the straw, tells the experienced farmer that a remarkable yield of wheat is before him.

Closer examination of the field shows the rows in which it is planted and the spaces between the standing grain very distinctly. The first field was sown in the last of September. It is about ten acres in extent and of rolling land sloping to the east. It had previously been farmed in wheat and the year before that in corn and tobacco.

Last year there were put upon the whole field 500 pounds of phosphate and about 25 bushels of tan bark ashes. The wheat, of the amber variety, was sown, 1 1/2 bushels to the acre, with the drill, with Mr. Adam B. Groff's patents. The body of the drill is that of the old fashioned implement; the tubes are placed eleven inches apart, and the grain is distributed in rows four inches wide. An attachment across the mouth of the tube scatters the grain and constitutes one of the patents. The shovel enclosing the tube is notably wide. The growth of the wheat consequently is in ridges four inches wide, and during the fall and early spring the alternating stripes of bare earth, eleven inches in width, are very noticeable. About the middle of April the first cultivation of the wheat occurs. This is done with the improved cultivator. The tubes are removed from the drill and harrows attached, the combination forming another of the Groff improvements. Each harrow of the four consists of a group of three sharp teeth, the middle one projecting, and so arranged that they pass over the rows of earth between the wheat, harrowing it thoroughly without touching the growing grain. The horses walk in the outside rows, just before the extreme right and left hand hooks. The second cultivation of the wheat took place about the beginning of May. Immediately after this the cloverseed was sown, and the young clover now is very well set in the ground, effectually disproving the objection of the new method that it prevents the free growth or sufficiently early planting of the clover.

The next field is of the Clawson variety, and was sown thicker, 2 1/2 bushels of seed to the acre. The third was sown early in October and is also of the Clawson seed, sown about 1 1/2 bushels to the acre. Neither of these is superior to the first, and this experience has not demonstrated the advantage of thick sowing. Indeed it was the opinion of most of the visitors that a sowing of a bushel, or at most five pecks, to the acre would have been still more advantageous. Across the road is a little patch of four acres of cultivated wheat, sown much later, shorter in the straw but well developed in the head. Four quarts of cloverseed to the acre here, sown after the second cultivation, produced a beautiful crop, of clover, well set and regular. This patch had been twice in corn and was seeded without any fertilizer. A singular fact is that the upper row of this patch is several inches taller and notably better than the others, attributable to the freer play of the air and sun upon it. If this be the proper—and it is the most reasonable—explanation of this phenomenon, it is a striking argument in behalf of the new mode, the merits claimed for which are that besides the beneficial effect of keeping the ground around the roots well worked up, free from weeds and loosened for the moisture to penetrate it, the intervening spaces allow the air and sun to play through the grain to the great advantage of its better growth.

A neighboring field of Dr. W. Rancke, Mr. Groff's son-in-law, was visited, and the grain there, which has been cultivated in like manner, was found erect, long in the straw, and if anything better headed than Groff's. The entire fields present an appearance of a wonderful growth, and while nearly every other tract of wheat on the way is more or less lodged, that which has been cultivated stands perfectly erect, and from its appearance the expectations are that it will average a yield of from 45 to 50 bushels per acre. Last year a single acre treated in this manner yielding 61 bushels and next year Mr. Groff proposes to put out five fields in wheat.

The theory of the new mode is as reasonable as its practical results are satisfactory, and while intelligent farmers vary as to the extent of the improvement, next year we may look for an application of the new mode on a very extensive scale.—Lancaster Intelligencer.



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A STERLING REMEDY FOR DISEASES AND INJURIES OF THE SKIN; A HEALTHFUL BEAUTIFIER OF THE COMPLEXION; A RELIABLE MEANS OF PREVENTING AND RELIEVING RHEUMATISM AND GOUT, AND AN UNEQUALLED DISINFECTANT, DEODORIZER AND COUNTER-IRRITANT.

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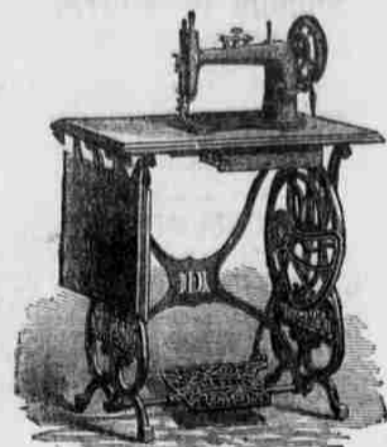
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