

your lot with either of the political parties. If my memory serves me right you have insinuated in times past that the usefulness of an agriculture paper was injured by being mixed up with politics. Looking at the matter in the above light, I cannot see what good the agricultural community can receive from such a change. Perhaps you have some prospect of receiving better remuneration for your services than at present. I am not of the number that would have you publish your paper at a loss, but I cannot help thinking that the day you change from a non-political to a political, you may write on the door of your office, *Ichabod*, the glory is departed. With best wishes for the FARMER'S ADVOCATE and Emporium,

I am, dear Sir, respectfully yours,
WM. EAGLESON.
Cold Springs, Jan. 24, 1871.

From the Western Farmer.

Clay Farming.

What is a clay farm? It will be impossible to answer this inquiry to the complete satisfaction of all, or even an "overwhelming majority," so, for the present I shall call that clay land which has no more than fifty per cent. sand in its composition, and so down, to pure allumina, if such can be found. An ordinary clay farm requires much more skill, or knowledge to produce uniform crops than an ordinary sand soil; the former being more at the mercy of the elements than the latter, but with that judicious management which modern science and practice has enabled some to exert, the clay farm is always superior in point of productiveness to farms composed mostly of sand.

The secret of properly managing a clay farm is found in aerifying or infusing air among its particles, by so subdividing it at the roots of plants may easily penetrate and at the same time have air down to the normal depth which the particular plant requires; without such condition it is useless to attempt the raising of paying crops from such soils. There are some farms whose natural condition, inclination, or sub soil, or all together, renders their management comparatively easy, but most clay farms require a large outlay to fit them to answer their owner's rational expectations.

The most effectual means to secure the result desired is found in

DRAINING.

There is not a clay farm in the land that would not be improved by draining, some more, some less, but always a paying improvement. Air cannot penetrate to advantage where water is held in any great amount, or where water has been retained any length of time; so that the first important command to the owner of clay land is, "Let there be air" and let draining do it. The surplus water is drawn off, while the life giving air follows; and such change will be marked as none but those who have witnessed would believe. The next work in order to increase the depth of the soil lying between and over the drains (premising that the drains are two rods apart lying as directly up and down an incline as possible) with the plow.

DEEP PLOUGHING

On well drained clay lands is orthodoxy; on undrained lands—call it what you will, on sand land useless. By deep ploughing is meant the increase of the furrow each year an inch, (or two inches at most), until a foot in depth, or two if you will and have the power, is reached. All such ploughing to be done, if possible, in the fall of the year, so as to have the benefit of nature's surface and subsoil plow—the frost—to comminute the particles of earth and warrant abundant crops; if ploughed in the spring it should be only where the earth is in the best condition to seed, which is a matter of as great importance as the having for not having a crop. Here if any where the old adage will be verified,

"Great haste makes waste," waiting is paying.

It is of the greatest importance also, that fall ploughed land should be what is known as dry, before teams enter the field to prepare for sowing. The dragging—harrowing—of clay land should be accomplished with as little treading of the soil as possible, (and the roller considered an abomination). A many toothed harrow will accomplish the work well and speedily.

More anon.
Bear Valley, Wis.

Cheese vs. Beef for Food.

Aside from economising labor, the cheese factory system has developed another great principle—the means of producing cheap food. An abundance of cheap, nutritious food is essential to the highest civilization of any nation. Poverty and crime always accompany a scarcity of food. Cheap food is one of the elements of the intellectual progress of the American people. The increase of our population is attended by a comparative scarcity of meats, and the price is already beyond the means of the poor, and this difficulty must be still further increased. It is an urgent question what other form of animal food can be substituted for beef. In the opinion of the speaker, the dairy must be the means of solving the difficulty.

To illustrate his meaning more fully, Mr. Willard drew a comparison between the relative cost of producing beef and cheese.

A good steer at four years old will produce 1,000 pounds of beef; and three would produce 3,000 lbs., net. A good cow will yield from 500 to 600 pounds of cheese per year. Taking her product at 45¢ pounds per year for 12 years, allowing nothing for the first two years of her life, gives 4,500 pounds of wholesome food. In other words, three steers representing 12 years' growth give 3,000 pounds against 4,500 pounds from the cow in the same time.

A pound of cheese being equal to 2 lbs. of meat in nutritive value, increases the difference still more, giving 9,000 pounds of food from the dairy to 3,000 pounds of meat. The loss of the bone and cost of cooking adds still another item to the difference.—Willard's Address before the Vermont Dairymen's Association.

The English agricultural clubs of late years have been the direct means of stirring up and rooting out the old system of farming in the old world, and they have done a vast amount of good. They have given new life and energy to the young and rising generation. Members of Parliament and others, who had used to give their fifties and hundreds of pounds to horse racing, have become ashamed and disgusted with the cheating and trickery of the track, and turned their attention to more sensible and useful objects, become members of the British Agricultural Societies, and don't subscribe their money to prizes for the best "trotting horse," to the owner of which no real praise is done, they subscribe to the industrious farmer and his servants, the real tillers of the soil, for their zeal and industry, good management and assiduity in agriculture, and the raising of stock. That man who can raise and produce the finest waggon horse for agricultural purposes gains a prize; but they don't want "trotting horses" on the plow or on the thrashing machine. They are purely agricultural and not jockeying clubs.—*Prairie Farmer*.

A bushel of plaster per acre, sown broadcast over clover, will add 100 per cent. to its produce.

Always provide an equivalent for the substance carried off the land to the products grown thereon.

CURE FOR DYSPEPSIA.—If Sarah will take five pounds of loose-waistedness, four of short-skirtedness, three of bodily cleanliness, and warmly-clothedness, and with these take a stomach moderately full of unseasoned fruits and vegetables, and unbolted, unfermented bread, two or three times a day, with nothing between excepting occasionally a gill, or half a gill pure soft water, mix well with out-of-door exercise, pure fresh air, and plenty of sunshine for both soil and body, she will be cured of the dyspepsia, or almost any other ill that flesh is heir to, without "aloes," "alcohol," or any other poisonous abominations.

HARNESS.—Every part of the harness should fit. Frequently the collar becomes covered with a compound of dirt and sweat, which makes it uneven, and should be looked after as often as necessary. When the harness gets wet hang it on several pins instead of one, so that it will not curl out of shape when drying. Always grease or oil after wetting and before it is quite dry if you would preserve the leather and make it easy for the animal. A harness which is cared for will last three or four times as long as one that is neglected. Use Neat's foot oil and always keep a greasy woollen cloth to wipe and rub the harness with.



READY-ACTING DOG-TAIL AND GUN-BARREL ATTACHMENT. Invented by Donald Reed. Drawings by Frank Bell. Patent now pending. I claim the Dog's Tail, and the Extra-Sized Trigger, and the Trigger-Guard, also the Combination of the Trigger and Dog's Tail; also the whole Dog and the general application in the manner substantially and for the purposes described.

We take the above illustration from the *Scientific American*, a large, handsomely illustrated paper, devoted principally to science, arts and machinery. It is published by Mann & Co., 37 Park Row, New York—the price of the paper is \$3 per annum. They devote much attention to the patent right business, and give this as a specimen of the various follies got up under the name of patents. We really think that some attempt should be made to have these swindling patent right vendors checked in their thieving propensities for many are neither more nor less than swindling, lying, thieving villains. A rope or shot would not be more than some of them deserve; still there are many really good inventions that are of great benefit, but swindlers are so thick all over the country that they prevent the introduction of really good improvements. Our patent laws are such that any person can get a patent on almost anything. Those that hold the offices are too glad to get \$10 to exclude any useless thing. If a Mechanic's Society or Farmer's Club were properly organized to examine into the utility of these things, and none allowed to be vended without their examination and certificate, it would be of advantage, and every patent right vendor be compelled to pay a good monthly tax. Scores of churn, washing machine, hay fork, fence or gate, or roller, or hay car fellows are round now. Look out and purchase no right. Get the implements you require from some one you know. Leave those who do not take the *Advocate* to speculate in the patent right, and leave the rights to manufacturers, who are better able to judge of their utility. If one comes round your way do not waste time with him, if you listen you may be caught. Just tell them there is the door or gate, and begone, and if they hesitate make them go quick by giving them a leather patch or a good hard push.

Editor Farmer's Advocate.

Tuckersmith, Jan. 8, 1871.

W. WELD, Esq., London.—My Dear Sir,—You have invited those who have ordered seeds through the Emporium to report. I received 1 bushel Harrison's and 1 peck Norway oats. The potatoes certainly carry off the palm in point of bulk from all varieties in this section; but the quality is inferior to many other kinds so far. I sowed the peck of Norway oats on one-eighth of an acre of rich land. On the same day I sowed as a test one peck of my common oats on a like eighth acre. Neither did well. The season was too moist. I thrashed more by measure from the common oat, and much more by weight. I regard the Norway oat as an unqualified humbug. I have a remark or two to make, which I hope you can take in the spirit in which they are made. You appear to have much energy and some ability. The *Farmer's Advocate* is certainly improving in appearance and usefulness, and I wish you success. You claim to be a shield to the farmers in hindering impositions of spurious seeds and humbugs by first trying them yourself. Now, Sir, in this point, you have signally failed. Witness the Norway oat, Chevalier barley, and some other worthless things which you have recommended. True, last spring you cautioned farmers against purchasing heavily of Norway oats, but this was after your agent had been around extolling it and taking all the orders he could get. Note this suspicious coincidence. Some have thought that the connection between the *Advocate* and Emporium was too close; that your interest in sales had warped your opinions of the merits of seeds and implements. Bethis as it may, your position should teach you to be more guarded in assailing persons against whom suspicion only points. A respectable journal should have more than "they say" to fall back upon, when it makes an attack such as you made upon the Hon. Geo. Brown, relative to his sale of stock. Such attacks are very properly passed over in silence.

I am very sorry to hear that the *Advocate* thinks of taking side in politics, and very much amused at your innocent desire to please the greatest number of your subscribers. My dear Sir, very many will look upon that article headed *Politics* in the light of an advertisement. Will read it thus:—For sale, the influence of the *Advocate* to that party, politics which has the most loose cash. If, as you say, there are no principles of magnitude involved, no important question before the country, then where is your excuse for meddling in politics? If the country was in danger, your course was clear. But no danger threatens, and agriculture is a theme, needing all the talents of even a greater man than you.

But if on the other hand you are getting weary of well doing, and see more dollars and cents looming up on the murky horizon of politics, then come boldly out, feel the political pulse, and side with the healthy party. But remember it is impossible long to pursue the course you have chalked out of criticising your friends and supporting your opponents. You must inevitably lose the confidence of both, and be thrown aside as a weak and worthless tool. You may publish this note if you please, offering such explanations as you see fit.

Yours truly,
SAML. SMILLIE.

P. S.—I am trying to get up a Club.

We wish to give accounts, either good or bad. No single trial in one locality is sufficient to condemn anything. By far the majority of the accounts received by us pronounce the Norway Oat a great cropper; but we commend new seeds in small quantities, and yours is only the second complaint of them; some have condemned the various potatoes that we have put out, but the voice of nearly all is that they are superior. Some condemn the Crown Peas, others the wheat, but on further trial have returned most flattering accounts. You may yet do so on the Norway Oats. Although we may still commend them in small quantities, we cannot vouch for all that agents may say. Your other remarks are fully replied to in another part of this paper.

"When the Devil was sick,
The Devil a Saint would be;
When the Devil got well,
The Devil a Saint was he."