

ALLIANCE DEPARTMENT.

J. F. NESBIT Editor.

A Statement.

As this is your editor's first attempt and as the arrangements were only completed last Friday, the matter for the Alliance columns will not be very full this week, but I will try to prepare to do better in the future. The County Alliance met in the Court House last Friday. In the absence of the President, C. A. Plyler, brother J. R. Knight, Vice-President was in the chair, and brother M. L. Lemmond was appointed Secretary pro tem. The committee appointed to make arrangements for the columns of some paper for our use reported through brother Hicklin that they had entered into contract with the ENTERPRISE, and a resolution was passed to ask Mr. A. J. Clark, editor of the ENTERPRISE, to come into the Alliance and state his understanding of the contract, which was so done that the County Alliance and Mr. Clark now understand each perfectly, and I now hope that each sub-Alliance will elect a reporter at an early day and that he will tell us what they are doing in the way of building up the Alliance, and about the improvements of their farms, etc.

J. F. NESBIT, Editor.

As to Cotton Ties.

News and Courier: Last year, it will be remembered, the Alliance Exchange tackled the iron band cotton tie rather late in the season, and there was a considerable amount of confusion on account of the introduction of the wire tie. Colonel Duncan, of the Alliance Exchange, does not intend letting the matter lie over until such a late day this season, and has already entered into correspondence, and has offers that would have been gladly accepted last year. The ties will be very much cheaper than they were last year, and whether the trust has had its backbone broken or not makes no material difference. Suffice it to say that the prices now being quoted are very much less than they have been for some time, and Colonel Duncan is being pressed for contracts for the use of the Alliance.

A Brilliant Opportunity for Farmers.

If the new congress enacts a tariff that reserves the American market for American sugar, many beet sugar factories will be established in the next few years. The beet at \$4 per ton yields \$50 per acre, of which \$10 to \$25 are net profit over and above every item of expense, including pay at full wages for all labor done on the crop. Contrast this with the average of only \$7 or \$8 per acre from corn and wheat, which barely pays cost of production and certainly leaves no profit. No wonder farmers are tumbling over each other to "get a whack at" this new crop. Consequently all will be glad to know that a book has just been prepared by the editor of American Agriculturist which, as expressed in its title, tells all about "Sugar: A New and Profitable Industry in the United States for Agriculture, Capital and Labor, to Supply the Home Market Yearly with \$100,000,000 of its product." The book tells just what has been done, and how it has been done, by growers of beets and cane and manufacturers of sugar therefrom, during the past six years. It describes beet culture in full detail, tells how to start a factory to afford a home market for thousands of tons of beets, contains advertisements of numerous concerns that make the machi-

nery for such factories and turnish experts to run them, etc. The many pictures illustrate everything about the business and crop. Altogether the book answers every question that can be raised about this new departure that promises so much for agriculture. So large an edition has been printed that it can be sold for only 50 cents per copy post-paid. It is published by Orange Judd Company, 52 Lafayette place, New York city, N. Y., the well-known publishers of all agricultural books, to whom orders or applications for descriptive circulars should be sent.—Cotton Plant.

HOW TO APPLY MANURE.

Comparative Merits of Surface Manuring and Plowing in Manure.

Elias A. Long learned a lesson in the application of manure when a boy in his father's nursery. He tells the story as follows, in American gardening: We purchased from a tannery a large pile of compost, hair, ashes, lime and other refuse, with enough bark in layers to make all pile up well. In the winter we drew this on land devoted to nursery and other crops, usually plowing it under in the spring. Sometimes on fall plowed land we would incorporate the mixture with the soil, by the use of the cultivator or share harrow, in the spring.

One of the things that vividly impressed me as we dug trees and plants from soil thus manured was the way in which rootless would lay hold of congenial bits of plant food. The tufts and felted knots of hair would be the attraction to a mass of small roots. This is illustrated in the accompanying sketch, in which a a show bunches of hair. This thing was seen not only in the case of seeding and tree roots, but also in those of strawberry plants, which lie much nearer the surface.

A lesson to be drawn from this is that the plowing in of manure as a method of applying it should not yield to surface applications in any marked degree. The avidity with which roots seek out and lay hold of particles of manure in the case stated showed to me that there can be no mistake in putting the plant food right where it will be needed. With the surface and application of manure in the fall and winter there is often great loss of fertility through escape by leaching and surface drainage during thaws in the winter. If it be drawn to the plat and be kept in piles until just before spring plowing or cultivating, such loss is not appreciable.

The question of the comparative merits of surface manuring and the plowing in of manure may depend somewhat on the crop also. It is plain in the case of shallow rooted crops, like lettuce, radishes, onions, strawberries, etc., that the manure is not wanted at the same level as with parsnips, cauliflower and other deeper rooters. Then, again, surface manuring may, as in the case of strawberries, serve an excellent purpose as a mulch in keeping the soil cool and in preserving moisture.

Another thing, all crops do not need the same amount of manure. It is a poor plan, for instance, to be lavish in the use of manure on potatoes and then slight it on onions and celery. Among crops that do the better for high feeding I would place strawberries, celery, onions, lettuce, spinach, beets, radishes, cabbage, cauliflower, squashes and cucumbers. Of such, the extent of the crop is almost measured by the amount of manure, and 30 to 40 tons per acre each year is none too much. The bush small fruits need less manure than do strawberries, while vegetables, potatoes, pear,

parsnips, carrots, beans, tomatoes and melons get along very well with one half the manure called for by the others named.

IN THE CORNFIELD.

Reported From the Alabama Agricultural Experiment Station.

The spring and early summer of 1896 were extremely dry. Among 14 varieties of corn tested the largest yields were made by St. Charles, followed by Early Mastodon and Blount Prolific.

In the unusual season of 1896 seed corn from Illinois afforded a larger yield than did that from Alabama and Georgia. Kernels from the middle of the ear of dent varieties afforded a smaller yield than grains from the butt and tip ends of the ear. This result was confirmed by averaging the relative yields obtained in 14 tests at five experiment stations.

In this dry season the yields were practically the same whether the distance between single plants in rows five feet apart was three or four feet. A distance of two feet in the row greatly reduced the yield.

On sandy branch bottom land the yield of corn was 3.1 bushels greater where 426 pounds per acre of crushed cotton seed was used than where 180 pounds of cottonseed meal was employed, the amount of nitrogen furnished per acre being the same in each fertilizer. On sandy branch bottom land which had borne two crops of weeds the loss when the weeds were burned, instead of being plowed under, was 2.8 bushels of corn per acre.

The yield of grain was less when the entire stalks were cut and cured before pulling the ears and also less when topping was practiced than when the plants were not disturbed before gathering the ears. Financially, topping was unprofitable, and the profit in harvesting the entire stalks was doubtful where no shredder was available to prepare the stalks for feeding and when corn was valued at 45 cents per bushel and stalks at 25 cents per 100 pounds.

A compilation of results of stripping the blades or pulling fodder showed an average loss of 2.9 bushels of corn per acre from pulling fodder. Only when fodder is high and corn low in price can fodder pulling be regarded as profitable. Hay making would generally give better returns than fodder pulling for the labor employed.

What use is there in eating when food does you no good—in fact, when it does you more harm than good, for such is the case if not digested?

If you have a loathing for food there is no use of forcing it down, for it will not be digested. You must restore the digestive organs to their natural strength and cause the food to be digested, when an appetit will come, and with it a relish for food.

The tired, languid feeling will give place to vigor and energy; then you will put flesh on your bones and become strong. The Shaker Digestive Cordial as made by the Mount Lebanon Shakers contains food already digested and is a digester of foods as well. Its action is prompt and its effects permanent.

Doctors prescribe *Laxol* because it has all the virtues of Castor Oil and is palatable.

—We are requested to announce that the Gills Creek township board of pensions will meet here next Saturday for the purpose of electing a chairman.

—Mr. J. Browning Sykes, of Rock Hill, was in Lancaster between trains Tuesday, shaking hands with his friends and attending to some matters of business.

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There is a man in England whose water supply costs him \$250 a day. He is a millionaire who lives near a village. Not liking the local water, he had a special conduit built for himself at a cost of \$400,000, though he resides there only three months a year.

Beautiful Sea Shells.

Every one admires them. Since coming south I have received numerous inquiries from northern people for sea shells, and now I am prepared to answer yes, I can send you shells, for I have made quite a collection of lovely shells, both from our own coast, the coral reefs and lovely ones from the West India islands. I will mail a dozen or more different kinds, no two alike, to any one who sends a stamp for postage.

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When writing the Doctor, please mention this paper.

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NOTICE

TO ROAD OVERSEERS!

AS A CONSEQUENCE OF THE recent heavy rains, the public roads in some sections of the County, (and especially the clay roads within a radius of five miles of the town of Lancaster), are almost in an impassable condition. All overseers of public roads are hereby notified and required to call out their hands and put their respective sections in good repair, as soon as they are in a proper condition to be worked.

By order of Commissioners,
L. J. PERRY,
County Supervisor.

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For Infants and Children.

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—If you want any of your property insured call on A. J. Clark, who represents a number of the best English and American companies.

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