

low as \$2 to \$3 a barrel. The farmers are now getting ready to sow. The ground is in excellent condition. There is some wheat already up, and with favorable weather will grow rather rank. He would prefer sowing from the 10th to the 20th of September. The weather prophets predict a warm fall, especially the month of November, and if that should be the case, this will be in time even with an early fall. The tobacco crop is pretty well housed, although a good deal is out yet. It is of good quality, and will make the largest crop ever produced by this county. Considerable of it was spoiled by the worms, which were more numerous this year than formerly, and where they have not been properly attended to, they have damaged the crop to some extent. A great deal of tobacco was late in growing, and farmers should give it time, and not cut it too green, on account of frost, which he thought is not so near at hand as some imagine.

N. N. BRUBAKER, of East Hempfield, informed the members that peaches and apples in his district were very plenty, although the latter crop was falling very fast. The limbs of young peach trees were dying off at the ends, from the deprivations of a small white worm. The ground is in good condition, and farmers are getting ready for seeding. The corn and tobacco crops were both good. He would like to know what would be a good remedy to destroy white grub worms, which attack strawberry plants.

A letter was read from A. H. Hostetter, esq., essayist for the occasion, stating that he was unable to be present, but hoped to be with them at the next meeting, when he would have his essay ready.

The question for discussion at this meeting—"How to keep our boys on the farm"—was postponed until the next meeting.

EPHRAIM HOOVER wanted to know what were the best varieties of wheat to sow. At present he found the Fultz wheat the best, and in an experience of thirteen years, found late sowing to be the best, because you would escape the ravages of the fly. His Fultz wheat yielded fully one-quarter more than any other kind. He said that late seeding was from the 25th of September to the end of the first week in October, and that early seeding was from the last week in August until the middle of September.

H. M. ENGLE said that this subject was discussed at length some years ago, and at that time many farmers came to the conclusion that land was too dear to raise wheat, and that it could never be raised again like our forefathers raised it. He thought a good crop depended a great deal on how the farmer treated the soil, and what kind of seed he planted. He believed in a change of seed. He then instanced his experience in planting different kinds of seed, such as the red and white Mediterranean, the Fultz, Amber, and other kinds. Farmers should strive to produce early wheat. If he would grow largely, he would sow the Fultz and Clawson white altogether. Both of these varieties could be depended upon as producing a sure crop.

JOHNSON MILLER said that he had experimented with the Clawson wheat for two years. He received the seed from the Department at Washington. The first crop was a success, the latter was a complete failure.

PETER S. REIST did not believe in experimenting with every new variety of wheat that was introduced in the market. A few years ago he thought he would try some new kinds, and sowed six different varieties. After trying it for some time he was compelled to fall back on his old kind—the red bearded, or as some call it, the Mediterranean. This variety is very nice to work, produces a clean chaff and sure crop. He thought it best to sow wheat on light plowed ground, so that when the frost came, the roots would not be damaged.

EPHRAIM HOOVER believed in changing seeds from north to south.

C. L. HUNSECKER, of Manheim, believed that the Fultz wheat, which was so popular just now, would, like all other new varieties, fail in the end. It would be like the "Strowble" wheat of old, which for a time could be grown on almost any kind of soil. He spoke at some length on the different varieties of wheat now in use.

JOHN M. STEHMAN was in favor of early sowing, and preferred the Fultz variety above all others. From the 6th to the 20th of September he regarded as early sowing. In early sowing the sprouts have a chance to become strong, and are not so liable to be damaged by the fly.

LEVI S. REIST believed that early and late sowing depended entirely upon the season.

J. B. EBY reported the green worms as troublesome in his district.

H. M. ENGLE thought that more depended on the season than on the time and variety of seed planted. In the whole, success depended a great deal upon many contingencies, and in such a case it would not be well to set a given time to sow. He believed in changing from one variety to another, the same as is done with fruit. In this way the best kind can be selected and improved.

JOHNSON MILLER said that Moses Geisenberger, a merchant on North Queen street, had a new kind of wheat, which he had been sowing on a farm near Beamstown, that was proof against the fly and would not freeze.

PETER S. REIST did not believe in sowing in the signs of the almanac, as was often done by some farmers, but he did believe in heavy manuring, which would bring the soil up to the old standard and large crops could be raised.

JACOB S. WITMER, of Millersville, was in favor of alternating seeds, that is, changing from one soil to another. His farm was a slate and limestone one, and he found that by planting in different places from year to year, that different qualities were produced. In some portions he noticed a difference of five to six bushels to the acre. He believed that in the course of a few years seed would degenerate, and it would become necessary to get a new kind. He would like to know something about the Egyptian wheat. His was very small in the grain and shriveled.

JOHNSON MILLER said that he had inquired about the Egyptian wheat, and found that it proved a perfect failure with all who raised it.

H. M. ENGLE agreed with the remarks made by Mr. Miller, and said our climate was not suited at all for its raising. It ripens on our soil too soon, and no wheat is good that ripens before its time. He hoped no farmer present believed in the signs of the almanac, but that they all believed in the signs of the soil.

M. D. KENDIG said that a point was overlooked, and that was the quantity of seed to be sown to an acre. He was in the habit of sowing from a bushel to a bushel and a peck to the acre, but if the season is favorable, one bushel to the acre is enough.

H. M. ENGLE said the remarks of Mr. Kendig were very opportune. As a general thing, farmers sow too much seed to the acre.

At the conclusion of Mr. Engle's remarks, the discussion came to an end.

On motion of Mr. Kendig, a committee of five was appointed by the chair to test the different modes of cultivating wheat, and the proper amount to be sown, and report the same at the next meeting of the Society. M. D. Kendig, H. M. Engle, John Gingrich, Johnson Miller and J. Frank Landis were appointed as said committee.

The President suggested that every other member of the Society give his personal attention to this matter, and experiment at least to some extent in the matter of drilling and cultivating wheat.

JOHNSON MILLER read a letter of invitation from the Berks County Agricultural Society, to attend their exhibition on the 12th, 13th and 14th of this month. He moved that the invitation be accepted, and that a committee of three be appointed to represent the Society at the exhibition. Johnson Miller, Peter S. Reist and Ephraim S. Hoover were appointed as said committee.

H. M. ENGLE called attention to the pomological exhibition at the Centennial, and urged the members to contribute fruits, as there would be no exhibition held here this year. The exhibition commences on the 11th inst., to continue until the 16th.

On motion, a committee of three (including the chairman) was appointed to represent the Society at the next meeting of the National Horticultural Congress, which meets next week, at Belmont Hotel, Centennial grounds. The committee consists of H. M. Engle, Dr. Elam Hurst and Israel L. Landis.

H. M. ENGLE presented some grapes that were considerably cut. He stated that they were damaged by bees, the opinion of the bee keeper to the contrary notwithstanding.

CALVIN COOPER reported the amount of rainfall in his district for the month of August at 1 55-100; Mr. Engle as 1 10-16, and Mr. Kendig as 1 29-100.

A committee of five, consisting of Messrs. Johnson Miller, Calvin Cooper, M. D. Kendig, Peter S. Reist and H. M. Engle, were appointed to revise the by-laws of the Society, to report at next meeting.

Mr. KENDIG moved that in the future all persons presenting fruits to the Society, give a history of such exhibits.

ISRAEL L. LANDIS gave notice that there would be a meeting of tobacco growers next Monday at 2 o'clock, at the Black Horse Hotel, this city.

"How can we dispose of our corn crop to the best advantage?" will be the question for discussion at the next meeting.

EPHRAIM S. HOOVER had a fine stalk of tobacco on exhibition.

SIMON P. EBY said that he made a visit to the orchard of Elias Eby, in Rapho township, a few days ago. The orchard contains some fifty trees, all of which are in fine bearing condition. The trees are about twenty years old, among the varieties being the "Northern Spy," "Spitzenberg," "Baldwin," "Roxbury Russett," and "Sweitzer," all of which are full of fruit. The soil of the orchard is limestone, lies level and is not protected by any hedge. Some of the apples were placed on exhibition.

The display of fruits was one of the largest placed on exhibition for some time, the following being a list of the exhibits and exhibitors:

President CALVIN COOPER presented to the Society the following varieties of grapes: Rogers, No. 4, (Wildier); Martha; Christine, or Telegraph; Northern Muscadine; Hartford Prolific; a white seedling for name; Merrimac (Rogers, No. 4.)

HENRY M. ENGLE presented a number of Seckle, Bartlett, Howell, Des Moines and other pears, and several bunches of grapes.

Mr. J. B. EBY, of Lime Valley, exhibited the following: Jeffries and Early Bellflower apples, Concord, Clinton, Martha, White Clinton and Iona grapes.

LEVI S. REIST presented Bartlett, Onondaga and McLoughlin pears.

ELIAS EBY presented fine Rambo and Sweitzer apples.

After tasting and passing judgment on the fruit exhibited, the Society adjourned.

The Bee-Keepers' Society.

The society met in the Athenaeum rooms at 2 o'clock, on Monday, August 21st. The first question discussed was, "What brings on the swarming impulse with a colony of bees, and how are we to control it?"

Dr. BOYER said the best plan to prevent bees from swarming was to give them plenty of room to work. Space has more to do with it than anything else.

Several members said that they have had colonies to swarm several times in a season, although the brood chamber was not more than three-quarters filled with comb.

Mr. LINTNER said that the swarming was caused by the hive being filled with comb, and the comb with brood; the queen having no place to deposit eggs. In this case the bees will construct queen cells and swarm. To prevent this he uses a movable frame hive, and when his colony gets too strong he removes a couple of the frames with the adhering bees into an empty hive, and the bees will at once commence to work on the empty frames. In this manner he had no trouble in preventing his bees from swarming.

What causes bees to die out, having a good supply of honey in both the brood and honey chambers? was the next question.

Dr. BOYER thought the cause was in the queen not being a good breeder, and hence the colony grows too weak. If the colony is not strong, they will die if they have ten gallons of honey.

Mr. DETWILER said much depended in the winter care of bees. A quilt or some other absorbent should be placed in the top of the hive to absorb the moisture arising from the bees. If this is not done, this moisture will form into ice, and the sides and top of the hive and the bees will freeze.

Mr. MYERS thought it was owing to the weather being extremely cold for a long period. He had noticed that on warm days in winter the bees removed the honey from the outside combs, and stored it up in the centre of the hive. If the weather was too cold, they could not reach the outside honeycombs.

At this point some of the members got to discussing queens. Mr. FUNK said bees will not cease to work on the death of the queen, but will continue to store honey until all the brood in the hive is hatched out.

Dr. BOYER said that when a hive lost a queen, a fertile queen should be inserted, as from ten to fifteen days would be lost in waiting for a queen to hatch out, explaining the process of making a queen by the worker bees.

Some argument ensued as to whether the Society was not entirely off the original question, and another question was proposed, viz.:

What kind of a bee hive is recommended as handiest, cheapest and most convenient to handle bees in, with the least injury to the colony?

Mr. KIRKPATRICK said he had long used the "Langstroth," "Buckeye," "King," and a hive of his own manufacture, called the "Doubledecker." The latter he considered the best.

All the members seemed to agree that a movable frame hive should be used, with the frames of uniform size.

The question "What is best to do with bees when honey is scarce?" was well answered by Dr. Boyer, who said that when stock pasture becomes scarce, the only thing left was to feed the stock, and when honey became scarce, bees should be fed, or they would certainly starve.

"Are bees injurious to fruit?" was discussed at considerable length.

Mr. FUNK said they were. He had had his entire grape crop destroyed by bees.

Dr. BOYER said that was a mistake; bees will work in grapes, apples, etc., if the skin is first broken, but in no case can they puncture the skin. He explained that the eucelid, a small insect, first stung the grape, and then the bees would very naturally work on the sweets that oozed from the wound.

Mr. LINTNER sent to the clerk's desk and had read an article from the Lancaster *Examiner*, (published several months ago) giving a description of the manner in which the owner of a vineyard, near Schoeneck, destroyed nearly all the bees in that section of the county. Noting that the bees were eating his grapes, he made a trap, consisting of two large planks. These planks were raised by means of a prop a foot apart, and baited with molasses, and after a large number of bees had congregated he sprung his "infernal machine" and destroyed thousands at a time. In this manner the bee colonies in the vicinity were so weakened that one apiarist lost eight out of twelve colonies.

Will bees gather more from flowers by being fed a little every day through the summer?

Dr. BOYER said they should be fed in the spring before the honey pastures were in bloom, but doubted the expediency of feeding them when honey was plenty in the fields.

Several gentlemen agreed that the bees should be fed in summer, if they could be made to work on the artificial food, but as a general thing, the bees seemed to prefer the natural honey.

In what condition should a hive be to winter well?

Mr. FUNK thought the only thing necessary was "plenty of bees and plenty of honey."

Dr. BOYER thought too much honey was unprofitable. In no case should they have more than thirty pounds.

Mr. DETWILER asked the question, "When do bees consume the most honey—in mild or in cold winters?"

Dr. BOYER said in the moderate winters the bees consume the most, as in extreme cold weather they lie in a dormant state.

Mr. DETWILER disagreed with the doctor, saying he had always found his bees to consume one-third more honey in extreme cold than in moderate weather. He believed more food was necessary to keep up sufficient animal heat, and keep the bees alive.

Mr. HERSHEY said bees do not lay dormant in winter. He had examined hives when the mercury marked five degrees below zero, and the bees answered to a knock on the hive. He had also opened hives in very cold weather, and the bees would dart out, but of course would soon become chilled and drop on the ground.

Will it pay to feed bees strong all summer?

Mr. FUNK thought it did. He gave his experience. And purchased a pound of sugar for 10 cents, and added one pound of water. This produced two pounds of honey, which was worth 30 cents per pound.

Mr. MYERS said his experience proved to him that three pounds of sugar, fed in syrup, would not produce more than one pound of honey.

Mr. LINTNER exhibited a colony of Italian bees in his patent "Buckeye hive." The bees, comb and all the contents, were taken from the hive with entire satisfaction, no one getting stung. A vote of thanks was tendered Mr. Lintner for exhibiting his hive.

The following new members were added: Wm. Kirkpatrick, West Walnut street, city; John Diekle, city, and Jacob L. Witmer, of Millersville.

Dr. BOYER was appointed essayist for the next meeting.

Messrs. Myers, Hershey and Detwiler were appointed a committee to prepare an order of business and rules to govern the society.

The society then adjourned to meet on the 2d Tuesday in November, at the Black Horse hotel, this city.

The Millers' Association.

The regular monthly meeting of the Millers' Association was held in the Board of Trade rooms on Monday, Sept. 11th, the Vice-President, Benjamin Wissler, of Clay township, in the chair. Owing to the inclemency of the weather the attendance was not so large as at the previous meeting, but there was a good interest manifested.

Several new members were elected, and a bill for printing and another for rent were presented and ordered paid.

The committee appointed last month to look up a permanent place of meeting reported, and a discussion followed as to the propriety of having the rooms open every Monday. The unanimous feeling of the members was that the Association ought to have its room open every Monday as a general millers' exchange place, where millers might meet each other to transact their business and where farmers who have grain to sell or other business with millers, might meet them with their samples. It was thought to be much more convenient for both millers and farmers.

After some further miscellaneous business the Association went into a discussion of the relative value of different kinds of wheat, especially of Foltz wheat.

Mr. SAMUEL L. LEVAN had noticed that in the discussions of the Agricultural Society this wheat had been favorably commended, and that there is a growing tendency among our farmers in general to let go the other kinds of wheat and to raise mostly Foltz wheat. He thought it a wrong tendency, and argued that Foltz wheat is not the best wheat for flour. In the Baltimore market they are discarding it to such an extent that it sells at a discount of four cents a bushel.

Mr. HENRY SNAVELY also expressed himself unfavorably. He said it will do for the best flour only when mixed with other varieties in small quantities.

Mr. A. H. SHENCK agreed with Mr. Snavely, and gave his experience as being similar. It would not do well alone; makes dark flour, and not so good.

Mr. JOHN H. BUSNONG gave his opinion also against it if used alone or in large quantities. He considered it a wrong policy for the farmers to sow too largely of it, as it would not keep price with other varieties.

Mr. M. O. STIRK did not feel quite so unfavorable to it. He had succeeded in making good flour of it; thought it would do better by and by, as farmers

learned more fully how to raise it; thought the miller must learn to mix it, his own opinion being that it could be mixed to advantage, about half and half.

Mr. JOHN H. BUSNONG thought that millers had much to learn in the mixing of different varieties of wheat; was convinced that great improvement could be made in flour with more knowledge and skill in this direction.

Mr. SAMUEL L. LEVAN said that he had lately had a letter from parties in Western Pennsylvania, where the Foltz wheat is almost the only variety, asking him to send them a number of bags of the "old red" wheat and saying they intended to distribute it among the farmers to induce them to raise it instead of the Foltz.

Mr. R. R. ROYER agreed fully with what had been said against Foltz wheat. He had tried it, mixing it with Michigan Amber and other wheats, and had tried the "old red" in the same way, and the difference in flour was so noticeable that he had no hesitation in giving his preference to the "old red."

The discussion was indulged in formally by a number of other gentlemen, and the opinion was almost unanimous that the Foltz wheat had not given satisfaction as a standard wheat; that while it might be used in connection with other varieties, it would not do well alone or if used in large proportions, and that our farmers would consequently make a mistake by sowing it exclusively or too largely.

As this is a matter of great importance to our farmers at this season, they would no well to make a note of these opinions, coming, as they do, from such a number of practical millers.

We are glad to see the Millers' Association taking up such questions, and giving the community the benefit of their experience upon them. It is only by such an interchange of views and experiences on the part of all classes interested, that we will succeed in bringing our farming and other trades to intelligent and satisfactory ends.

The Tobacco Growers.

A meeting of the tobacco-growers of this county was held on Monday, Sept. 11th, at the Black Horse Hotel, this city. The meeting was largely attended by farmers from various sections of the county, and a temporary organization was effected by calling Aaron Summy, of Mount Joy, to the chair, at whose request Israel L. Landis, who was one of the prime movers in organizing the Society, stated the object of the meeting.

Mr. LANDIS said the main object of the Association was to promote anything and everything pertaining to the cultivation of tobacco and preparing the same for market, and that anything relating thereto should be fully discussed. Among many matters that suggested themselves for discussion, were the different varieties to be recommended, the procuring of seed, time and manner of sowing and transplanting, the care of plants by setting out, and the cultivation of the same. Also in regard to fertilizing the land, destroying the worms, topping, cutting, housing and curing and preparing the same for market.

After referring at some length to the above questions for discussion, Mr. Landis said that it would not be out of place to state the number of pounds of tobacco raised annually in this county, and compare it with the productions from other parts of the country. In 1870 the United States produced 262,735,341 pounds of tobacco; of that amount Pennsylvania produced 3,467,539 pounds, and Lancaster county 2,692,584 pounds, thus showing the vast amount raised in this county. The estimated yield for this county last year is 14,000,000 pounds. This he regarded as an immense crop, and said that it is now one of the greatest export articles which produce a return of loose currency. As such he thought it should receive a good portion of attention from farmers.

At the close of Mr. Landis' remarks, a permanent organization was effected by electing the following officers: President, Martin D. Kendig, of Manor; Secretary, W. L. Hershey, of Neffsville; Treasurer, Andrew L. Lane, of Neffsville.

AARON II. SUMMY moved that a committee of five be appointed to draft a set of rules to govern the association. The chair appointed the following gentlemen as the committee: Simon Minnich, John M. Stehman, Reuben Garber, Aaron Summy and Martin Pyfer.

The committee retired to an adjoining room, returning in a short time. Their report called for naming the Association "The Lancaster County Tobacco Growers' Society," and that it meet on the second Monday of each month in the Athenaeum room. The report also called for the payment of fifty cents by each member, and that the officers of the Society be elected annually. A constitution and by-laws will be submitted at the next meeting.

The only topic discussed was the propriety of making a display of tobacco at the Centennial. For this purpose a committee of five were appointed to select specimens of some of the best varieties, and have it put on exhibition at the great show.

Pending this, the Society adjourned to meet on the second Monday of October, in the rooms of the Athenaeum.

WHAT KIND OF WHEAT SHALL WE SOW?

As the season of seed-time is again at hand, this is an important question for our farmer friends to consider. In an agricultural community like ours it is of prime importance that great care should be exercised in the selection of seeds, and especially of grains. The labor of preparation is the same whatever the variety selected, and the soil once prepared, it is worse than unwise to sow an inferior variety when a better can be found.

As the relative value of different varieties can only be determined by experiment it will be of interest to those concerned in this subject to notice the experience of a number of the millers of our county with the variety of wheat known as Foltz wheat, as it is given in the proceedings of the Millers' Association, which we publish in this issue of THE FARMER.

As touching another variety of wheat which is being introduced into our county, the following, which we copy from the *Detroit Tribune*, may be of value:

"A NEW VARIETY OF WHEAT.—Considerable inquiry is being made throughout the State for the 'Clawson' wheat, a new variety of white wheat that is being introduced quite extensively among the farmers, now that seeding time is at hand. For several seasons it has been cultivated in parts of New York. For the purpose, therefore, of learning of its real value and its qualities for manufacturing purposes, Messrs. Merrill & McCourtie, of Kalamazoo, addressed letters to millers at Albany, N. Y., who have had opportunities for judging as to its merits or demerits, and the following answers have been received. We are indebted to Messrs. Gillett & Hall, commission merchants of this city, for the communication. Messrs. E. M. Carpenter & Co. write as follows:

"We have had experience with flour manufactured from Clawson wheat at Baldwinsville, N. Y., and the flour was very poor. It has no strength, and bakes black. Every miller in this State that has tried it has got into trouble. We speak of the crop of 1874. We have not heard how it works this year, but presume no better. Our millers will not touch it, as it has given them so much trouble heretofore. We hope it will not be introduced into the State of Michigan."

"Messrs. Durant & Co. report as follows: "The Clawson wheat is very unpopular with millers in this state. All the testimony within our range for the past year is to the effect that it will not make a family flour at all, and ruins the grade even if mixed with other wheat in moderate quantities. It lacks in gluten, and when made into dough, it slaeks down and continues to do so as flour is worked in; is without elasticity, and will not rise. Manufacturers say that the flour will not make more than half the amount of paste that ordinary flour does. Millers buy it at a reduced price and make it into low grades of flour, but would much prefer not to see it at all. We think you should avoid it by all means. Absolutely certain by experience that it is an unsafe wheat."

FOR THE LANCASTER FARMER.

FROM NORTH CAROLINA.

The wheat and oats crop have been gathered through this section of country, wheat about half an average crop. My opinion is that it was injured by the frost and cold spell about the 20th of March last. The heads, as a general thing, are not filled out at the points, and some heads not producing full grains. The winter oats, where not killed out by insects or otherwise, turned out tolerably well. Spring oats was much benefited by the good growing season the past spring; yet the crop of winter and spring oats will not be more than three-fourths of a yield. In this section corn needs rain. Cotton promises a fair yield, unless something unforeseen befalls it before it matures.

Within the past fortnight the weather has been warmer here than I have ever felt it since I have been in this country (35 years). At this writing the prospect for rainfall is good, and should it come will benefit all garden truck, as well corn, white and sweet potatoes, and tobacco.

While traveling in your State, in June last, I noticed but one field of grain (wheat) that was short and bare in spots. This field I saw in Chester county, on the north side of and immediately on the line of the Pennsylvania Railroad. In Lancaster county all crops, so far as I saw, were fine. Your farmers deserve great credit for the manner in which they till the soil and make it produce so well.—M. R., Salisbury, N. C., July 24, 1876.

A Long Furrow.

The Fargo (Cal.) *Times* asks: What do you think of an unbroken furrow six miles long? That's what you can see any day by going to Elm river, where Messrs. Dalrymple and Grandin are breaking prairie. The teams start in the morning and make one round across an entire township and back (twelve miles) before dinner, and the same in the afternoon—twenty-four miles' travel for each team every day. All for wheat next year.