Albany Register.

PUBLISHED EVERY WEDNESDAY AND SATURDAY,

By COLL. VAN CLEVE,

IN REGISTER BUILDINGS,

Corner Ferry and First Streets.

TERMS—IN ADVANCE.

One year	Three dollars.
Six months	Two dollars.
Single copies	Ten cents.
To clubs of five	$2 50 each.
To clubs of ten	2 00 "

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Transient advertisements, per square of ten lines or less, first insertion $1: each subsequent insertion 50c. Larger advertisements inserted on the most liberal terms.

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Agricultural.

Green Manures.

In many parts of the country one of the most serious questions is that of manure. One may be so situated as not to make it profitable or convenient to keep much stock; and yet if manure has to be purchased it is seldom that it can be done so as to leave much profit. On the other hand, it is clearly a loss to farm poor ground; and thus between these "upper and nether millstones" one hardly knows what to do.

In some places much use is made of green manures That is, the land is sown with some rapid-growing crop, which, after it has grown considerably, is plowed down; and in this way the land is fertilized. Clover is often used for this purpose, and in the South the cow-pea. There is some considerable labor involved in this style of manuring; but this is not all in most cases. A whole season is generally lost in this way of fertilizing the ground.

Still in many cases even this has been found to pay, instead of buying either stable manure or commercial fertilizers; and where land is cheap, and taxes low, it may perhaps be the best thing that can be done.

If only some one could suggest something which would grow so fast that we could plow it down and crop the same season, it would be one of the best possible discoveries. Something of this kind we find reported in the January number of the Report of the Department of Agriculture from an English source. It appears that some one had a piece of land so poor that the wheat yielded was but *four* bushels per acre. In 1860, immediately after harvesting the wheat, he sowed cow-peas at the rate of two bushels per acre. Early in October he turned the resulting crop under with a deep furrow. A few weeks later he sowed on this pea-sod wheat, harrowing it in carefully. He harvested nine bushels per acre. He repeated the same process in 1870, and realized 17½ bushels per acre; and again in 1871, followed by a yield of 27 bushels per acre; and again in 1872, with a promise at the time of reporting 40 bushels per acre. Throughout the experiment, covering five years, no fertilizer except the cow-pea was applied.

This, if correctly reported, is a tremendous result; and, if true, eclipses anything ever heard of, and is surely worthy of more thought than is usually given to newspaper paragraphs. Year after year the grain was sown on the same land, and with only about two months' growth of peas, the yield had in four years increased from four to forty bushels of wheat! With such results as these it will hardly pay, even under the best circumstances, to haul manure from the stable-yard, for wheat. What has been done in this way ought to be done again. Somehow we can hardly credit this stupendous result; yet we know that green manuring is excellent generally, when we give it a year's growth of the ground, and it may be that something like this can be done. We hope what we have written may have the effect of stimulating trials in this direction.—*Forney's Press.*

Home Interests.

STARCH POLISH.—White wax 1 ounce; spermaceti 2 ounces; melt them together with a gentle heat. For a pint of boiled starch, put in a piece the size of a large pea; and it will give a gloss and luster that can not be obtained in any other way.

A discovery of interest to wood-engravers is the fact that plates of polished slate may be used as substitutes for box-wood for engraving. The plates will furnish over 100,000 impressions without loss of detail, do not warp, and are not affected by oil or water.

There is nothing so hopeful to a man, and especially to a farmer, as a thrifty housewife. His wife may be beautiful and loving and accomplished, graceful, cheerful, faithful, still he will find that there are many flaws in the domestic economy unless, with her own qualifications, she combines the happy faculty of imparting the glow of youth to the aged fowl, and of so proportioning a pound of butter to a barrel of salt as will enable her to realize for the salt in the market twenty-five cents per pound.

A bushel of wheat in New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa, Illinois, Michigan, Massachusetts, Kentucky, New Jersey, Vermont, Missouri, and Canada is sixty pounds. In Connecticut it is fifty-six pounds. Rye is fifty-six pounds to the bushel in all the States named except Illinois, where it is fifty-four. Corn is fifty-six pounds to the bushel in all the States named but New York, where it is fifty-eight; and in Missouri, where it is fifty-two. Barley is forty-eight pounds to the bushel in New York, Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin, Iowa, Michigan, Kentucky, New Jersey and Canada. In Pennsylvania it is forty-seven; in Illinois, forty-four; in Massachusetts, forty-six; and in Vermont, forty-six.

WASHING FLUID.—Salsoda 2 pounds, unslacked lime 1 pound, boiled together in 6 quarts of water for half an hour. When it has settled clear turn into a jug and cork for use. Soak the white clothes over night in clean, soft water. In the morning fill the boiler half full of soft water; when it boils, add a teacupful of the fluid. Wring out the clothes, and rub soap on the most soiled parts; boil briskly 30 minutes. Take the clothes out into a tub half full of clean, soft water, and rub slightly; or put them through a washing machine, which is easier; rinse through two waters, and add a little bluing to the last water. For each additional boiler of clothes add more water and a half cup of the fluid, and proceed as before. Use the suds for washing colored flannels and calicoes.

The humidity of the atmosphere and the action of gas cause a bluish-white coating to collect on all furniture, and show conspicuously on bright, polished surfaces, such as mirrors, pianos, cabinetware and polished metal. To remove it, take a soft sponge, wet with clear, cold water, and wash over the article. Then take a soft chamois skin and wipe it clean. Dry the skin as well as you can by wringing it in the hands, and wipe the water off the furniture, being careful to wipe only one way. Never use a dry chamois on varnish work. If the varnish is defaced and shows white marks, take linseed oil and turpentine in equal parts, shake them well in a vial and apply a very small quantity on a soft rag until the color is restored; then with a clean, soft rag wipe the furniture off. In deeply carved work the dust cannot be removed with a sponge. Use a stiff-haired paint brush instead of a sponge. To varnish old furniture, it should be rubbed with pulverized pumice stone and water to take off the old surface, and then varnished with varnish reduced, by adding turpentine, to the consistency of cream. Apply with a stiff-haired brush. If it does not look well, repeat the rubbing with pumice stone, and when dry varnish it again.

Incomes of New York Lawyers.

Among those who reap a handsome harvest out of the recent panic the legal fraternity stands pre-eminent. An immense increase of litigation has been its inevitable result. Every merchant, banker or broker who is in trouble was obliged to retain a lawyer, and in many instances more than one. For instance, the Gridnell bankruptcy case, when it first appeared before Judge Blatchford, brought six well-paid lawyers into court. The fees required on such an occasion would not be less than $10,000, and the cost of the entire Grinnell suit will probably eqal five times that sum. This may seem like a large estimate, but is to be remembered that the securities which this house held were $12,000,000, and the amount at stake always has a bearing on the legal charges. Our best lawyers value their time at from $40 to $50 per hour, which is a reasonable charge. By a consultation with one of these men you can in an hour obtain an opinion which is worth fifty times the amount of the fee. If, however, the case be one where half a million is at stake, then instead of a mere fifty you will be expected to advance a retaining feee of $500 or perhaps $1,000. This prevents anyone from securing the services of the lawyer thus retained. If a lawyer, even after receiving such a fee, should win the case, he will expect from $10,000 to $15 000 additional. Our great lawyers demand pay commensurate with their reputation, and hence some of them can boast a practice worth $50,000 per year. O'Conor, previous to his retirement, made annually, it is said, nearly four times that sum. Indeed, he was probably paid $200,000 for his services in the Jumel case. He is now worth more than a million, all of which he has made by his own genius and industry.—*New York Cor. Troy Times.*

An orator in Los Angeles, California, began a recent speech with a series of conundrums, thus: "Are there no dynamic antagonisms in the inanimate world? Is perfect harmony the universal law? Do all the elements above, around and beneath us act in Platonic unity?" At this point an old forty-niner from Pioche remarked that the speaker had better button his dip or proceed with the lecture.

The public debt was decreased $2,060,000 during last month