

very low cost. Furthermore, sires are kept in service until their value is fully known by the character of their get. The better sires may be retained as long as serviceable while the less valuable ones may be replaced by new ones.

Another plan for co-operating in the use of bulls is for a given number of farmers to organize a bull club. This plan calls for considerable work on the part of those most vitally interested in the welfare of a community, but has been worked successfully. G. C. H.

Save the Trees

That the shade tree increases the value of property, and adds much to the beauty of surroundings is being more and more appreciated. Municipal corporations are encouraging the planting of trees in greater numbers, as well as protecting those they already have. Many estimates have been made as to the actual cash value of a growing shade tree, but all concede that its aesthetic greatly exceeds its monetary value. In the transfer of real estate, a favorably situated shade tree will enhance the value of the property out of all proportion to the intrinsic value of the tree. From a financial standpoint, therefore, the shade trees should be protected.

Several railways are giving careful attention to the trees. Not only are they protecting, by special patrols and otherwise, the forests along their lines, but, at no inconsiderable expense, they are protecting them on their rights-of-way. One railway line was diverted from its originally planned route to save two handsome maple trees. Considerable attention and much favorable comment has been bestowed upon this considerate action of the railway corporation.

Waste of Fertilizer

The survey of 100 farms in each of four counties in Ontario in 1915 revealed a condition of extreme carelessness with a valuable product of the farm. Manure is one of the chief fertilizing elements used on Canadian farms. Few farmers

were using chemical fertilizers, the numbers being: Dundas county, 8; Waterloo, 37; Northumberland, 39; Carleton, none.

The percentage making use of farm-yard manure was 100; yet, of the 100 per cent, an average of 76.7 per cent admit "exercising no care to prevent waste of manure"; also, of the 400 farmers visited, only two exercise good care to prevent manure waste.

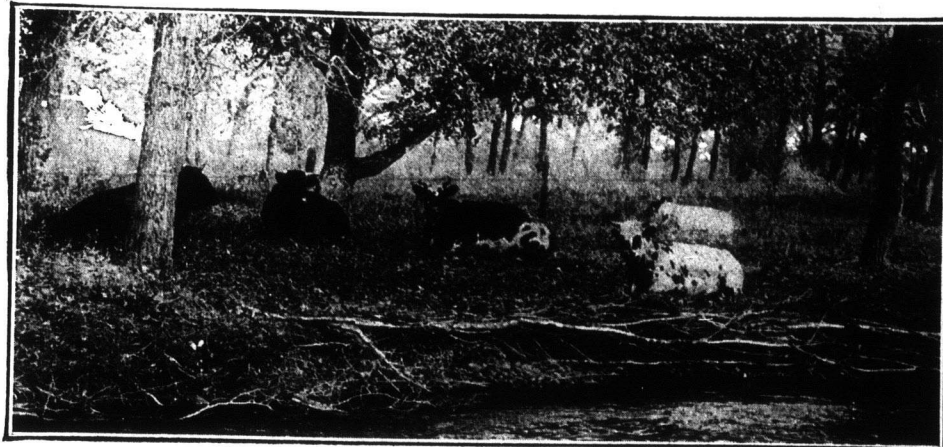
Mgr. Choquette, of the Commission of Conservation, in an address before the last annual meeting, referred to the need of our farmers understanding better the nature of the soil which they till. He in-

stands out in strong contrast with that of Canadian farmers.

When only two out of the 400 farmers visited in the older counties of Ontario exercised good care to prevent waste of manure, and 76.7 per cent admit exercising no care, the situation surely calls for the prompt attention of those interested in promoting better agriculture and the conservation and utilization of farm products.

Ladybugs, The Gardeners' Friend

The ladybugs, which are familiar to all, are very beneficial insects for the



At peace with the world

stanced the farmers of France, Belgium, Switzerland and Italy, and said: "Several times I have heard Belgian peasants speak of nitrogen, phosphoric acid, potash and lime, as ably as a professor. 'Here,' said one of them to me, 'is a field which needs nitrate; it would grow nothing without that. Over there I shall put, rather, some phosphate with a little potash.' I took an extreme pleasure in their conversation, and I asked myself if our Canadian farmers, even the best educated among them, would be able to show as much knowledge."

This appreciation of the value of fertilizing elements by European farmers

farmer and gardener, and should not under any circumstances be injured. They are all more or less hemispherical in shape, and red or yellow in color with black spots, or black with red, white or yellow spots. When in the larva, or grub state, the ladybug is a curious-looking, soft-bodied, worm-like affair of bright colors, that is more or less well covered with warts or spines. In either the grub or the beetle condition, these insects crawl about over the plants, looking for the plant lice and other soft-bodied insects and insects' eggs, which they devour, apparently, with great relish.

The value of ladybugs to horticulture has been clearly demonstrated on the Pacific coast. At one time the citrus-fruit business was threatened with extinction by the cottony-cushion scale. The introduction of an Australian ladybug, which feeds upon this particular scale, removed this grave source of trouble, for as soon as the ladybugs became numerous the scale was held in check.

In the East, there are several common kinds which are frequently found upon both wild and cultivated plants. They should never be disturbed, for they are almost always on a good mission. One species when in the larva state will eat herbs. You can tell him easily, for he is covered with numerous two-forked spines, and is partial to squash vines.

There is one of these ladybugs which frequently gets into houses and winters there in some secluded corner. In the spring it is found on the walls or windows and, mistaken for the carpet bug, is often killed—a great mistake. This ladybug is reddish yellow, and each wing-cover has one black spot on it. The carpet beetle is about the same size—one-seventh of an inch long—and covered with black, white, and brick-red scales. The back has along the sutures, where the wing covers meet, irregular bands of brick-red scales. This is, perhaps, the most distinguishing mark; at least it is the one most likely to be seen by the thrifty housekeeper. J. H. H.

Potato Beetle

The larvae of this insect cause much damage by eating the leaves of the potato vines, thereby retarding the growth of the plant and sometimes killing it. Having biting mouth parts, they can be controlled by the use of stomach poisons. Affected plants should be heavily sprayed two or three times during the growing season with paris green solution. Take one pound of paris green, mix with water to make a thin paste, stir thoroughly and add ten gallons of water. If spraying apparatus is not available apply with a watering can.

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