

may exist for many years, before they perish. The singular elephant plant has been said to attain at the Cape of Good Hope, the age of 200 years, years, reckoning by the rings of the bark of the crown. De Candolle gives the following tale of very old trees.

Elm.....	of 335 years.
Cypress.....	about 350
Cheirostemon.....	about 400
Ivy.....	450
Larch.....	576
Orange.....	630
Olive.....	700
Orientalaplane.....	720 and upwards.
Cedar of Lebanon, almost	800
Oak.....	870, 1080, 1500
Lime.....	1076 1247
Yew.....	1214 1438, 2588, 2880
Taxod'um.....	about 4000 to 6000
Banbab.....	6150 (in the year 1755)

## The Canadian Agricultural Journal.

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The high wages of labour, and the difficulty of procuring regular and competent men to work upon a farm, is a great drawback to Canadian Agriculture. If men could be had who understood the work on a well managed farm, and did their duty faithfully at all times, as they are found to do in the British Isles, the question of amount of wages would be only a trifling consideration. It is a farmer's interest to be well served and pay well, but we regret to say that this is a almost impossible here. However well disposed labourers may be, if they do not understand their business, it is impossible they can render valuable service to a farmer in proportion to the wages that have to be paid. It is only when we can see the difference between the work performed by a man regularly trained to Agricultural labour and one who is not, that we can estimate the value of the one over the other. Farmers cannot in this country afford to expend money on labour, unless the work executed will pay the expenditure. The system in England of having boys serve a regular apprenticeship to farmers, is the very best method to secure regular and valuable farm servants, men who can render double the service of those who have not been so brought up. We do not know any trade or business that requires this sort of apprenticeship more than farm labourers. Much time is wasted, and work imperfectly executed, by men who do not understand their business properly, and scarcely any man can understand his business properly, brought up on a small holding of land of a few acres in the old country, unless they have worked regularly on a well managed farm. The whole system requires to be so different from

that of a man working when he pleased and how he pleased upon a few acres of land, for himself, that labour becomes painful and burdensome to him when required to work differently and constantly. We wish the system of apprenticing boys were adopted here, and we are convinced it would work beneficially both for agriculturists and for those employed by them. There are a large number of boys come to this country annually, with their families, and a considerable proportion of these boys might be advantageously, both for their parents and for all parties, apprenticed out to farmers, on proper terms. Of course there would be no use in placing them where they could not receive proper instruction, and only be made slaves of, but there are many places that could be had for them, where they might be much better provided for than with their parents, without reference to the instruction they would receive. We trust this plan may be adopted, and we will answer for it that it will prove as advantageous to those who may be so apprentice,d as to the country generally. Apprentices to trades, that are not the hundredth part of so much importance as agriculture, is thought necessary, but the most ignorant is considered fully qualified to work on a farm. This is one cause that the profits of agriculture are so inconsiderable. If other trades were to employ persons entirely ignorant of the business they were to be employed in, we would soon find how very indifferently the work would be done. There does not exist a doubt that from the inexperience of labourers in a great portion of the work to be done on a well managed farm, the labour costs twice as much as it should do, and is not near so well done. It is absurd to suppose that it requires more experience to make a coat or a pair of shoes, or work in any other handicraft trade, than to execute well the several works to be done on a farm. Such a supposition is a great mistake, and respectable farmers should do all in their power to encourage the proper training of boys and men, in all the business of agriculture. By inducing well disposed men to remain for some time in one place, would be one step towards instructing them properly. The constant inclination in emigrants, to change and ramble about the country, increases the difficulty of instruction, or useful service to those employing labour. These observations are intended to benefit the employed as much as the employer. An experienced, faithful labourer will be able to sell his services at a higher rate than a man that does not know his work, and is not disposed to be faithful or attentive.