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Forest Management.

SETTLERS in a new country very generally wage a war of extermination against the "trees of the wood." They come to look upon them as natural enemies and cumberers of the ground, whose inevitable doom is to be cut down and cast into the fire. Since their removal is the first step toward making a farm out of the wilderness, they sweep them away as rapidly as possible. The consequence is, that many stretches of country have come to be nearly, if not quite as bare as a Western prairie, on which no plant or shrub knee-high can be seen. A monotonous belt of woodland stretches away in the rear of the cleared portions of the farms through which the highways run, but beside that, scarcely a single tree or grove diversifies the scene. This wholesale destruction of the forests of Canada is an evil that begins, at least in many localities, to demand a check. Firewood grows scarce and dear, the landscape is becoming naked, it is difficult to procure timber suitable for various mechanical uses, the shelter needed by many crops in exposed situations is removed, and unfavorable climatic changes are taking place, which can be clearly traced to the wholesale and indiscriminate destruction of timber. A little exercise of judgment, forethought and taste, would mend matters very much. For example, why cannot some of the young wood be preserved when land is cleared, to form groups that shall at once ornament the landscape, furnish shade for stock when the scorching summer sun pours down its almost tropical rays, and act as a wind-break when cold and biting blasts sweep over the fields? It seems absurd to destroy every green thing and then set about planting anew. There are many choice forest trees that transplant with difficulty, but which, left while small where nature placed them, become objects of surpassing beauty and great utility. What is to hinder the settler from availing himself of that best natural protection in bleak situations, the woody and leafy screen which he finds ready to his hand? How much comfort might be secured to the tenants of the dwelling and the farm-yard, if the house and barn were surrounded by a grove? Why cannot the standing wood which is kept as a reserve for fuel be gradually thinned out, and so managed that it shall be an ornamental appendage to the farm and a favorite run for the stock? Moreover, is it not important that second-growths of timber needed by the carriage-builder, cooper, cabinet-maker, and others, should be encouraged, and, in fact, forest culture made a department of farm economy and management? If we mistake not, these hints and queries open fields of reflection which many of our readers would do well to look at, especially at the present season of the year, when it is so common to "cry havoc and let slip the dogs of war," in the shape of ruthless axes, wielded by relentless choppers, beneath whose fell strokes every twig and sapling quickly disappears.

There is not only great need of intelligent forest

management on the farms scattered up and down the land, but the preservation of trees upon the sites of towns and villages is a most important matter. Nature has made many of these sites indescribably beautiful. Centuries have been occupied in the growth of graceful and magnificent trees; hill, plain and valley diversify the surface of the land, and sparkling rills flow musically through the sylvan dells. All is lovely till man invades the scene. Full of utilitarian ideas, bent on speculation, and having no eye for natural beauty, the founder or founders of a new town or village allow, unchecked, raw emigrants and ignorant day-laborers to begin and carry on the work of spoliation and disfigurement. Grand old oaks, graceful elms, beautiful pines, hemlocks and balsams, which furnish ornament and shade, such as generations must wait for from human planting, are mercilessly felled; the royal head of every monarch of the forest is humbled to the earth, and no vestige of a tree is left, except the unsightly trunks that, piled one upon another, form the habitations of the Goths and Vandals that have conquered the region. When the destruction is not thus complete at first, and here and there a few trees are left, some idle shanty-man or stupid road-master will destroy what settlement and time have spared. We have in our eye at present a Canadian town of some size and age which has many noble elms, maples, beeches, balsams and hemlocks in its environs, which are rapidly disappearing in the way just hinted at. Surely proprietors and municipal authorities ought to interfere and put a stop to the wholesale destruction and pillage of beautiful and valuable timber.

Cost of Fences.

MR. CORNELL says:—"To fence a farm into square fields of two and a half acres each, crediting half the fence to the adjoining field, requires forty rods of fence, or sixteen rods per acre, which at \$15 per thousand for rails, and \$10 per thousand for stakes, will cost at least thirty cents per rod, or \$4 80 per acre, and entail an annual expense in the interest of money, natural decay of material, and labour for repairs, of nearly or quite \$1 per acre. Fields of five acres each require eleven and a half rods per acre, costing \$3 45 per acre. Ten-acre fields require six rods of fence per acre, costing \$2 40 per acre. Twenty-acre fields reduce the fence to five and a half rods per acre, at a cost of \$1 65 per acre. Forty acres in a field require but four rods to an acre; and one hundred acres may be enclosed in one field with two and a half rods per acre, costing 75 cents per acre.

CEREALS should be reaped before they are fully ripe. There is a gain of four per cent. in favour of cutting wheat a fortnight before it is actually ripe. Besides this, the straw is of a better quality, and there is a likelier chance of securing the crop.

Cultivation and Manufacture of Flax.

PERINE'S WORKS.

CONVINCED that the growth and manufacture of flax is destined to take high rank among the industrial interests of Canada, and being determined to use all the means in our power to direct public attention to a subject of such manifest practical importance, we take pleasure in laying before our readers some of the results of a personal visit of inspection to one of the establishments carried on in the western part of this Province, by the Messrs. Perine. These gentlemen deserve most honorable mention, for the persevering and successful energy with which they have introduced and fostered the culture of this valuable textile fibre. It is now about ten years since Mr. W. D. Perine located himself at Doon, Upper Canada, for the purpose of commencing an enterprise, the results of which fairly entitle him to a place among the benefactors of Canada. The farmers of Waterloo could not at first be induced to try the experiment of flax-growing. Nothing daunted, Mr. Perine rented a quantity of land, imported seed, and while the crop was growing, prepared a scutching mill. Gradually the surrounding farmers relinquished their scepticism, and began to attempt flax culture on a small scale. Beginning with half an acre or an acre, their confidence grew with the growth of the new product, until now many who were originally unwilling to devote a single rod to flax, regularly cultivate their 15 or 20 acres annually.

As actual trial demonstrated the practicability and profitableness of the undertaking, other points beside Doon were sought as centres of operation, and Mr. W. D. Perine was joined by his two brothers, the trio forming the firm now carrying on business as Perine Brothers. They have at present four scutching mills at work in Upper Canada, located respectively at Doon, Conestogo, Drayton, and Baden. At Baden the premises are rented, but at the other places the works are owned by the firm. They consume at these establishments the product of about 1500 acres of land annually, tilling about 200 acres themselves, and depending upon the adjacent farmers for the balance. They have enlarged their business to its present dimensions mainly by a quiet exhibition of the advantages of flax-culture, in the way of personal intercourse with the farmers, whom they visit, and encourage by placing facts and figures before them, loaning them seed, and pledging them a market for the crop. They have no difficulty now in obtaining all the raw material they want. The results on the whole have been such as to encourage the Messrs. Perine, and induce them not only to increase the number of their scutching mills, but to import machinery for the manufacture of linen. At their oldest establishment, viz., in Doon, they are laying out some ten thousand dollars in this direction, and we hope by and by next to be able to announce the manufacture of linen from Canadian-grown flax, as an accomplished