

The Farm Bush Will Supply Fuel and Building Material

Judicious Tree Planting Can Add to the Comfort and Beauty of Home Surroundings—Nature will Accomplish Much if Given a Free Hand.

By the Agricultural Editor of the "Globe" Toronto.

IN the last quarter of a century I have visited several hundred farms in various parts of Ontario for the purpose of inquiring into agricultural conditions. In no part of that inquiry have I taken a keener interest than in matters relating to the farm wood-lot and the beautification of farm surroundings by the planting of windbreaks and roadside trees. On none of the farms visited in 25 years have I seen a clearer demonstration of what may be done to add to the beauty and comfort of home surroundings by judicious tree planting, on none so clear a demonstration of how much can be accomplished in a short time in the way of conservation of a wood-lot merely by keeping the cattle out of that lot.

A Thirty-Acre Wood-Lot

On the 250-acre farm of R. C. McCullough, in the upper end of the township of Esquesing, 30 acres are still in bush. A lane connecting the cleared land in front of the farm with other fields at the rear, runs through the middle of that bush. Twelve years ago cattle had the run of the timber on both sides of the lane and as a consequence young growth was being clipped off year after year, grass was creeping in, mature trees were becoming thinner and thinner on the ground. In several places the large trees were 100 feet apart; on the average they were probably not closer together than trees in a properly planted apple orchard.

Effect of Excluding Cattle

Then Mr. McCullough fenced off the portion of the wood-lot on one side of the lane, and from that time on cattle have been excluded therefrom, while still having the free run of the bush on the other side. In the part from which cattle have been shut out there is now a dense growth of young stuff running all the way from last spring's seedlings to saplings 12 feet and more in height. On the other side practically nothing but mature trees are left, with grass occupying the more exposed spaces. That is the result of keeping stock out in one case and allowing a free run in the other.

The intention now is to exclude cattle from the portion in which they have free run today, and if this intention is carried out there will soon be a wood-lot, which, intelligently used, will be sufficient to supply three households with fuel for all time to come and with such building material as may be occasionally required as well, because almost all kinds of our native trees—pine, oak, basswood, maple, beech and even shell-bark hickory—are growing in the McCullough woods.

Lane and Roadside Trees

There has been planting as well as conservation—in one instance the two combined—on the McCullough homestead. Shade trees protect the farm residence without excluding sunlight from the rooms. Maples line both sides of the lane leading from the roadside entrance, past the house and back to the wood-lot beyond. Other maples line the roadside itself in front, and near the centre a clump of natural growth of pine, marking the site of one of the cemeteries dating back to pioneer times, adds the finishing touch of beauty and protection from winter's blasts and summer's heat.

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