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PLANTING FOREST WOOD.

Many persons find considerable difficulty in planting our native trees for ornament or shelter. We have seen the growth of timber on the greater part of the barren land throughout the Province destroyed by fires, and have seen much of it again replaced by other growth. Careful attention to the process by which the forest is reproduced, will teach us the art of planting it. If an acre or two is cut down in the midst of a forest, and then neglected, it will soon be occupied by a growth similar to that which was cut down, but when all the timber on tracts of great size is killed by fire, except certain parts of swamps, a very different growth springs up; at first a great number of herbs and shrubs which did not grow on the land when covered with living wood. The turfy coat filled with the decaying fibres of the roots of the trees and plants of the forest, now all killed by the fire, becomes a kind of hot-bed, and the seeds which had lain dormant beneath it for centuries spring up and flourish in the mellow soil. On the most barren portions the strawberry producing extraordinary crops of fruit, appears almost everywhere. Great fields of red Raspberries, and Fireweed, or such willow spring up along the edges of the Beech and Hemlock land, and abundance of red-berried Elder and wild red Cherry appear soon after; but in a few years the ground becomes hard and the Raspberries and most of the herbage disappear, and the branched fern takes their place, followed by a growth of Fir, Birch, and yellow Birch, and Poplar. On the most barren land there is generally a succession of fires which burn the dead wood which has fallen, together with a considerable part of the turf which had been greatly reduced in quantity by decay after the fire. All shrubs now occupy the barren, the Kalmia, or Sheep poison is the most abundant, and in the course of ten or twelve years so much turf that a thicket of small Alder begins to grow, under the shelter of which, Fir, Spruce, Haemetac, and white Birch begin to grow up—and when the ground is thoroughly shaded by a thicket of thirty feet high, the species which originally occupied the ground begins to prevail and suffocate the wood which sheltered it, and in sixty years the land will generally be covered with a young growth of the same kind that it produced of old, provided always man does not interfere. Attentive observation will shew that the broken stones and barren gravel have not turf over them deep enough to produce large shrubs, the Kalmia will occupy the ground which has formed four or five inches of turf, and that then the Alder comes in, and choke a part of the Kalmia; under the shelter of

the Alder, Haemetac, Balsam Fir, Scrubbed Spruce, with white Birch and Poplars, will spring up, with a mixture of white Maple, the roots of which are rarely killed by fires; when these sheltering trees have attained a considerable size, the red Spruce appears growing in company with a greater proportion of Balsam Fir, which overgrowing the Spruce till they have reached the height of thirty or forty feet serve to train it up tall and slender, and then having reached nearly their full growth, are overtopped and suffocated by the Spruce.

The white Birch is the sheltering tree of the Pine; wherever it grows large, mixed with a little Oak, there has been large Pine with a few Oaks, and there will be large Pine again, if man does not interfere. The edges of the Hemlock land on a better soil will at first be occupied by a thicket of yellow birch hoop poles, always edged on the open side by a very close belt of firs. These Birches will at first grow rapidly, but when they have reached a size fit for small cordwood, they will nearly cease growing, become mossy, and after they have continued in that state for twenty years, the Hemlocks will return, and finally suffocate the most of them. It should be observed that white Birch as well as other hardwood always has a thick belt of evergreens on the open side, generally composed of Balsam Fir, but next the sea it is often white Spruce.

The cheapest way to plant a Belt or clump of wood on a poor soil, would be, to begin by planting young upland Alder, of so small a size that they can be easily pulled up. They will take readily if the tops are cut off within six inches of the ground. When they have stood for two years, sow among them the seeds of Fir and white Spruce, and, if Pine is wanted, those of the white Birch. When the Firs are two or three feet high, the seeds of Beech and Sugar Maple may be sowed.—Hemlock should not be introduced till the Firs are ten or twelve feet high. This tree requires more shelter than our other large trees; but they all require it at first except the Ash, which will grow well without shelter on a moist, rich, stoney soil.

The lower branches of the Firs on the outside of a belt, or clump should never be disturbed.

If Firs are transplanted they should always be taken from open ground, and should not be more than a foot high.

It should be observed that the leaves and dead food of trees are always deposited on the surface, and there form a covering which protects the roots from cold and drought, and that Firs root in this half-decayed vegetable matter. For this reason when they are transplanted the surface should always be covered with moss, rotten chips or saw dust, stubble, or some such substance. It would be useful to mix a portion of Peat earth with the soil in which they are planted,

Beech should always be raised from the nuts; it is not easily transplanted. The hard Elm will grow in open exposure on limestone or plaster soils, but on our Southern coast requires a very rich soil, and some shelter from wind. The White Birch and the Sugar Maple will grow large on suitable soils, if considerably sheltered by hills, but our trees in general will not succeed so well on land that has been enriched by long cultivation, as many similar trees imported from Europe. It is probable that their nature is somewhat affected by the situations in which they have long grown. The Larch and Mountain Ash of Europe will outgrow our own