

Gifts of Trees to Northern France

(Editorial from the Philadelphia Bulletin.)

It is interesting that the nurserymen of the country, assembled here in convention, are considering the proposal of reforesting Northern France at their own expense. This is the plan of Prince Poniatowski, a name familiar to all students of Napoleonic literature, and while our nurserymen cannot do all of the replanting of fruit and shade trees which the Boches have destroyed, they seem willing to do their share and to make it easy for other philanthropists to co-operate.

It is well known that as the Germans have been driven back from their original line they have left only a desert behind them. Everything has been destroyed except the soil, and that has been so badly cut up that it will be long ere it produces

its normal yield. The annual crops are to be restored much sooner than the vineyards, orchards and shade trees. It will be remembered that Professor Ferrero tells in one of his histories that in a single year Spartacus and his revolting gladiators did more damage to Italy than Hannibal did in seventeen. This was because the latter destroyed simply the annual crops, which meant the loss of only a year's income, but by the time of Spartacus the olive and the vine had replaced grain in Italy, and it took years to replace them.

This is the case with Northern France. It needs fruit trees and vines to replace those which were destroyed, and several years will be necessary to restore former conditions. It may be that the nurserymen will

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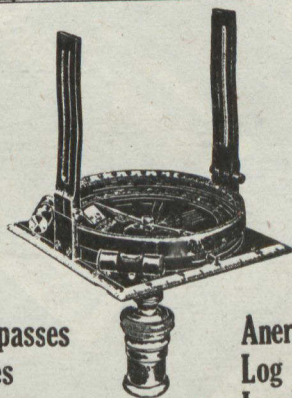
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