

Now every farmer has seen instances where a field sheltered by some natural windbreak has produced ten, fifteen or twenty bushels per acre more than one not sheltered. Taking the least of these increases, together with the increase of straw, our windbreak would be paid for in one year. Now how does the account stand? We have a young plantation that has already paid for itself, and will continue to pay interest on the land at a very high rate for all time to come, as a windbreak.

We have so added to the appearance of our farm that any man of taste or judgment seeking a farm would give us \$10 per acre more for the land than if destitute of trees. We have permanent fence posts for the entire farm, worth 15c. apiece at least, or at a rod apart on two sides of a ten acre field, \$12. And lastly, a plantation worth, when full grown, from \$200 to \$1,000 per acre for timber. Many people find it difficult to make evergreens grow. This arises chiefly from want of care in planting. Young trees are safest to plant, and will grow faster than older ones. An evergreen 18 inches to 2 feet high will generally be 10 feet high as soon as one planted at same time, being 4 or 5 feet high when planted. The whole secret of success in planting evergreens, as in planting other trees, is to keep the roots from getting dry while out of the ground, and when planting pack fine, rich, moist earth, among and around the roots; the more the better. If sods or lumps of earth are thrown on the roots, the chances are small that the tree grows, as any one ought to know; but nine men out of ten, if sent to plant trees, will do it in this careless way.

Of kinds to plant. The Lombardy poplar grows very fast; can be grown from limbs, like willows, and as it grows very tall, if set close, say twelve or fifteen feet apart, soon make a good windbreak, especially if one row of the three is planted with evergreens. Walnut trees grow very fast and are easily raised, and would pay in the crop of nuts about as soon and as much as apple trees will in fruit; besides the timber on ten acres, when grown up, would make one man independently rich. What better legacy could a parent leave a child than a grove of walnut trees? To grow walnut, chestnut, or hickory, throw the nuts on the ground in the fall when they are green, and cover with an inch or two of fine earth. In the spring they will be sprouted. Plant where the trees are wanted, about three inches deep. If planted in nursery rows and removed, the trees are apt to be stunted, as they have a long tap root that is likely to get cut in digging. I would plant walnuts eight or ten feet apart each way, every alternate tree to be taken out when about six inches in diameter, which, with average cultivation on good soil, would be in about fifteen years. This to be again repeated when the trees are about one foot in diameter, leaving a plantation 32 to 40 feet apart for a permanent grove. Hickory will be very valuable here in a few years. They should be planted in nursery rows like apple trees, four feet apart, and trees about six inches apart in the row. These rows to be thinned out as they grow up (for various purposes), such as walking sticks, barrel-hoops, and when larger for any of the many uses to which hickory is so well suited.

European larch is an exceedingly valuable tree to plant, as it grows quickly and is valuable for posts, ties, or any purpose, when a wood is required that will not rot easily. Seed can be procured of almost any seedsman.

Oak is a slow grower, but will be very valuable before long. It is a handsome tree and holds its foliage well, which makes it valuable for a windbreak in winter.

Basswood (Linden) is a quick grower and is invaluable for bee-pasture, and the wood is valuable for many purposes.

Elm has its merits, too, being a fast grower, an exceedingly handsome tree, and will grow in wet places where many other kinds will not live.

A new aspirant is the Russian Mulberry, said to be a quick grower, with bushy top, better than oak or cedar for posts, &c., and bears heavy crops of berries resembling blackberries. I notice these trees are for sale by Pearce, Weld & Co., of London, at \$15 per hundred.

It is useless to enumerate the good or bad qualities of all our common forest trees. Let each one

select, according to his own tastes, from the cheapest sources, and he will be sure never to regret having planted. I fear I have trespassed too much upon your patience already, Mr. Editor. I will therefore lose by urging upon my brother farmers to begin planting in earnest next spring, and to remember that what is worth doing at all is worth doing well.

#### A Chatty Stock Letter from the States.

[FROM OUR CHICAGO CORRESPONDENT.]

The interest in Polled Scotch cattle, which has amounted to a "boom" for two years past in the States, does not seem to flag. There has been some reaction from the time when a black-coated hornless animal would bring almost any crazy price the seller would ask, regardless of the animal's individual merits, but there is a strong and steady demand for the "doddies," which keeps prices for them far above the rates current for the best Short-horns and Herefords. Lately there have been purchases of these cattle by breeders on the Pacific Slope, which shows that the fame of the black cattle has spread far and wide. Early in the spring there are to be sales at auction here of one or two herds of Canadian Polled Scotch cattle. Breeders who have given them a trial seem to be "hungry for more," but of course it is to their interest to keep up the boom as long as possible.

Some of the agricultural papers are talking about the Shorthorns being unpopular and "out of fashion." Such conclusions are based upon the great amount of noise being made about the black hornless cattle, of which there are so few that the sharp demand for them causes an excitement among breeders interested in them, and because there is no particular hullaboo in the Shorthorn circles, some newspaper writers have jumped at this hasty conclusion. The fact is, there has never been a time when there was so much activity in the Shorthorn market, but the vast stock of these cattle prevents anything like a boom. Some breeders of Shorthorns have been heard of who, claiming that the Shorthorns are growing out of popular favor, have sold some fine specimens of the breed to more sensible persons, who know a bargain when they see it. There is no great loss without some gain, and if there are among the owners of Shorthorns men who wish to chase what they deem the fashion bubble, and sell out at low prices, there are no doubt plenty of men who are sensible enough to take advantage of such opportunities.

On Feb. 19, John D. Gillett, of Logan county, Ill., shipped from Chicago 150 head of two year old beeves, averaging 1,525 lbs., and 183 prime mutton sheep, averaging 150 lbs. The lot left in time to be put aboard the steamer Vesta for Liverpool. Col. Gillett is an old man, but he is not too old to learn. When a man gets too old to learn he is past all usefulness in this world, and should pass on to the next. Col. Gillett has learned that he can make 25 per cent. more on young cattle than on the three and four year old monsters which he used to raise, and declares his intention of marketing his cattle younger hereafter. Let others who have admired this great man's success follow this his latest and best example. It is hard to understand, however, why the old gentleman did not long ago come to this conclusion.

Talking about fashion in cattle, it really does seem that Devon cattle have gone "out of style."

N. Kennedy, of Canada, is exporting cattle from Chicago, via Portland, Me., in considerable numbers.

The extravagance of the majority of American shepherds, particularly those in the newer sections, is startling. They have tariff protection against competition from foreign countries, yet complaints are frequent that at present prices the wool business hardly pays. They need better stock and more economical stock management.

#### Non-Political.

The proprietors and managers of several political journals have opened their columns to promulgate misleading statements, which are injurious to the farmer. Perhaps during the political campaign they may consider "all fair in love and war," but we trust the time will arrive when the editors and proprietors of these journals, who have allowed such statements to appear, will make amends. It should be distinctly understood the FARMER'S ADVOCATE is not, and never was, a party paper, but has fearlessly advocated the interests of the farmers. We must disclaim any connection with the utterances and quotations that have appeared in several political papers, which have been inserted, no doubt, to serve their own party views. The pages of the ADVOCATE are at all times open to fair discussions for the correction of agricultural abuses, rather than following in pledged support of any party, whether right or wrong. Surely we cannot be condemned for pursuing such a course.

#### Are You Ready?

Seed time will soon be here. Are your plows, cultivators, seeders, rollers, harrows, etc., etc., all in order? If not, make them so. Have you concluded what kinds of grain you intend to sow? Have you procured a change of seed from a distant farm, or from a different soil, within the past three years? If not, try and arrange so as to make a change before seed time arrives. It is not necessary that you should procure new varieties, but endeavor to procure the variety that answers best in your locality. If there are varieties that have not been tried, and if there is a good prospect of their succeeding, it is well to try them. There are some varieties that are being tested, both in Canada and the States, but sufficient is not known of them to commend any expenditure—that is, in spring wheat or oats. In some localities the Scot, Glasgow, Fife, or Red Scotch (all the same variety, but known under different names) is still considered the best; in others the McCarling or Rio Grande are preferred. The Redfern holds its own in some parts, and the Defiance is highly commended by many. For particulars of each refer to past volumes of this journal.

We know of no better varieties of white oats for you to sow than the Emporium or Australian; they are admirably adapted to all light and porous soils. If your land is of a rich, clayey nature, the Black Tartar is the best. We do not consider the White Russian in any way superior to the Australian. If you wish to raise the heaviest and plumpest oats, procure the Angus Potato oat, or Scotch oat; they are the same variety, and are the plumpest looking oats grown, but are very apt to shell, and have a very hard, thick hull. If you want to raise the blackest oats, the Black Poland must be procured. They are an excellent kind, but are fully ten days later in ripening than the Emporium or Australian oats.

When on Mr. Drummond's farm, one of the prize farms in Quebec Province, we saw a very fine, closely-set variety of barley; it was different from the two-rowed or four-rowed barley commonly grown in Ontario. Mr. Drummond preferred it to any other for its yielding qualities, though the heads appear much smaller than our common barley; but when rubbed from the head the bulk of barley was surprising. We think it would be a good change. We are informed that it is an excellent malting grain. This variety appeared new to us.

Peas are now cultivated to much better advantage than they have been for the past few years. The pea bug has not done so much damage. The