

**Arbor Day Brevities.**

(The teacher can introduce these facts into the exercises as she sees fit, letting each pupil give one statement).

Our country has made a great mistake in cutting down so many trees and spoiling our splendid forests. Trees not only make the earth more beautiful to look at and enjoy, but they do a great deal of good beside.

Forests affect the climate of a country. They prevent extremes of heat and cold, and the sudden changes in weather that spoil the crops.

Forests help the farmers. They form a wall that protects the growing crops.

More rain falls every year in the forests than in the open field. One-tenth of this rain is caught by the leaves and held, and then dropped down afterwards to the earth gradually. This is better for the soil than if it all fell upon the earth at once.

The carpet of leaves in the forests makes the earth there like a sponge, and it takes up the rains and melting snows and holds them and lets the moisture down into the soil, little by little. This spongy leaf mould keeps the earth from freezing so hard there so that it can take up the rain.

Old limbs and trunks of trees and big roots that stand out on the surface stop the water that comes pouring down the hillsides and slowly fills the springs and rivers.

When the forests are cut down and the ground burned over, the leafy sponge-like mold is burned too, and the melting snows and rainfalls rush down the hills and do great harm.

Large roots of trees will push their way under ground and into rocks and make little hollow places for the water to run through, and that keeps the springs open all the year.

If trees are planted in sandy deserts, by and by good soil will be formed, where other things can grow. Then people can live in these places.

Trees make the air purer. The leaves take the impure air which we breathe out. They make it over in their little cells and give it back to us pure air again.

Trees give out a good deal of moisture. A town or city without any trees would be a great deal hotter and drier in the summer time.—*Selected.*

A small herd of yaks is to be sent to Canada as an experiment, in the expectation that they will thrive in the Canadian climate north of Lake Superior.

**CURRENT EVENTS.**

Bolivia will soon be connected by railway with the navigable waters of the Amazon. The Atlantic port will be two thousand miles from the sea, for which distance the Amazon and its tributary, the Madeira, give an unbroken stretch of navigable water with a depth of twenty-five feet at the shallowest part.

Six thousand bushels of wheat, three thousand bushels of barley and six hundred bushels of oats are said to have been raised by one man last year in the Peace River district, and the grain was of excellent quality. This goes to prove that the wheat lands of Alberta are not confined to the southern belt.

An expert states that the lately discovered iron mines at Bathurst, N. B., are the largest and most valuable deposit of iron ore in the Dominion.

A consular report comes from China to the effect that the Dalai Lama has asked the permission of the Chinese government to raise a loan for building a railway from Lhasa to British India; and yet it is but a short time since Thibet was almost an unknown land, which a foreigner might enter only at the risk of his life.

The dried fish exports of Labrador in 1907 were valued at a hundred thousand dollars, but last year they had fallen off one-fifth.

A new lock just completed at St. Andrews, sixteen miles north of Winnipeg, gives the latter city communication by water with the shores of Lake Winnipeg for a distance of two hundred miles. Large vessels can be used, as the dam at St. Andrews deepens the Red River above it all the way back to the city.

The tea planters of India are urging the government to protect the forests for the sake of the water supply. In this connection they ask that the protection of wild elephants be discontinued, as the elephants destroy the young growth of the forest.

A German botanist has found that mosquitoes can be destroyed by the growth of a certain tropical plant in stagnant waters. It covers the surface of the water so completely that the mosquito larvæ cannot come to the surface to breathe.

The largest vessel of the Newfoundland sealing fleet this year goes equipped with wireless telegraph.

Fatigue has been shown to be a poisoning of the body through the accumulation of waste products under certain conditions. German chemists have found an antidote, which may be injected to neutralize this poison and prevent injurious effects. Nevertheless, old-fashioned people will prefer to rest when they are tired.

More than one hundred and twenty thousand immigrants arrived in Canada in 1908. There are indications that the number coming this year will be as great.

A flight of five miles has been made by an aeroplane at Baddeck, Cape Breton, where experiments