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THE BLACK WALNUT.

Black walnuts are best grown from the seed, planted at once in the station to be occupied by the trees. The Hon. H. G. Joly, an enthusiastic tree-planter of Montreal, is quite sanguine of success there, and may be able to give his experience in that northern latitude. I should hesitate recommending the tree for the Dominion. The walnut prefers a very rich, deep soil, and its natural habitat is chiefly south of the Great Lakes, but it is hardy enough; it thrives in Bohemia.

The seeds may be gathered in the autumn, when they fall, and can be planted at once with their hulls on, or they may be spread out thinly on the ground not more than two or three layers deep, and left exposed until the spring. The hulled or cleaned seed may be purchased in any of our towns for a price ranging from 26 cents upward to \$1 per bushel, varying with the demand and crop of nuts.

In planting, the ground should be prepared as for Indian corn, and one or two nuts dropped at the intersection of the marker used for that cereal, or they may be dropped in a furrow and covered with the plow. They can stand 4 feet apart, or if in wider rows, still closer. A row of corn or potatoes can be planted between these drills, if 5 to 7 feet wide. Spring planting may be done in the same hills with the corn, as is done with locust seed and some other hardy species that will make a good growth the first year, such as the white maple, or the ash. This plan saves the labor and risk of transplanting from the nursery row.

The land needs to be well cultivated and kept clear of weeds for two or three years. The walnuts may be planted in blocks alone or in alternate rows with other trees that are to be removed in a few years, as the walnuts need room, but close planting forces them up.

J. A. WARDER,
Vice-Pres. A. F. A.

PENNSYLVANIA FORESTS.

The state board of agriculture, which recently met at Harrisburg, took steps to ascertain what proportion the timber land of the state bears to the entire acreage. Since then statistics which have been obtained indicate that about one-fourth of the acreage is woodland, and that its tendency is toward a marked decrease in quantity. The chairman of the committee on forests and forestry, Wm. S. Roland, of York, foresees impaired health and discomfort of the people, and deleterious effects upon the business relations of the state, if the destruction of Pennsylvania forests is allowed to go on without something being done in the way of repair. "Trees are the dominating members of the vegetable kingdom. They are the necessary factors in the sum total of those influences which constitute the environment of animal life. Trees, by absorbing carbonic gas and

emitting oxygen, act as agents in rendering the atmosphere life-sustaining. By interposing their foliage between the sun and the earth, they serve a useful purpose in sheltering the soil from the heat, and, as conductors of heat, in equalizing the temperature of the earth and air. The forest, too, guards the soil against abrasion and the displacement from torrents and overflows, and thus again exerts its conservative influence for man's good. We need trees for the delight they afford, as at once the most majestic, imposing and beautiful of nature's vegetable forms. The state cannot afford and should not much longer withhold, or refuse to give the subject of our forests its most serious attention." Mr. Roland notes the encouragement which tree planting is receiving in other states, and thinks these examples should be imitated in Pennsylvania. He suggests intelligent legislation, the organization of local agricultural societies, and the support of the state board of agriculture. In this way much good could be accomplished, in his judgment, toward creating public sentiment with regard to the question, and starting a general movement for the repair of the wastes which have been made in the forests of Pennsylvania.—*Williamsport Gazette*.

THE OUTLOOK FOR TRADE.

The *Northwestern Lumberman* says:—The amount of new projects in the way of building operations, which is now developing not only in Chicago but throughout the entire west, has never been excelled at any period in the history of the country. Newspaper exchanges from every quarter contain notices of improvements contemplated, and contracts entered into for business houses and residences, to an extent which bids fair to give employment to all the skilled artisans in the land. From New York and Boston, as well as other cities of the East, to the Rocky Mountains, every town and hamlet gives word of a demand for an unprecedented quantity of building material of all classes and descriptions.

During the past two weeks buyers from the country have made their appearance in the Chicago market in number and with demands for lumber which presage a lively fall trade. It is no doubt true that the yards of the dealers in almost every section of the West have been kept on short stock, dealers preferring, from the unsettled condition of the wholesale markets, to order from hand to mouth until such times as prices should have, beyond cavil, reached their lowest level. This is thought by many buyers not yet to have been realized, and while many declare that they are not yet prepared to lay in full assortments, the boom in building in many localities has forced the dealers to an increased activity in obtaining supplies.

Every indication at present points to a condition of prosperity among the farming communi-

ties of the West which presages a contentment of mind and satisfaction of feeling highly conducive, on their part, to make all needful or hitherto contemplated improvements. That this is the view taken by the merchants and dealers in all kinds of commodities, lumber included, is fully evidenced by the increased activity daily becoming more and more manifest by the influx of buyers, as well as by the increase of orders, at all wholesale points, seeking the goods which a prosperous people are already showing an increased willingness to purchase, as well as by the building projects which are necessitated by the increased wealth of a people who feel assured of their ability to purchase and pay for the comforts and luxuries in which prosperity enables them to indulge. The present outlook gives indications of a business boom exceeding anything which the past two years of prosperous activity has witnessed.

NEW FORESTS IN THE WEST.

The *Bay City Lumberman's Gazette* says:—Many thousands of acres in the treeless regions of the far west are annually planted with shoots and saplings under the provisions of the law, passed by Congress a few years ago, to encourage the growth of timber. The wisdom of these laws, says the *Boston Advertiser*, becomes more and more apparent as time goes on. They promise to counterbalance the wholesale destruction of forests in the older sections of the country by creating new tracts of woodland upon the vast bare plains of the trans-Mississippi region. They appeal directly to the individual self-interest of settlers and to the desire for land-ownership which appears to be a stronger passion in new communities, where the soil is almost the only visible property, than in places where an old society has created many other forms of wealth. The western farmer who has homesteaded a quarter section of 160 acres can secure an additional quarter section by planting and caring for the growth of ten acres of trees. If he selects his homestead tract upon an unoccupied section he can get 320 acres in a body, and if this is not feasible he can usually find a chance for a "timber entry" within a short distance of his home and thus obtain a second farm to give to his sons or sell when the denser settlement of the region has made it worth a good price. Nor are the benefits of the tree-culture laws limited to actual settlers. Many claims are taken up purely for speculative purposes by non-residents. Considerable areas of land are thus kept out of the hands of men who would homestead and cultivate them, but the object of securing the rearing of numerous patches of forests in regions naturally bare of trees is greatly advanced.

It is still too soon to tell whether or not any noticeable climatic changes will result from the creation of timber tracts now going on in south-

western Minnesota, Dakota, Nebraska and Kansas, but it is not probable that great benefits may accrue to those regions. When the trees attain a fair size the new forests may prevent excessive droughts and destructive freshets, and break the force of high winds and tornadoes, as well as promote a supply of fuel and lumber for future generations. The timber-culture laws afford a striking example of how much can be done to improve natural conditions by wise legislation, and are a lesson to the advocates of the let-alone theory of government. Their successful working suggests the inquiry,—If the United States can, by two simple statutes, cause forests to spring up on hundreds of thousands of bare acres in the new west, cannot the states do something by legislation to regulate and limit the destruction of timber in the older sections of the country?

OLD WOODEN BOLTS IN HOUSEBUILDING.

Why do you make so lavish a use of nails in the carpenter work of our houses, to the exclusion of the honest old oaken pin? Pull down any building—it be merely a barn, of more than 200 years old, and you will not find a single nail in the original work; rafters and joists were all bolted together so stoutly as almost to defy the tools of the destroyer. Many an old manor barn, when pulled down of late years—as unfortunately only too many of them have been—has shown itself to have been better built than most palaces are now. There are arguments in the way of economy of time and so on in favor of the use of nails in housebuilding, but they are as nothing compared with the solid advantages of using wooden bolts. The iron nails in time canker and rot rafters and floors, but bolts hold them together "like grim death, and render a house practically indestructible.—*Exeter Flying Post*.

The *Timber Trades Journal* of July 15th says of the 44 vessels to London recorded in this number no less than 32 are steamers, 3 of them forming part of the Quebec fleet. The spring arrivals from the St. Lawrence to the present time consist of the *Ocean King, Howding, Earl King, Viking, Nightingale, Thames, Orcin, and Red Jacket*, the last mentioned famous clipper once again bringing to our port a full cargo pine deals, &c., from Quebec.

A DETROIT despatch says:—The American Lumber Company has purchased from the Detroit & Marquette Railway Company the standing pine on its entire land grant, except Mackinaw county and the east part of Chippewa county—in all 500,000 acres; they have also purchased 225,000,000 feet of timber in the northern peninsula, giving it control of the largest body of pine in Michigan. It intends to cut 14,000,000 feet next winter. The head offices are in Toronto, Canada.