

THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE AND HOME MAGAZINE.

THE LEADING AGRICULTURAL JOURNAL IN
THE DOMINION.

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Cottonwood May be Imported from Dakota.

In compliance with the representations made by the Western Horticultural Society, the following order-in-council was recently passed at Ottawa: Providing that Dakota cottonwood, otherwise called "necklace poplar" (*Populus monilifera*), when grown and shipped from the State of North and South Dakota, shall be exempt from the operations of the San José Scale Act for a period of six weeks from first day of May, 1890. All importations of the said Dakota cottonwood shall be permitted to be entered at the customs port of Brandon in the Province of Manitoba only.

Tree Planting on Roadways.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

Re Amendment of Tree-planting on Highways Act.—A number of farmers asked us to give consideration to this Act, so as to meet their ideas for the better encouragement of planting trees contiguous to their farms. Looking into the matter from numerous points of view, we resolved to ask that in Chap. 100, Part IX., Title III., Clause 639, that the word "eight" should be made "sixteen" as the least space to enclose.

First, that it has been abundantly shown by experience and beyond all doubt that the prairie soil must be thoroughly broken up and pulverized previous to planting, and that after planting or sowing the ground must be cultivated to keep clear of weeds and for the conservation of moisture so necessary for the health and rapid growth of the trees for many years.

Also, to amend Clause 640. That after the words "contiguous to his land" should be inserted the words, "that all such trees or saplings, planted or sown, shall be in line eight (?) or ten (?) feet from owner's boundary line."

This distance of eight feet on each side of main line to ensure easy and thorough cultivation. That the owner on his boundary line could sow or plant trees for his future fence as a hedge or for posts after the road trees would be independent of protection. The distance asked for, being about the head diameter of such trees as the maple and poplar, which varieties seem to be the most adaptable for road planting, and would eventually cover this head space.

P. MINNIFORD,
Hon. Sec'y Brandon Horticultural Society.

Bees in Manitoba.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In such weather as we have been enduring for the last few weeks, one does not feel like writing about farm matters, and least of all about bees. What is the use of writing about summer and fall management when the elements have manifestly conspired to leave us nothing but empty hives to manage? What use, particularly, when the percentage of unparliamentary phrases that would be sure to creep in would render the MS. unavailable for such a strictly proper magazine as the ADVOCATE. But to-day (May 8th) is sunny and warm, and otherwise a good day, so we may venture something about present conditions, leaving the discussion of matters pertaining to the honey season and autumn to a later date.

After remaining in the cellar nine days later than last spring, the bees came out on April 22nd to have one good fly, and then to be shut up in their hives with rain and snow till the 30th, when they again enjoyed an afternoon in the sun. There was by this time some willows, French weed and *Shepherdia canadensis* blooming, and a little pollen was taken into most of the hives. We felt like yelling then, for it looked as if we were in for whole months of such days. But, alas! the next was cold, and the next worse, and they have stayed worse right along till yesterday, when a change came, and to-day is an ideal one. There is now plenty of bloom, and the little fellows are literally making things hum.

This spring has been an educator, and while we wish it had done its educating in some other corner of the earth, it will be well to remember its lesson and henceforth provide each colony in the fall with stores enough to carry it an extra month. Liberal provision for winter is good policy at any time. A good supply of honey in the hives in spring not only ensures against disaster when caught with such weather as we have been having lately, but enables the bees to devote more of their energies to brood-rearing at the start, instead of being forced to roam abroad for honey at a time when it is scarce, and thus tells favorably on the whole summer's work. But it sometimes happens, as it did last fall, that bad weather interferes with the business of feeding those colonies from which too much honey has been taken; and by waiting for a change this important work may be deferred till at length cool weather ensues, and some colonies, oftener than not the weaker ones, refuse to store in their combs the syrup given them. The mistake may then be made of assuming that their combs are full, and the hive marked O. K. We made this mistake last fall, but won't again if we know it, the result being seven cases of starve-out and the necessity of feeding several colonies after taking them from the cellar. Except for this shortage of stores our bees wintered well.

Unless the season is unusually favorable henceforward, this bids fair to be one of small profits. Brood-rearing must begin late, which, of course, means late swarming; and the likelihood is that the honey harvest will find the bees but poorly prepared to handle it. In view of this, it may be well to consider whether it will not be more profitable to look more to the building-up of apiaries than to the production of honey during the present season. By strengthening weak and backward colonies and swarms by giving them brood and stores from the stronger ones—even treating the best after-swarms in this way—the result next fall would be little honey, certainly less than if that is made the chief object, but a large increase in colonies of greater and more uniform strength. The steadily-growing demand for bees might well commend this plan to those who have their apiaries now about as large as they wish to keep them, while those who have not can thus make a more substantial gain than by working for honey, even if the season should yet prove a good one.

Red River Valley. J. J. GUNN.

Summer-fallowing.

During my seventeen years of residence in Manitoba and Dakota I have given the question of summer-fallowing considerable attention, and will be glad indeed if a few of your readers can glean something practical from the results of my experience and observation.

A good many of your readers may not agree with my theories, and this article may result in a wholesome discussion of the subject in your paper.

The three main objects in summer-fallowing in a district largely devoted to grain-growing are, to my mind, to rid the land of weeds, to put the soil in good condition to retain moisture to feed the succeeding crop, and to give the land a rest and have so much prepared for the succeeding crop before the rush of fall work begins. The land should be plowed as soon as possible after the seeding is over in the spring, and well harrowed as soon as plowed, so as to firm the soil and retain the moisture that is in the land to encourage the germination of the millions of weed seeds that are turned up to the surface with the plowing. The land should be gone over with a disk or spring-tooth harrow a number of times during the season to kill all weeds that appear.

One difficulty to contend with where the land is well harrowed is the drifting of the soil with the wind. To overcome this, I would drill in, say about the end of July, three-fourths of a bushel of oats or other grain per acre. This would provide excellent pasture for stock in the fall when the prairie

grass is pretty well dried up, and the roots would hold the soil together and prevent drifting, and the stock tramping over the land would be of great benefit in firming it; besides, the droppings would be of considerable value as a fertilizer.

Every one who has farmed in Manitoba for any length of time will have noticed that the crops on soil well firmed will not grow so rank as on soil left loose, and will yield more and ripen about a week earlier, which is a great consideration in districts where there is sometimes danger from frost. The writer well remembers his first experience with summer-fallowing in Manitoba after moving from Ontario. We followed the practice then in vogue of plowing three times, with repeated harrowing. The result was that our land was in a very loose condition, and a great deal of it moved over with the wind to our neighbors, also some of the seed. We had a very rank growth of straw which lodged badly, and the yield was disappointing. A great many of us, when we were newcomers to the Province, thought nothing was properly done unless we followed the methods practiced in the East. We soon learned that the conditions, soil, and climate were different and required different treatment. Most of us found we had a good many things to learn and some to unlearn. I have met a few farmers in Manitoba, also in North Dakota, who are disgusted with summer-fallowing. But an investigation into their methods will generally disclose a very shiftless system of doing the work. They do not plow the ground until the weeds are very high and partly ripe, and do not harrow at all. The result is that a great many of the weeds they turn down ripen in the ground, and the seeds they turn up to the surface with the plowing do not germinate until the next year, and they have a fine crop of weeds in that and succeeding crops of grain. I believe a four-years rotation something like the following would be a great benefit in the Prairie Province in making the land productive and restoring the fertility: First year, summer-fallow; second year, wheat, sowing along with it some kind of grass seed that does well in Manitoba; the third year take off a crop of hay, and break up again in fall, and the next year put in wheat or some other grains; or it might be extended to a five-years rotation, and take off two crops of grain before summer-fallowing again. And it would be still better, of course, if the land could have a coat of manure some time during the rotation period. I believe it will pay, even in districts where wild hay is abundant, to seed down to grass every few years to get root fiber back into the soil again.

W. J. YOUNG,
Supt. South Side Farm, Southern Minnesota.

Correction.

To the Editor FARMER'S ADVOCATE:

In description of South Side Farm Company's cattle barn, in your issue of April 20th, I see, I made a mistake. I said it was 9 feet from hay floor to plate, and 19 feet to peak of roof. It should have been 9 feet from floor to plate, and 26 feet from floor to peak of roof.

W. J. YOUNG.

The Honor Roll of the Royal Show.

(Continued from page 194.)

The following is a continuation of Mr. Richard Gibson's article commenced in our issue of April 20th, giving names and exhibitors of mature Short-horns winning first prizes at the Royal Show from its inception to the present time:

MANCHESTER, 1869.

Earl of Derby (21638); bred and exhibited by Mr. Wiley, Brandsley.

Lady Fragrant, Vol. XVII., p. 568; bred and exhibited by Mr. T. C. Booth, Warlaby.

1869 is remarkable for being the last show at which Warlaby contended for honors. Lady Fragrant again won, and it has generally been conceded that she was the best cow shown for many years. She was so "ladylike" that she looked small, but she would be a monster in the present day. We never expect to see her like again. Mr. Booth's Patricia was 1st in two-year-old class, and afterwards was purchased by Messrs. Walcott & Campbell, New York Mills, but died on shipboard in New York harbor, overcome by heat. Queen of Diamonds, that beautiful heifer that Col. King showed so successfully in the West (imported by Mr. Cochrane), was 2nd, and those who remember the Queen will readily recognize how good Patricia must have been to win over her. In the yearling class Baron Oxford's Beauty won, and again the next year as a two-year-old at Oxford for Col. Towneley. She was also purchased for America (New York Mills) at a cost of \$2,500. Her breeding, Booth & Bates; her dam being of Mr. Bates' Foggethorpe family.

OXFORD, 1870.

Bolivar (25649); bred by Mr. J. Meadows; exhibited by Mr. C. W. Brierly.

Lady Larinia, Vol. XXI., p. 597; bred and exhibited by Mr. Garne.

Bolivar, the Irishman, wins his third Royal, and a Garne was winner in cow class. She was a commoner.

WOLVERHAMPTON, 1871.

Edgar (19680); bred by Mr. Saunders, Nunwick Hall; exhibited by Mr. H. Thompson, Penrith.

Warrior's Plume, Vol. XIX., p. 774; bred by W. Torr; exhibited by Mr. J. Beattie, Newbie House, Annan.

1871 produced Edgar. We may be wrong, but have always considered him the best bull, after Commander-in-Chief, we ever saw, and in many ways he was Commander's superior—bulky, thick-fleshed, evenly distributed. He walked with such strength and resolution, one would expect the earth to tremble at his approach. His breeding was mixed—sound old North Country sorts. The sires in his pedigree were prizewinners, in order as follows: Prince Patrick, McTurk, Heir-at-Law, Baron of Ravensworth. Had he not a right to be good? The "dairy cow" won for Simon Beattie's uncle. She was a Booth-topped Bates Waterloo, swinging an udder such as a Holstein breeder would covet.