

to dispossess them; indeed they have rights that cannot be overlooked. Under the circumstances, there should be granted a permanent interest on these limits, but on condition that steps should be taken to maintain in such districts a regular and perpetual supply of wood. This question involves a great deal to the agricultural population of this country. These forests, it must be mentioned, would afford employment to thousands of young men who have nothing to do on their farms, during the winter months; and I know that in many districts the money earned in the woods during the winter goes to the old homestead and helps to maintain the family and to improve the farm.

Q. What advantage would our farmers derive by devoting their attention to timber culture?—The special advantage they would derive is this: On every farm there is probably a certain portion of the land which will not pay for farming purposes, but would pay a profit if laid out in wood. As to the nature of that wood—whether it should be wood for fuel or merchantable wood, black walnut or any other hard wood of annually increasing value, should be at the owner's option. Black walnut is now bringing in England \$1.25 per cubic foot, and I think in New York it is up to 75 cents or 80 cents. There is a constant demand for it; in fact, the danger is, that before long the furniture manufacturers will be driven to employ some imported woods from the West Indies or South America as a substitute for it. But irrespective of that, if the farmer cannot grow hard woods for merchantable purposes he should, at any rate, grow wood for the ordinary wants of his farm. It would be advisable for every farmer, seeing the high price of fuel and the possibility of that price—particularly for wood—increasing, to set a section of his land apart in order that he may maintain his own supply of wood for fuel. I look upon it, too, in this light: Apart from the commercial value or the profit he might make by adopting the policy I have just mentioned, the farmer would have, under it, sufficient wind-breaks for winter and sufficient shelter for his cattle in summer. It is well known that sufficient shades for cattle during the summer when out in pasture are highly necessary. I know myself that in driving through Central Indiana last summer, it was in some districts pitiful to see the poor beasts leaning against wooden fences for protection from the rays of the sun; whereas, in other districts where they have retained some of the oak groves, the cattle were lying down at their ease in the shade and in apparent comfort. I need hardly say what a benefit it is to their milk and to their flesh that cattle should graze at ease.

Q. Would you favor the introduction of foreign species of trees into this country?—Decidedly. It is well known that in course of time the soils that have previously been most productive and have yielded fruits in the most prolific manner, become exhausted and refuse to sustain what they have been in the habit of producing. This applies to crops; but it is the same with trees. There comes a time when the soil is exhausted, and will no longer yield that nutriment for the trees that it formerly did. This is a matter of every-day notoriety. It is known that in certain districts, trees when first planted, flourished and made extraordinary progress in their growth, but when replanted with the same species the new plantations perished without any apparent cause. Some have attributed the circumstance to parasites: but in many districts it is well known that the real cause is the impoverishment of the soil. For this reason, I should favor the introduction of new species into the country to supply the old ones. Sometimes exotics will flourish and thrive better than the native tree will. It does not follow that they will continue to thrive; but we have it established by actual test in Europe that certain imported trees have, for one, two or three generations, thriven remarkably well. Besides, as you have rotation of crops, so it seems only natural to have rotation of trees.

Q. What agency or agencies would you employ to promote tree culture and to introduce new species?—The introduction of new species can only be effected by Government agency, that is, if you wish the advantages to be derived from so doing to be general. Individuals may go to the trouble and labor of introducing into the country new species which may be of service and advantage; but few can afford the time and expense that is requisite to insure success. Nor is it everyone who,