

planted in the school and fostered in the home, will make our youth practical arborists.

Teachers can easily interest their pupils in adorning the school grounds. With proper pre-arrangement as to the selection and procuring of trees, vines or shrubs, Arbor Day may accomplish wonders. Many hands will make merry as well as light work. Such a holiday will be an attractive occasion of enjoyment and improvement. The parent should be persuaded to approve and patronize the plan. It tends to fraternize the people of a district, when they thus meet on common ground, and young and old work together for a common object, where all difference of rank or sect or party are forgotten. The plantings and improvements thus made will be sure to be protected. They will remain as silent, but effective teachers of the beautiful to all the pupils, gradually improving their taste and character. Such work done around the school naturally extends to the homes. You improve the homes by improving the schools as truly as you improve the schools by improving the homes.

Our youth should early share in such efforts for adorning the surroundings of their homes and planting trees by the wayside. How attractive our roads may become by long avenues of trees. This is beautifully illustrated in many countries of Europe. Growing on lands otherwise running to waste, such trees would yield ample returns. The shade and beauty would be grateful to the traveller, but doubly so to the planter. Having in abundance the best trees for the roadside, no class can contribute so much to the adornment of our public roads as the farmers. In portions of Germany, the land owner was formerly required to plant trees along his frontage. Happy would it be for us if our sovereigns of the soil would each make such a law for himself. When, in any community, each citizen is stimulated to make his own grounds and wayside neat and attractive, the entire town becomes so inviting as to give new value to its wealth and new attractions to its homes."

#### NEW CAR ROOF.

A Detroit car roof and paper manufacturing company has introduced an innovation in the way of car roofs made of paper. The paper is made of jute, the pulp being first wrought in sheet form the thickness of very heavy wrapping paper. Then it is cut into sheets 3x4½ feet in size, and by laying these sheets together by a peculiar process and chemical compounds a block from six to eight inches thick is formed. This paper block is then placed under steam pressure of twenty-two tons to the inch, and is made into a board three-fourths of an inch thick. When completed the board is of a texture of very close-grained wood. It may be cut like wood of the toughest kind. Being absolutely free from the possibility of knots, rot, or sap, the paper boards will not split, check, or decay, and yet with all their toughness and strength they are elastic and bend without breaking. In forming the roof these boards are laid with their ends nearly together at the ridge of the roof and with their sides closely fitting together. The average life of a freight car is eleven years and the average life of wooden roof is nine years. In consequence the item of roof repairs is a large item for car companies and railroads. A paper roof is guaranteed to last as long as a car does, because the paper composition hardens with exposure, it will not warp, split, burn, or break, and it is considerably lighter than either wood or iron.

#### HICKORY.

Some of our native woods cannot be equalled or be superseded by any foreign woods; in all our knowledge of natural history there has been found nothing possessing the excellent qualities of our native hickory. It is now, as commonly supposed, that good hickory must be grown in the north to be of the best; its habitat extends from the Green Mountains in Vermont following the coast range, the Alleghenies, and the Blue Ridge through the Carolinas, and even to upper Florida. And, contrary to general supposition, the very best of hickory used in the arts, where toughness is required, is obtained from North Carolina and eastern Tennessee.

"It is wonderful what toughness the hickory

timber of that mountain region is capable of," said a wheel maker recently. "We can turn a piece completely around a circle without breaking a fibre." This, of course, after it is thoroughly steamed.

#### The First of the Season.

QUEBEC, May 19.—The tug Sir John A. Macdonald arrived down from Garden Island on Saturday with a raft of square timber in tow, which was placed in different booms along the cove. It is the first raft to arrive this season.

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