

even with oats. The longer clover is grown the easier it is to get catches.

We shall be glad to receive short letters from many farmers throughout the country, giving their experience in success and failure, together with their methods of preparation of the soil, the nurse crop used, the quantity of seed sown, and the covering of the seed.

Experience in Clover Seeding.

Editor "The Farmer's Advocate":

I have been an interested reader of your paper for a number of years, and have learned many useful things thereby. I saw a statement by an eastern farmer in regard to the time to sow clover seed, early or late. His experience is much the same as ours. Years ago we made a practice of sowing 20 to 25 acres of fall wheat, and endeavored to seed to clover as early as possible in spring, but times changed, prices for wheat went from a dollar to fifty cents, and we found it more profitable to grow oats and hay. We always sow clover seed at same time as spring grain; always use a Hoosier drill and grass-seed attachment; sow behind the hoes, neither harrow nor roll after, and scarcely ever miss a good strong stand. We aim to sow only the best seed the land can produce, both in grains and grass seeds; clean it for market as well as it can be done, and get the top price.

We find it pays to try to excel in all lines undertaken; it is not the number of acres of land seeded, or the number of cattle, horses or hogs kept. A lot of stock well tended will increase your bank account materially, but a few well taken care of are much better than many poorly cared for.

Essex Co., Ont.

SYLVESTER STUART.

[Note.—These short, practical letters are the ones we like to get. They make the paper interesting and helpful. Let others give their methods and experience, whether agreeing with this or not.—Ed.]

An Object Lesson in Wood-lot Care.

The alarming figures which have been given in "The Farmer's Advocate" and elsewhere, showing the rate at which the woodland is disappearing from the face of this Province, some counties having now less than ten per cent. of their total area in bush, and that in most cases being encroached upon rapidly, by reckless cutting and pasturing, should cause every man who expects to remain in Old Ontario, and everyone who professes a grain of public spirit, to do some earnest thinking. Some, who deplore the present rate of deforestation, despair of saving the remnants of the once magnificent forests, believing that nothing can now be done. For these, particularly, this article is written. It is a fact that not only may the denser bushes be preserved, but even those where the grass has come in, and where the trees, thinned as in a park, are dying year by year, may be thickened up in a few years with a dense undergrowth, which will hold the forest leaves, crowd out the grass, and thus be the means of sparing the large trees now dying. This is no mere theory. A number of striking instances have come under our notice, and right here let us say we shall be pleased to hear from anyone who has tried this plan of enclosing the bush and keeping stock out. We feel pretty sure that everyone who has tried it will be enthusiastic over the results.

A splendid illustration of how an unpastured wood-lot will reproduce itself may be seen on the farm of Arthur Baty, Township of Westminster, Middlesex Co., Ont. Some twenty-eight years ago the example of a neighbor induced Mr. Thos. Baty, who then owned it, to enclose what was left of a fourteen-acre woodland, and keep out all live stock. The bush was not counted a very thrifty one; it was thin and straggling, grass was successfully disputing possession with the fast-dying trees, and it was in almost the condition of the neighboring one, illustrated herewith as a contrast picture. The state of the Baty bush to-day is shown by the accompanying halftones, made from photos taken last month by a member of "The Farmer's Advocate" staff. The young trees, some of them measuring 6 to 10 inches in diameter at the base, which have come up during the twenty-eight years, stand thick and straight. Grass has long since disappeared, and in summer the bush is almost as dense as the primeval forest. The "lover's lane," leading to the Westminster Kirk, is a favorite walk of the whole neighborhood. In summer, with the weight of leaves, the trees bend over in places, and the branches meet, forming a beautiful arch. Since the grass has gone out, too, various early forest flowers, such as adder's-tongue, liverwort, bloodroot, phlox, red and white lilies, etc., as well as the old-fashioned larks and various kinds of dainty ferns, have reappeared, though the hundreds of people who used the walk plucked and dug the latter up till they were well-nigh exterminated along the path. From an aesthetic point of view, such a bush is well worth the use of the land; besides, it yields a yearly revenue in fuel, and the growing maple, beech and ash represent a splendid investment.

Once the stock was kept out and the young seedlings began to occupy the ground, an improvement was noticed in the thrift of the old trees. In cutting down trees to-day, a marked increase is noticed in the thickness of the outer twenty-five rings or so of wood as compared with the rings formed previous to that time. All through the bush the young seedlings have made a fine growth, but they have done best when not too close to the large trees. The finest growth of all is on the site of an old sugar camp, which, when the area was enclosed, was all sodded over, without a sign of a tree.



Encroach of the Clearing.—Inevitable result of pasturing a wood-lot.



Twenty-eight Years from Sod.—Site of an old sugar camp in the Baty bush. When the bush was enclosed, this area was a circle of grass. All the growth shown has come in naturally since.



The Lovers' Lane—A walk preserved in Mr. Baty's bush.

The growth that has come in naturally since then is shown in the illustration. Could there be more convincing evidence of the feasibility of reforestation by exclusion of stock?

Not only has the east side of the bush been saved, but the north and west as well. The principal difference being that the growth of young stuff is a little bit scrubbier in these exposed localities. It might be well for anyone else trying the experiment to plant a few evergreens along the north and west limits. On favorable soil they would grow rapidly, and soon form a valuable shelter belt.

Practically the only care this lot has received is the cutting and removal of dead and fallen timber. A little thinning of the young stuff has also been done with beneficial results. The growth of the saplings is straight and clean, and some day this piece of timber will be worth a long price. Already the owner values it at not less than \$100 per acre for firewood, and each year adds many dollars to its value. It is the pride of its owner, and a protection and pleasure to the whole neighborhood.

And what a boon to bequeath to posterity! How much slaving has been done by ambitious parents to leave their children with big farms and money in the bank! People have acted as though a bank account to squabble over were the greatest blessing they could leave their heirs; at the same time they have often left bleak homesteads which their children forsook at the first opportunity. How much wiser to leave as part of the patrimony, a thrifty wood-lot, which, while proving