

any weeds or rubbish which he would otherwise have. A good thick stand of alskil will crowd out nearly everything else. The land on which alskil is sown should be cultivated and worked to a fine seed bed. Shallow cultivation should be practised, then the seed will germinate quickly.

Happy Experience with Tree Planting*

James Pate, Brant Co., Ont.

As far back as I can remember, it has always given me pleasure to look at trees, to learn their names and to stroll in the woods. In later years it has given me much pleasure to plant trees. Trees were one of the things that influenced me to leave Scotland and come to Canada.

When I landed I looked over a number of farms before buying, and of course saw no prospect of getting everything. I wanted "a bush included" on my farm. I got a farm of 100 acres with only an acre or so of soft elm for a bush. The house and buildings were open to the north and west. The first winter it was quite a task on some mornings to get through or over the snow drifts between the buildings.

The following summer I began to make provision for tree planting. I plowed a strip of land some distance from the buildings and worked it well throughout the summer. The next spring, a double row of Norway spruce was planted on the outer side of this strip, except at the one next the house, which it was going to obscure too much. For 30 yards next the house only one row of spruce was planted, the trees on this piece being planted three feet apart, and these have been kept trimmed ever since as a hedge four feet high.

THE DOUBLE ROW WINDBREAK.

The trees in the double row were planted 12 feet apart each way. It is 16 years since they were planted. They are now over 20 feet high. The windbreak is a great comfort on cold, windy days, and it affords a complete check to the drifting snow.

On the inner half of the strip, two rows of deciduous trees were planted, one of basswood, the other maple. At the end next the house and opposite the hedge some ornamentals were planted. The most noticeable of these latter is a cut-leaved weeping birch. It is a fine specimen and has made very rapid growth. It must be 30 feet in height. Another is a Colorado spruce. It has a distinct foliage, is more conspicuous and is a better grower than the blue spruce. It is the only specimen I have seen until last summer I saw several at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, that had been newly planted. There is also a purple maple. The purple is very distinct in the young leaves, but as they expand they lose their color to a great extent. There is also a European larch. It resembles the tamarack, but is more graceful, the drooping of the branches and the soft green of the foliage alike are pleasing to the eye.

A DELIGHTFUL GROVE.

This grove affords a delightful rest to the eyes both during winter and summer sun; it is there to greet you every time you look out. It is a great resort and nesting place for the smaller birds, and it is great protection to the poultry on windy days.

On our lawn are specimens of the Silver cedar, the Copper Colored beech and Chinese Arbor Vitae. The windbreak, hedge and ornamentals have quite a pleasing effect from the highway.

The larch is the most valuable tree grown in Scotland. It makes lasting posts and is used in making farm carts, etc. It grows best on dry land, and would be a valuable addition to our woods here.

Fourteen years ago I bought an additional 25-acre plot of land. Half of this was a slashing. Part of it was covered with a young growth of iron-wood, elm and basswood with a few oak, ash, cherry and hard and soft maple. Four acres of

*Mr. Pate's farm was a prize winner in the Dairy Farms Competition last year.

this lot we fenced in, and many of the young trees have since attained a height of 20 to 30 feet. Three years ago six acres more were fenced in and included in the woodlot. It is partly filled in with young pines, which were got from the Forestry Department of the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph. These young pines were planted with a spade by making a cut in the sod in the form of a cross T—two widths of the spade the one way, and the cross made by putting the spade in across the end of the two widths and pressing the handle down. The ground opens up at the slit made. The young tree is inserted and the spade is withdrawn and the ground tramped firmly around the tree. Two men can plant such trees faster than they could cabbage plants, if the ground is free of stones.

TREES AS A MONUMENT.

About 75 per cent. of these pines lived and are making good growth. The soil is good, almost too good for bush land, but I have nothing else. Sixty years hence, a bush planted now will be a better thing to perpetuate one's memory than a tombstone.

Last spring I planted a knoll of about one acre.

Comments from Prince Edward Island

As a student of dairy subjects, I know of no other source of up-to-date information equal to Farm and Dairy. Our province as a dairy district is now making healthy and substantial progress and were such a paper as Farm and Dairy taken by our farmers generally, the information it contains would be well applied. I am satisfied it would accelerate our progress to a degree not now considered possible.—J. A. Anderson, Sec.-Treas. Prince Edward Island Dairymen's Association.

Part of it was sod plowed in the fall. This was disced several times in the spring before planting. More than half of the pines died on this plantation. Before it froze up last fall, 300 nuts (hickory and walnut) were put in their place by way of experiment.

200 Bags of Potatoes per Acre

Fletcher Walker, Parry Sound District, Ont.

The selection of the seed is a very important part of the culture of potatoes. For our crop last season, we selected our own seed when we were digging the potatoes. Our aim was to get large, smooth, well-shaped tubers that were entirely free from scab.

Our soil is a sandy loam. A clover sod manured lightly at the time of planting was selected for our potatoes. The potatoes were planted the 1st of June. The seed was cut so that each piece had one or two eyes and was planted immediately after cutting. Ten bushels and 11 pounds of seed was required to plant an acre. The seed was plowed in, being dropped in every fourth furrow, the seed being spaced so as to make the hills about 18 inches apart in the row. The depth of the furrow was about four inches.

After planting, the land was harrowed two or three times before the potatoes came through and once after they began to appear. As soon as we could see the row, we began to scuffle. By dropping the potatoes every fourth furrow instead of every third furrow, I find that it is possible to scuffle the potatoes much later in the season. I mounded ours up slightly towards the end of the season, but I believe in flat cultivation, especially in a dry summer. We kept our potatoes as free from weeds and bugs as was possible.

For the bug we use Paris Green applied with the watering can. We use nothing for blight, as there scarcely ever is any blight in this part of the country.

At harvesting time last year, we dug about 200

bags from one acre. There were very few small potatoes, and considering the dry season we thought that we were well paid for the extra work given the crop. The Parry Sound District is noted for its root production; given proper care, potatoes, or any crop of roots, can be made to yield most profitably in this district.

Breed the Heavy Class of Horses

D. Charles, Wellington Co., Ont.

My ideal of the horse for a farmer to raise, if a man is raising them for profit, is the draught horse—the Clydesdale. There are several reasons why he is the most profitable horse. He gives the quickest returns, as he is ready for the market at three years old, while the light horse has to go at least a year longer. Then, too, he is a much less risky horse for the ordinary farmer to raise, as he is less subject to blemishes than the light horse, and even though he should be blemished, the big strong horse will sell readily at any time at good money.

LARGEST RETURNS FROM HEAVY HORSES.

If we consider the matter of horse raising from a financial standpoint, then all argument is in favor of the draughter. The heavy horse will sell at any time from \$75 to \$100 more when matured than will the light one, and he will meet a more ready market.

While I favor strongly the Clydesdale, there are other breeds which are being raised at a very substantial profit. We have the Shire. It is inferior to the Clyde, because it is very much harder to procure parents of the proper type. It appears to me that we are not having imported into our section of Ontario at least a fair sample of the Shire horse. While in weight he is quite the equal of the Clyde, he has rough limbs and a tendency to get dirty, which is undesirable to the horseman. Then we have the Percheron, a horse which in some parts is preferred to any of the other heavy breeds.

THE WESTERN TRADE.

Our market to-day is backed up by the western trade, and I feel quite safe in saying that not one horse in 25 which are shipped west is a light one. Any of the above mentioned breeds, if rightly handled, will yield a tidy profit.

A great many farmers are raising farm chunks at good paying prices. These as a rule are gotten by breeding a rather undersized mare to one of the above mentioned heavy breeds. However, to the man who is considering breeding, I would say, breed the Clydesdale, as they are now, and in my opinion always will be, the horse which will meet the readiest market at the highest price.

Poultry as a Side Line.—Nearly every farm has as a side line a class of poultry. The special advantages which are afforded in connection with general farming make the farmer's flock, under reasonable care, a source of large income for the amount that is invested. Greater profits can be realized from poultry in this way than when managed on a large scale independently, as the cost of the production of the poultry is very much reduced by the use of skim milk and other good poultry foods, which occur as by-products of the farm. The grains grown on the farm for all classes of stock are convenient for the poultry. The straw and the litter required for scratching material are also present, while the manure can be used to good advantage.—L. R. Martin, Lincoln Co., Ont.

Thinning apples on the trees makes the remaining apples larger and more uniform in size and better colored. Thinning encourages annual bearing. It takes a tree two or three years to recover from over-cropping, which condition can be prevented by removing the surplus fruit. Thinning should be done after the June drop.—W. H. French, Durham Co., Ont.