

The Trade in Bananas.

Few people have the faintest conception of the immensity of the trade in bananas, although it may be better understood by the statement of the fact that there are at present forty-seven steamers plying between the West India Islands and New York, engaged almost exclusively in the banana trade. The profits attached to this business have been enormous to the steamship owners, and a source of considerable revenue to importers and dealers. Large as is the production of bananas in the Islands, it is increasing rapidly, and the consumption on this continent appears to be keeping pace therewith. In Canada, this favorite fruit has become quite popular, and, where some years ago only a few bunches were required, it now takes car loads to satiate the demand. Prices vary considerably during the season, as the least scarcity causes them to advance to \$1.75 to \$2.50 per bunch, whilst an over supply brings them down to \$1.00, but fair average figures for this market are \$1.25 to \$1.50 for good, sound red and yellow fruit. It must be borne in mind however that the great bulk of bananas imported into Canada is composed of second qualities, the first being reserved for New York, Boston, Philadelphia, and other American cities. An importer stated a few days since that it was a very rare occurrence that a straight car of firsts came to this city, but the average quality of bananas sold here it is claimed are equal in flavor to the firsts, although the bunches and fruit are scarcely as large.—*Trade Bulletin.*

Forest Tree Culture.

From Annual Address of President Elliot, of Minnesota Horticultural Society.

THERE is a very erroneous impression among young people, and many old ones, that governments

ought to do all the planting in forest culture; they thinking that men's lives are too short for such work; also that the planting of trees, even if successful in growth, is a very uncertain investment to the planter. Life is very uncertain, as statistics inform us; not more so than a great many other things that we do. All prospective operations have clustering around them many uncertainties; but really, in what can a young man invest a few dollars that will give him so much real enjoyment in his old age, as the planting of a goodly number of useful and ornamental trees and shrubs? In your youth plant trees; in middle age plant trees; in old age plant trees, that they may spread their ample shade over your head when silvered with old age.

Intelligent, useful men are trying to solve the problem of reforestation of our continent. The work may not be done in this generation, but I will surely exercise the most thoughtful intellects of this land until it is accomplished. This great scheme has come to stay with the best free educators of our land. There will be discouragements and dark days for this enterprise, but it will end in either the government or private capital undertaking this great work.

Trees, like men, begin to show age and decay at the top; but men unlike trees, return to their second childhood, and if an active, useful, energetic man in youth, they never lose opportunity for doing or saying something as a source of pure enjoyment; and I would inquire what more impressive scene of unalloyed sacrifice, than this useful employment in planting trees in their declining years for future generations to admire; living monuments that shall long remain for our children to appreciate; silent reminders of thoughtful, industrious usefulness?