

Look Him Right In The Eye

Two sorts of agents claim that disk filled or other complicated, hard to wash, out-of-date cream separators are modern and easy to clean. One sort knows better but hopes you don't, because he wants to sell you that kind of machine. Look that fellow right in the eye—tell him you do know better, and that he can't fool you. The other sort of agent is simply mistaken—he does not know the facts. Tell him to look at a



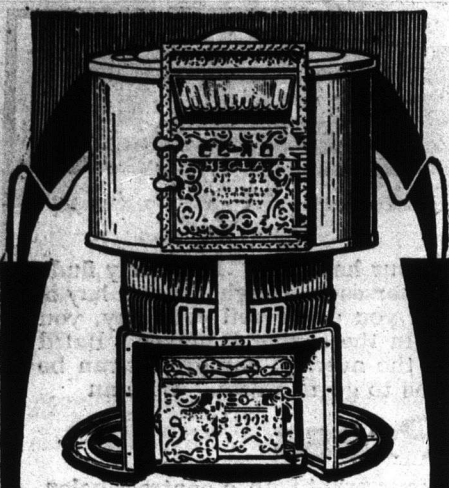
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planted. This in itself is a mighty consideration when mid-summer suns wax warm. They check the force of the wind in summer and because of this they exercise a salutary influence on crop production because of the extent to which they check evaporation. When one considers the many benefits that trees bring to him who plants them on the prairie it is surprising that they are not planted by every resident who owns a farm.

Protecting New Homes.

Thousands of homes are going to be planted on the prairie this season, especially will this be true of the Canadian West. The inrush of settlers is going to be beyond all precedent, in the setting up of the Provinces. It is important, therefore, as to where the buildings shall be placed on these new farms, and as to how they are going to be protected.

With reference to the placing of the buildings, it should be near the centre of the farm. This is important, in fact, it is of great importance, and yet its importance is apt to be overlooked. In nearly all instances, the first thought of the settler is to build about as near as he can build beside

ground may be prepared the very first season. It may be broken where the windbreak is to be planted. It should be so broken. As much labor should be put on that land as if it were to be sown to wheat or other grain. When thus managed the land is in good condition in the spring for the planting of the trees. Such planting should not be deferred. If the homesteader is not able to plant on three sides let him plant on two, and if he cannot plant on two let him plant on one. In this way protection will be furnished in a very few years. It may call for much attention to make a success of the trees in areas that are very dry, but success may be obtained. Of course much depends on the variety of the trees. Willows and poplars are probably the most likely to succeed. But of course they must be given cultivation and of the most careful kind, not only the first year but for several years following. The importance of thus securing protection early out on the open prairie cannot be over-estimated by the new settler.

Jollity Among the Birds

In the bird world, as in our own, there is much joy and sunshine. Even the



Yellow billed sap sucker.

the public road. This may mean that the buildings will be placed where it is not possible to protect them, because of proximity to the highway. Of course a man cannot go on to another man's property to plant a windbreak.

The wisdom of planting near the centre of the homestead or purchased farm will be at once apparent when it is remembered that every day that work is done in the fields the journey from the steading to the fields must usually be made four times a day, including the going and coming. If the steading is at one side of the farm this will mean loss of much time as compared with what would be lost if the steading were placed in a central position. Multiply this daily loss of time by all the working days of the growing season, and it means a very large loss. Multiply this again by long years of farming, and it becomes a huge loss, larger than the farmer can well afford to bear. Again I say, plant the steading, if possible, near the centre of the farm.

Of course the first year it may not be possible to plant any trees with the hope that they will do well, especially in areas that are very dry. But the

birds, numerous as their trials are, seem to be optimists of the most cheery kind.

No season passes without bringing me a new trick of the jolly junco, or snow-bird, that little winter visitor who has so much character and individuality. In one of my woodland rambles of early spring I caught sight of a junco squatted on a bed of dry leaves on the ground, his little body sinking slightly in to the soft couch. What was he doing? Preening his feathers, reaching back and arranging them one by one. He had just come from a bath in the runlet a few feet away, for he was on the bank. At first, I thought he must be sick or crippled; but, when I went near, he flitted away as lively as a junco could be.

Wasn't it odd and pretty, too, that he should squat on the leaves and preen his plumes? It was the only time I ever saw a bird do such a thing, the usual vogue in bird circles being to sit on a perch when the feathers are to be dried and adjusted after an ab-lution. But Junco is not a wallflower or slave of fashion; he has originality.

On another day I had a hearty laugh at the expense of a company of Harris's

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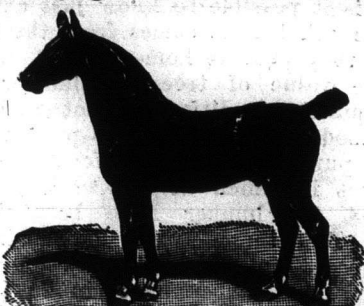
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