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## The Field.

### Economy of Wood Land.

Time was when the wooded part of a farm was considered the least valuable, and was well nigh regarded as of no account until cleared. Now the opposite condition of affairs is fast coming to be accepted as the true state of the case. Partially cleared farms are bought with the timber estimated as a most important item in the purchase account. Bush land is no longer a drug in the market. Most of it is either already within such easy access by railroad, or it is expected soon will be, that proprietors are figuring up the profits of cordwood, and buyers are doing the same. The consumption of wood as fuel by locomotives, makes a steady, enormous drain on our forest resources. Already the price of cordwood in our towns and villages has reached what were city rates five or ten years ago. As wood becomes more scarce, its value will go up, until it reaches the coal standard, and that is likely to be raised, from the large demand, made for it in manufacturing and railroading, and the rapid exhaustion of the English coal-fields.

In view of all this, and of the numerous uses for timber in the various mechanical arts, it is plainly the duty of all who own wood land, to pursue a conservative and careful policy in regard to it. It is no time for waste and reckless destruction of a commodity so useful and valuable. Climatic as well as economical reasons, urge a wise and prudent management of wood land. The country is already so far denuded of trees, that it is unsheltered, liable to droughts, and in many localities, troubled with scarcity of water. In all our older townships, the forest has been cleared too much. The country is too bare. More trees are needed to protect the buildings, to attract the rainfall; to keep the land moist; to screen cattle from the burning rays of the summer sun; and to shade and ornament the highway. Convinced that the wholesale slaughter of our woods and forests has grown into a serious evil, intelligent farmers and others are planting deciduous, evergreen, and fruit trees. In the United States, especially in the prairie regions, legislative encouragement is being given to tree-planting, and agricultural societies are offering premiums for it. This is wise and well, nor is it any too soon for us to be thinking of similar courses in this country. Every land-owner should be compelled by law to plant a row of trees in front of his property, so that in a few years, our highways might be pleasant and shady avenues. There should be a certain proportion of every farm devoted to timber-growing. Competition in shrubbery, and tree-planting should be promoted. Why is this not as legitimate and necessary as competition in stock, or dairy produce?

But we took pen in hand mainly to urge those who have timber in a state of nature to economize it, and

adopt the wisest methods of eking it out, and making it a productive and remunerative part of the farm. Most farmers look upon it as a very trivial advantage, that they can get their firing for nothing but the labor of preparing and hauling it. If they only lived a while where they had to pay from \$4 to \$3 a cord for it, they would view the matter in a different light. One of the heaviest of the burdens laborers and mechanics in towns and cities have to carry, is that of the fuel provision. It is worth while, therefore, to make the best and most of this privilege of country life.

Wood lands should be kept in a neat and orderly state. No brush heaps or fallen timber should be left to rot. All should be cleared up. Firewood should be obtained, and cordwood got, if the timber resources of the farm admit of selling any, on a systematic plan. Bare farms that have been cleared without regard to the necessities of protection and shade, ought to have timber belts left in suitable places. The supply of fuel for the farm house can best be had on a thinning process, picking out dead, sickly or misshapen trees; and converting them into fire-wood. Partially cleared woodland may be turned to good account, if all rubbish be cleared away, and the underbrush kept down, by sowing suitable grasses, and letting stock pasture on it. On a proper system of tillage, it is questionable if any but the bush land should be used for pasture purposes. None of the wood, not even the brush, should be wasted. It is not much labor to make the brush into fagots, tied with willow or blue beech withes, which will be found most welcome for hastily boiling the kettle in summer, or lighting the fire, for that matter, at any time in the year. A spacious woodshed, such as every farmhouse ought to have, will hold in store a good supply of green, dry and brush wood.

We believe that the time has come, not only for doing away with logging and burning, but for dispensing largely with the use of the axe in wood-cutting, thereby preventing all chip-waste, and using horse-power instead of man-power to perform the labor. Wood-sawing machines that do effective work, can be obtained at no great cost. If it will not pay a farmer to keep one for his own use, it certainly will pay for two or three to club together and own one conjointly. Any farmer, however, who owns a horse-power, will find it to his interest to have a sawing-machine. If the logs are hauled up to the house, they may be sawed at odd times as necessity requires, or convenience admits. In winter, when there is good sleighing, the opportunity of laying in a store of logs is the most favorable, and should, without fail, be improved.

### The Attractions of Agriculture.

The curious and indescribable charm which surrounds agriculture, even in the minds of those who know but little of its processes, and still less of its

scientific laws, is remarkable and interesting. This may, undoubtedly, be attributed to the fact that man's love of nature is one of his foremost sentiments—next to his love of kindred and home; and also to the peculiar radiance of all the bright days which dawn upon a farmer's life, and all the cheerful events which surround his occupation. Man's pathway through the world is not always pleasant and easy. Perhaps, as in nature, the darkness of night, and the shadow of the cloud occupy by far the larger portion of passing time, leaving for the sunshine a smaller share, so in human life the weary and heavy hours abound. But while even the sorrows prevail, the memory of the bright and joyous days will remain, and they will cast their cheering rays through all the darkness. There is no such thing in all God's creation as unmitigated gloom. And so around every condition and calling in life, the bright days will gather, the remembrance of which makes life dear to all men. Where then does the sun shine brightest? where do the most delightful associations cluster? where do the sweetest memories throng? Not where man with his artificial ways is supreme; but where he divides his power with nature, and submits to her influence one half his life. The morning may dawn brightly on him who pursues his way to his mill or his office; but with what surpassing radiance it breaks for him, who, in the early sunlight walks a field, and who even in the midst of his toil, feels the sudden, and perhaps momentary sense of awe and inspiration, and freedom, and joy, with which nature fills the souls of all her sons and from which the dullest and most material cannot always escape. A resplendent sunrise over one's native hill—once seen and realized, do you think it is ever forgotten? Never! But all down the long, tiresome journey, even to the close, will that ray of morning beauty stream, and irradiate many an hour, which, but for that God-given picture might be unsupportable in its gloom. The associations, too, of the field and the fireside—how they endear! And as the festal and anniversary days come round, where on all the earth do they mean so much as they do to him, who, gathering his generations about him, points to the fruits of his co-partnership with nature, and traverses those lands which were his father's, and which he intends shall be his son's. It is because the bright days of the farm are the brightest given to man, in all his occupations, that the charms of nature are always recognized, and its fascinations are felt even by the weary farmer, when worn with toil for his land and animals, loves them still, and also by the poet who knows and feels what beauty and truth God has written on the face of earth and sky.

### Objectors to Agriculture:

And yet, triumphant as agriculture is, and will be over the affections of all men, it is by no means successful in subduing their reason and judgment into a true recognition of its power and importance. It requires more defenders than all other occupations beside. The value of a farm all men doubt, and it has become almost the universal and accepted doctrine that agriculture is a failure, and that agricultural regions, in New England at least, are in a hopeless decline. The important relations which agriculture held with the early prosperity and power of our country are forgotten. The fact that even today, but for its abundant and superfluous products, our country would be plunged into permanent and hopeless bankruptcy, instead of being swept by a temporary and passing gale, seems to be entirely lost sight of. But whenever facts can be gathered, which seem to prove that farms are decaying, that the profits of agriculture are small and unsatisfactory, and that the agricultural mind is obtuse, and the ag-