

Taking Care of Farm Implements

Keeping Implements in Repair—Work for the Winter Months

The care of farm machinery may be treated under three heads: First, housing or protecting from the weather; second, repairing; third, painting.

Housing.—On the average 160 acre farm there will be needed an equipment which will cost at least \$1,000. Let this stand out during each winter and it will not do good work for five years. If well housed, every tool will do good work for 10 to 15 years or longer. An implement shed to house all these implements can be built for \$200. If a \$200 shed will double or treble the life of machinery costing \$1,000, it is a splendid investment.

Repairing.—Repairs should be systematically made in order to have the machines ready for use at the time wanted. It is a good plan, when putting the machines away, to make a note of what is needed in the way of repairs. This note may be attached to the implement. If repairs are needed which must come from the factory, NOW is the time to let the local agent know, so that they can be obtained in time.

The question as to how far to undertake to do repair work on the farm will depend largely upon the personality of the farmer himself and his ability to handle tools and execute the work. With a little training and practice, he can repair all ordinary injuries to the farm equipment, and, as a rule, in less time than it would require to go to the blacksmith shop.

The taking apart of machinery should be avoided, except in cases where it is absolutely necessary to do so. The binder and mower and machines of this class are securely put together in the factory, and if taken apart it is difficult to restore them to their proper adjustments. There are, however, many minor repairs which the farmer can make himself.

Painting.—This is an age when appearances count for much, and a farmer's standing in the community is often governed by the appearance of his farm equipment. Paint not only adds to the appearance of an implement, but acts as a preservative to many of the parts, especially if they are made of wood. Always have the surface dry and clean before applying the paint. As a rule, hand-mixed paints are the best. A good metallic paint may be made by mixing red lead and raw linseed oil.

The use of tools on the farm is of great value as an educational feature, especially when the work is carefully performed. The boys should be encouraged to use tools, and held responsible for their care and the character of the work performed. The tool outfit will be of special service in keeping the boy employed and interested, and contented to remain at home.—F.C.N.

Advanced Method of Selling Timber

A Unique Illustration of Modern Forestry—Perpetual Income from Estate

The sale recently by George W. Vanderbilt of standing timber in Transylvania and Henderson counties, North Carolina, at the purchase value of \$816,000 affords an object lesson on modern forestry methods that is interesting and valuable. The sale involves the timber on 68,000 acres and specifically includes all chestnut more than 14 inches in diameter, all spruce 12 inches or more, and all other timber larger than 16 inches in diameter. The timber thus specified is of the estimated average value of \$12 an acre, and must be cut and removed during the ensuing 20 years. The transaction also provides that the woods involved shall be cleared of slash, thus leaving the ground free from special fire hazard and in a condition to promote the growth of the immature trees left standing. Under this arrangement, it may be assumed that upon the expiration of the 20 years' period or presently thereafter, the forests involved will admit of another contract of substantially similar character and effect.

The transaction may justly be regarded as an epoch-making event in that there are other tracts of large, if not equal, expanse that may be susceptible of a similar system of development. The operation of such a system, so far as it hereafter may be found practicable, will be to conserve the timber supplies of the country, and, to a like extent, moderate the prevailing apprehension of the impending timber famine. On the other hand, however, it will be reflected that not many such tracts are available for such a purpose and that there are not many George W. Vanderbilts among the timber owners of the country. The incident is otherwise significant in that the same or adjacent timberlands were, as late as 1900, sold at \$2.50 an acre, including the land and, of course, all of the timber.

Suggestions for Civic Improvement

The time seems opportune for municipalities to seek, through their civic improvement committees, such legislation as would facilitate desirable civic improvements. This legislation might include, amongst other enactments:

1. Provision for Civic Improvement Commissions in the smaller cities.
2. Provision, applicable to cities smaller than already provided for in the Ontario Act, for the purchase by municipalities of lands required for opening streets, not only sufficient for the streets themselves but for an adequate margin on each side which, after the opening has been completed, can be re-sold as lots, thus producing a revenue to help meet the cost of the improvement.

3. Provision for municipalities to secure streets wider than 66 feet in new sub-divisions when necessary to conform to a town planning scheme.

4. A practical method for any necessary widening of business streets already built up.

5. An adequate control over new sub-divisions so that the layout will conform to modern requirements and so that misrepresentation cannot be practiced. The embodiment of such information as contours and elevations is to be recommended.

6. Provision for the control, by the municipality, through the "Ontario Railway and Municipal Board" of the layout and street-planning features of sub-divisions outside the city limit for a stated distance.—From an Address by C. H. Mitchell, C.E., at Berlin, Ont. Dec. 1912.

Intensive Farming Must Come

Between 1900 and 1910 the number of farms in the United States increased 10.9 per cent. and the acreage in farm land increased only 4.8 per cent. In 1900, the average value of land in farms was \$24.57 per acre; in 1910, it was \$46.04, an increase of 91.4 per cent. during the decade. In 1909, the average value of farm crops per acre of land under cultivation was \$16.30, as compared with \$9.77 in 1899, an increase of \$6.53 per acre. Canada is travelling agriculturally over much the same course as the United States and the time when we, too, shall reach this stage of intensive agricultural development will arrive proportionally much sooner in our national development than it did in the case of our neighbour. The man who recognizes and takes advantage of this trend of affairs will benefit both himself and his country.—M.J.P.

Forest Revenues in Russia

According to a report made by Consul General John H. Snodgrass at Moscow, Russia, the Government forest revenues of Russia last year amounted to \$42,525,810, an increase over the previous year of \$3,912,915. The amount of forest land held by the Government was approximately \$64,025,000 acres. The greater part of the revenue came from forest land in European Russia, totaling about \$39,861,000, or over 95 per cent. of the entire revenue.

The Government forests of the Caucasus occupy an area of about 8,000,000 acres and brought a revenue of \$603,065 in 1911. Siberia and Turkestan, in which the area of Government forest land totals about 228,650,000 acres, brought a total revenue of \$2,054,335. Government forestry department officials in Russia estimate that the net profits from the forest land, in 1911, reached \$28,659,922, or approximately 67 per cent. of the gross revenue.

Farm Wood-Lots

Area is Falling Off in Eastern Canada—Ontario Shows Decrease of over 36 Per Cent.

Farm wood-lots are being steadily depleted in the older portions of Canada. In Ontario, for example, the statistics compiled annually by the Bureau of Industries show that there has been a decrease in area of over 36 per cent. during the past twenty years. Already there are, in some portions of the Province, indications that wood for local uses is becoming very scarce. Planting is being resorted to in places, but so far this has been largely under Government supervision. Such work, will, for many years, be too costly for the average farmer to carry out.

In Quebec, too, there are indications that wood-lots are failing. The provincial government maintains a staff of lecturers and instructors to encourage farmers to take better care of their wood-lands. Further, a Townships Forest Reserves Act was passed in 1911, which aims at providing farmers with timber in districts where it is scarce. Prince Edward Island has also been practically stripped of its once splendid forest cover.

There can be little excuse for such a condition of affairs. Almost every farm contains a piece of poor land that could profitably be maintained in bush. A ten or fifteen acre wood-lot under proper management would supply the average farm with wood, poles, etc., in perpetuity.

When it is remembered that reforestation is a very slow process, and that it is a problem which will ere long force itself upon the people in many sections, the wisdom of avoiding all unnecessary destruction of wood is plainly evident.—A.D.

Railway Company is Practising Forestry

The Canadian Pacific railway exemplifies the extent to which forestry may profitably be practised by corporations. This Company has reserved from disposal considerable areas of its non-agricultural forest lands in the West as permanent tie reserves. Great care will be taken to protect these areas from fire and the cutting of timber will be done in such a way as to ensure the permanency of the forest as such. In this way, large quantities of timber for ties and other railway uses will be available annually forever. It is now announced that the same enlightened policy is to be inaugurated in the eastern provinces through the purchase of waste lands along its lines for the purpose of growing timber. This work is to be under the Natural Resources Department of the Railway.—C.L.

During the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1912, Canada exported 58,809 lbs. of home-grown tobacco, valued at \$25,944.