

the resolve I'd made tae carry na more memorandums, as Jean calls them. They say it's bad for the memory tae write ilka thing doon on a piece o' paper, sae I hae given it up. Ye hae a better excuse too, gin ye gang hame wi' oot some o' the things ye were tauld tae get. Weel, when I had bought the white spool an' the black spool an' as mony o' the ither things as I could call tae mind, wi' the clerk sayin' "what next?" an', "is there onything else?" an' daein' his best tae mak' me forget somethin', I says tae him, "I think that's all, an' noo I'll juist be hauldin' ma twa hands up ower ma heid, like this, an' you'll gang through ma pockets an' tak' what I've got, an' say naething tae me about high prices. Is it a bargain?" says I. But he didna seem tae think I wis in earnest an' juist lauched an' said, "Gie me what ye hae, Mr. Fraser, an' the rest can gae in the books," says he. An' sae we settled it, though it's pairt o' ma religion tae keep bookkeepers frae gettin' ower weel acquainted wi' ma name an' family affairs an' sae on. But when I got hame that nicht an' wis sittin' wi' ma feet up on the wood-box, takin' a wee smoke before gaein' tae bed, I says tae Jean, says I, "I dinna ken what's comin' ower the warld at all. Gin things keep on this way we'll soon hear na mair o' religion or politics or even the war. Gae where ye like it's naething but the high cost o' living in general, an' the high price o' this or that in particular. Folks are even giving up talking about the weather these days," says I.

"Weel," says Jean, laying doon the sock she wis knitting for the soldiers, (I'm buyin' ma ain, an' they're forty cents a pair the noo) "I'm thinkin' Sandy," she says, that as lang as a mon's pocket remains sic a tender spot as it is ye'll hear him squeal ilka time onything touches it. As ye hae noticed, it mak's him forget baith the war an' the weather."

"I guess you're richt," I answered, "but what I'd like tae ken is, what's the reason for all these high prices. I've read o' a dozen different things that were takin' a hand in boostin' the market, an' I'm no' sure that I ken the real cause yet."

"Weel, I'll tell ye what it is," says Jean, an' gin it weren't sae close tae yer nose ye'd see it for yersel'. The war an' some ither things hae somethin' to dae wi' it indirectly, ye might say, but the one plain reason that prices are gettin' higher is that there's no eneuch men in the warld producing things, considering the number there is tae use these things up. The machine is oot o' balance, that's a'." "Weel, gin that's the disease," says I, "what's the cure?"

"The thing will hae tae rin its course," says she. "It will cure itself through time. All the commissions an' law-makers in the country will never lower the price o' wheat a cent until they buy a farm an' start raisin' it. But when it comes tae a case o' starve or get back tae the land, maybe we'll see the crowd headin' in an opposite direction from what they are the noo, an' when that day comes we can look for lower prices an' easier livin'." I'm thinkin' there's enough loafers in the cities o' this country tae help oot quite a bit gin we could get them on tae the farms an' warkin' for a mon that kenned the business till they were ready tae start oot for themselves. They're talkin' about conscription for the army. Why don't they try it for the land?"

"Weel," says I, "it might wark a richt. Ye can never tell till ye try. But I'm thinkin' there'd be a few deserters after the first twa or three weeks. Hooever, I'm gaein' tae bed," says I, "an' gin I dream o' ony plan better than yer ain for gettin' the country oot o' the hole it's in, I'll let ye know in the mornin'. Gude nicht," says I.

SANDY FRASER.

Plant Trees About the Home.

EDITOR "THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE":

I chanced to-day to pick up a copy of Keats' poems and opened the book at "Endymion" the opening lines of which are:

A thing of beauty is a joy forever,
Its loveliness increases, it will never
Pass into nothingness etc.

I have often before read those beautiful lines written almost a century ago by the youthful English poet; but this time I received a different impression—a deeper one, doubtless due to the fact, that it is a glorious October day in the country, my surroundings are beautiful to the eye, the trees are taking on their rich autumnal tints and all Nature seems in tune; and as I pondered over the poet's words this thought came to me, what a thing of beauty is an Ontario farm at all seasons of the year! (I am partial to Ontario, being a native of this province.) The country is full of natural scenery; still if we have the taste we have it in our power to further improve along those lines by beautifying our homes as much as possible and by so doing we shall most assuredly reap the reward—the refining influence of beauty which must permeate our whole being. We farmers have such wonderful opportunities compared to our town and city brethren; for we have scope. I have in mind a gentleman of my acquaintance who is a lover of nature; we have only to pass his home to know it. This extra beauty was not always; it cost him hard labor. Possibly about twenty-five or thirty years ago he planted on either side of the King's Highway, the length of his farm, about one hundred maples which now are large trees, and a source of joy to those who pass by. His home was further beautified by the maples, the grounds, which are quite extensive, being studded here and there with them, also other

trees and ornamental shrubs. It is now a regular park, and simplicity reigns supreme as no set rules were followed in the ornamenting, the individual using his own taste, and it seems to me by so doing the beauty is more enhanced because the scenery looks natural rather than artificial. It has been a source of true pleasure and enjoyment to the inmates of the home as well as to others. As Keats states "The trees around the temple soon grow dear as the temple itself," so are the trees a part of this home.

This is a description of one of our many, many, pretty homes; still, perhaps there are some readers who have never yet conceived the idea of improving their home surroundings by the planting of trees, shrubs etc. Horticulture and agriculture go hand in hand to a certain extent; and to be really successful in the latter I think a fair knowledge of the former is required. Perhaps some may say there is no money in such work; but I am fully convinced that beautiful home surroundings and a beautiful frontage add very much to the value of our home, just as the value of our farm is increased hundreds of dollars by good roads. But even if there were no money, are we not amply repaid for our work by the genuine pleasure in watching the growth of the tree which later gives us its shade and consequent comfort and happiness. Take for instance a hot summer day, compare the house standing alone scorching in the sun, no shade trees near, with the home with its avenues of delight, its shaded driveways, cooling breezes, and singing birds. Surely the latter is the place to rest soul and body, and is, as the poet says, a joy forever.

Leeds County, Ont.

L. C.

The Sugar Beet and its Uses.

In districts where sugar beets are grown the harvesting of this important crop has been proceeding for several weeks. Many fields are already cleared but piles of beets are still to be seen in some, and, owing to scarcity of labor the roots are still in the ground in certain localities. Owing to the tuber growing into the ground and having a heavy top, it is not easily injured by frost, therefore harvesting can be delayed until late in the season. Carloads of beets are now being received at the factories every day and will continue to arrive until the weather becomes frosty. The marketing of the crop is more or less dependent on the railroads, as it practically all has to be shipped. Some growers have experienced difficulty in moving the crop and this is increased for those living some distance from the railroad, especially if wet weather sets in making the roads bad. For this reason a large bulk of the crop is grown on farms situated handy to a shipping point. Where beets can be grown successfully they prove to be a profitable crop. Growers have estimated that their total expense for growing and harvesting seldom exceeds thirty dollars an acre, and with an average crop of nine tons, at the prices paid the last year or two, the net profit is greater than for most crops grown on the farm. In an indirect way sugar beets are also a profitable crop to raise as the frequent cultivation through the summer cleans the land and leaves it in good condition for succeeding crops. The roots going deep into the soil also tends to loosen the subsoil.

According to analysis sugar is made up largely of water, carbon-di-oxide and sunshine, combined by the plant into the substance as we know it. These do not all come from the soil, consequently, if the by-products from the sugar-beet factories are used on the

farm, a minimum amount of fertility is removed from the land.

Of late years great improvement has been made in the method of purifying beet juices in the factories and also in increasing the percentage of sugar in the beet by selection. When first grown the sugar content was low but now it averages around fifteen per cent. and from twenty to twenty-five per cent. has been reached in some countries. With the increase in the sugar content the yield has also been improved. To a certain extent the character of soil influences the quantity of sugar in the beet.

Although the crop may be more profitable than others grown, the labor and shipping problems are no doubt factors which tend to keep the acreage from increasing more rapidly than it does. In 1914 it was estimated that 13,000 acres of sugar beets were cultivated in Canada, which equalled 29,000,000 pounds of refined sugar. According to the Agricultural War Book, 17,000 acres of beets were grown in 1915, and, while an increase in acreage was anticipated this year, the exact figures are not to hand. An increase of thirty per cent. in 1915 over 1914 conveys some idea of the rapid growth of the industry in Canada. With the present price of sugar no doubt the acreage will continue to increase rapidly. In order to supply the home demand for this product the acreage sown to beets must increase to twenty times that of 1915.

Sugar-beet factories in Canada, of which there are three in number, handle the crop in from seventy-five to one hundred days. Thus it will be seen that the season of operation is short, but, during that time the factories run day and night. Employment is given to a large number of men during the fall and early winter months.

As previously mentioned, beets grown on certain soils contain higher quantities of sugar than those grown on other soils, but as payment is made on the percentage of sugar basis, the grower receives full value for his crop. This has a tendency to encourage the growing of high-testing beets. It would not be fair for all the growers to receive the same price per ton, as large yield of coarse beets may not contain the quantity of sugar equal to a smaller yield of high-testing beets.

As the root grows entirely in the ground it is rather difficult to harvest. It is almost impossible to pull it, consequently some implement must be used to loosen the soil. The ordinary plow serves the purpose very nicely. Some growers have been known to run the land-side of the plow close to the roots and plow the dirt away from the rows, while others run the share underneath the roots, thus plowing the beets up. They are then pulled and topped with a knife and thrown in piles to await the wagons to take them to the shipping point. The harvesting is really divided into four operations, namely, lifting, pulling, topping and hauling. The point at which to remove the top is the lowest leaf scar. It is claimed that the part of the beet that grows above ground is not desired by sugar factories as it contains a low sugar content and a high percentage of minerals, which tends to crystallize sugar in the process of manufacture.

The beet pulp, a by-product of the beet factory, contains fairly high feeding value and good results have been obtained from feeding it to dairy cattle and growing stock. The stockman living near the factory can buy and draw away the fresh pulp, and in fact some have it shipped a considerable distance, but there is a danger of it heating and souring. Most factories dry the pulp, in which form it is placed on the market in large quantities. According to Michigan



Moving the Sugar-Beet Crop.