

ors will grow alarmed, but it is the entering wedge for a movement that may add millions to the farmers throughout the country who undertake to keep the profits on cold-storage eggs instead of handing them over to large companies.

The Value of Trees on the Prairie.

It is not easy to estimate the full value of trees on the prairie; in fact it is scarcely possible to do so. The factors that bear upon this question are many and in some respects they are interminable, for their exact measure cannot be taken. It may be possible to reduce to dollars and cents the value of trees grown and turned into lumber or of trees grown and made into fence posts, but it is not possible to take the exact measure of the value of the shelter which they furnish to the homes, or of the benefit which comes from the protection which they give to the fruit trees and fruits in areas which are encircled by trees. Nor is it possible to know just exactly how much benefit comes from the birds that they provide homes for.

The value of trees for lumber under prairie conditions is not well understood. The plantations put out for that purpose have been few. The instances in which they have been harvested for lumber have been fewer still. But there are a few instances on record in which cottonwood trees made into lumber have in 25 to 30 years made so much growth that the lumber obtained from them was found to be worth more than the value of all the wheat and grain that could have been obtained from the land, had these been grown on it for successive years during the entire period in which it was occupied by the trees. In addition considerable wood was also obtained.

The protection furnished the home has of course an exceeding value though it cannot be measured in dollars and cents. Comfort in life is worth more than money without comfort. The value of comfort cannot easily be measured, it is so high. Think of the difference in comfort of a man whose home is encircled with trees through which the cold, cutting, fierce, cruel winds cannot blow. Think of the difference which it makes to the animals that are protected from its fell sweep. There is something ennobling and commanding in the thought that man may thus harness the silent forces of nature to effectively curb the fury of the forces that are boisterous. Life must be shorn of many of its charms when the inmates of a home have no protection from the fury of the winter winds.

The value of trees in protecting fruit is very great. In some instances it means the difference between success and failure in growing fruits. Apple trees for instance will fail to grow in places unprotected where they will grow well under protection. Even though the trees should grow and thrive and bear in places where the wind is strong the fruit in such exposures would be whipped off the trees. There are places where raspberries will not prove satisfactory, as where the strong sunshine in the spring is not kept away from them by the shade of trees. There are many areas where strawberries unprotected will not set runners properly, because of the action of the winds. When the protection is furnished there is, of course, no trouble from this source.

That birds will increase as groves increase is a foregone conclusion. That they should increase is greatly to be desired. The increase of birds means a corresponding decrease of insect pests. Could the increase of birds be made sufficient, they could take care of the insects, or at least many species of them, that harm the farmer. These enliven the groves with their song. They are the friends of the farmer and he ought to give them every chance.

There are other benefits that come from the trees. They furnish shade for live stock when the groves are properly

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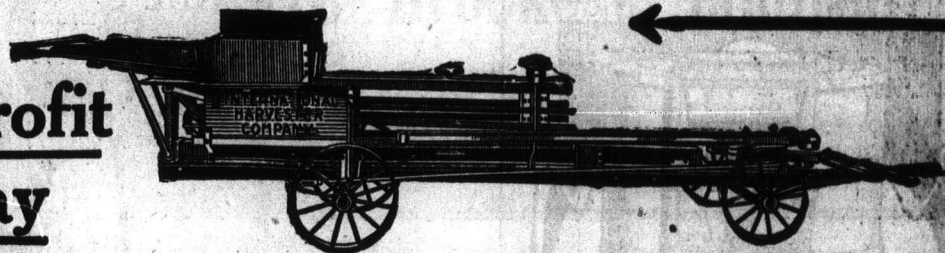
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