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RARE TREES IN CANADA.

One of the most interesting things in connection with tree planting is the extension by artificial means of the natural range of the growth of trees. The change is generally to a colder and more severe climate. In Toronto three kinds of magnolias are grown in the open air, one of which will attain a height of some forty feet. This is exclusive of the Liriodendron, which is a native though seldom seen in its wild state much west of Hamilton; occasionally it is found near the southern corner of Georgian bay. The introduction of rare kinds is generally a slow process. Magnolias have been grown in Toronto for some thirty years; yet so seldom are they seen that the newspapers but last year spoke of one, on College street, as if it had been the first of the kind. The rarest tree grown here is, perhaps, the gingo tree (*Salisburia adianti folio*) of which it is doubtful if there be, out of doors, more than one specimen; yet that this native of China and Japan, which is never seen in Europe, we believe, south of the Mediterranean, thrives here, is a fact to be borne in mind. The aristolochi has been found difficult to reproduce; all attempts in hot houses, have, so far as we know, failed; yet accident has given us proof that it can be put into condition to germinate and has germinated, after being a whole winter under ice, from melting snow and falling rain, forms to the depth of several inches. Having been under this ice in the winter of 1883-4, some seeds germinated, and the plants are now in the possession of the writer; one plant of this native of the south was allowed to remain under ice a second winter, and it commences the spring in a perfectly healthy state The custard apple grows naturally as far north as Niagara, and its artificial reproduction here is not improbable. The tulip tree, before mentioned, few take the trouble to grow, though it can scarcely be said to be out of its latitude here. Over the merits of the ailanthus it is possible to dispute; but when placed at a distance from the dwelling, where the objectionable odor of the male tree from which the female is with characteristic gallantry presumed to be free cannot offend, its long lanceolate leaves give an oriental touch to the landscape. The dwarf chestnut, and the buckeye, another and beautiful variety of chestnut, can be grown here without difficulty; but seldom is either of them seen.

Our nurserymen, as a rule, are content to go on the beaten track; they seldom trouble themselves to produce new varieties of trees; but if they do not wake from their slumber they must expect to be left behind, Of course for general purposes our own trees deserve to get, the preference. But not all the beauty of the floral world is native to our soil. There is beauty in variety; and variety should now, when opportunity offers, be sought after and encouraged. Even so beautiful a shrub as the burning bush (*Wahoo*) and one so easily grown, is seldom seen in our shrubberies. For the wood it is desirable to learn by experiment, what is the most economical tree to grow. The ailanthus, of which the wood is suitable for furniture, grows with extreme rapidity. The black walnut must either be reproduced, or its use in the manufacture of furniture be abandoned. At present it is perhaps the most profitable tree that can be grown; and yet it is doubtful whether it is being planted to any extent worth mentioning. Alongside of the black walnut, for economic value may be placed the hickory. Both of these, the most valuable of our native trees are being neglected. Most of the trees that are being planted are of comparatively little value. If common trees must have the preference, that is no reason why rarer kinds should not be assigned their true place; and this we fear is not being done. If we are now to begin to replant in earnest, the work should be done with discrimination and with a view to producing the best results, æsthetic and economic.—*Agriculturist*

SHADE TREES—PLANTING, AND AFTER-CARE.

Trees that have grown in the open air, will do better than those from thick woods. In selecting those only should be taken that are perfectly sound; a dead spot, however small, will extend until it ruins the tree. Trees with short trunks and large thin tops should be chosen, avoiding such as divide into two nearly equal branches, for they will be very likely to split down. In taking up trees, every root should be secured to the utmost fibre as far as possible, and without splitting or bruising them, and the holes for planting them should be large enough to receive the roots in their natural position. While out of the ground, the roots should be protected from the air and kept moist, and in setting them fine rich earth should be packed around all the fibres. Trees should be staked to prevent the wind from starting the roots, and well mulched to keep the ground moist and loose. A vicious practice prevails very extensively of cutting off the entire top. It is the death warrant of the tree. It may put out new branches and do well for a few years, but the wound will seldom heal; that will ultimately decay down into the centre of trunk and the limbs will break off or die. This process, in its various stages, may be seen in a large proportion of the trees that have been treated in this way. If a trunk must be cut off, let it be just above a thrifty limb, whose growth will heal over the wound. If branches must be removed, they should be cut close to to the trunk, great care being taken not to injure the bark or wood, the cut made smooth and covered at once with wax or paint so as to exclude the air. Shade trees are usually set too thick, from two to four times too many being put on the ground, consequently, as soon as they have grown a little, they interfere with each other, and a struggle for existence commences, in which all suffer and symmetrical growth is prevented. Trees should never be allowed to exclude the direct sunlight from a house; to do so is to make it unfit for a dwelling. To remedy this by pruning, will leave naked trunks covered with unsightly scars, too large to heal over, which will ultimately decay and kill the tree. Thinning out is but little better, for the trees that remain will be stragglers standing at irregular distances, with forlorn and badly shaped tops.

Shade trees should be carefully watched, and all branches that start where they are not wanted, that will ever interfere with streets, walks, buildings, or other branches, should be promptly removed. Such branches are often neglected until their removal irreparably injures the shade trees. All dead limbs should be taken away at once.—*American Agriculturist.*

PRODUCTS OF OUR FORESTS.

The *Monetary Times* in its useful compilation and condensation of information as to our exports has the following in regard to products of the forests:

	Fiscal year '82.		*Fiscal year '83.*	
Article.	*Quantity.*	*Quantity.*	*Value.*	
Potash, brls	11,109	7,601	$ 268,055	
Tanbark, cords..	91,701	65,104	321,991	
Firwood, " ..	170,575	104,000	388.910	
Tel. poles, etc. ($205,054)			227,101	
Deals, St hd.....	273,840	266,068	8,050,541	
Boards, &c. M. ft.	725,914	652,148	8,021,095	
Shingles, M.....	120,481	100,511	283,530	
R. R. ties, No....2,743,848		2,126,068	554,328	
Sq. timber, tons.	89,094	25,843	194,345	
Sq. Wt. Pine "	2,189,145	213,990	2,852,908	
" Red " "	188,436	25,843	223,298	
Logs, spruce, &c.	8,780	23,857	162,104	
Knees, &c., pcs..	25,331	36,688	33,660	
Masts, &c., No...	34,921	27,697	44,197	

The British glass-maker, soap boiler, and chemist, make use of our pot and pearl ashes by thousands of barrels; and the American tanner is glad to get, for his tanneries in Maine and adjoining states, the hemlock bark of New Brunswick and Quebec. Our forests furnish firewood, also, to a number of the Eastern States. All along the chain of lakes, Canadian poles have been in demand, for telephone and telegraph lines; and so they will be, until such time as some one perfects a system of underground telegraphy. Among sawn lumber, New Brunswick send abroad of deals, that largest item in the list of forest products exported ($8,600,000 worth) most spruce and Quebec is credited with most pine. But we suspect that Ontario should get credit for a large share of what goes down to account of her neighboring province, from the circumstance that they are shipped from Quebec ports. Great Britain takes the bulk of them, France and Uruguay coming next. For planks and boards, &c., the great Republic is the main market, followed by South America, Australia, and China. We export $8,000,000 worth in all. Masts and spars from our forests, find their way to twenty different countries, all over the globe. Wooden shingles for roofing are unknown in Britain, but the Indies and the United States use plenty of them. Canadian square timber, whether pine, oak, elm, ash or maple, goes mostly to Europe. The aggregate export of forest products represents a value in 1883 of $25,370,000.

Sawdust Instead of Sand.

A distinguished feature of this invention is the substitution of sawdust for sand in house-plastering. The mixture of sawdust and lime constitutes a warmer, cheaper and lighter plastering than has yet been applied to walls and ceilings.

Being somewhat porous and full of very small air spaces it is an excellent non conductor of heat, sound or dampness, as it causes the fire in a room to warm the inner surface of the walls. Sand plastering is proverbially cold and a medium through which a large percentage of heat is conducted from the room. One has often noticed in sand plastering nail-holes which increase in size as the material runs out with every jar of the door; the glutinous material used in sawdust plastering so unites the mass that there is no possible chance for particles to escape and disfigure the walls, especially as the plaster thus made is exceedingly light and less affected by jars. The surface is susceptible of being finished in all ways like other plastering. The porous nature of sawdust helps to diminish echo in churches, halls and other buildings, but hard finish must not be used when it is desirable to attain this result The elasticity of the sawdust plastering obviates the liability to cracking.—*Builders' Journal.*

The Phylloxera Commission

The French phylloxera commission announced at its last meeting that none of the methods proposed for exterminating the pest of the vine during 1883 gave any hope whatever of success; the prize of 300,000 francs offered to the author of a practical remedy could not therefore be awarded. The renovation of the vines and means for their defence have, however, been largely developed.

Freight on the Erie Canal.

Grain freights are very low on the Erie canal for so early in the season, wheat being carried for 3⅜ cents per bushel, and corn 3¼ cents. Lumber proves to best cargo at $2 per M to Albany and $2.65 to New York.

A Large Purchase.

Mr. E. B. Eddy has purchased 140,000 logs belonging to the Scottish Canadian Lumber Company, which were sold by the receiver.