

Planting Seeds of Forest Trees.

Forestry is a subject of intense interest to farmers. A farmer is, if anything, a practical man, and once interested and convinced that a thing is feasible and desirable, he wants to be up and doing it. Now, forestry is practical, and begins at home.

The first thing a man wants to know is what kind of trees are best, most easily started, make quickest growth, and yield the most valuable timber; then he wants to know where to get the seeds or seedlings, and how best to get the young oak from an acorn, or the stout sapling from a chestnut bur; he wants to know also how and where to plant, and how to thin as the growth becomes too thick.

The list of native trees is long and familiar to most farmers; the leading sorts being planted most extensively by European governments, however, are: White pine, Douglas fir, Menzies' spruce, shell-bark and other hickories, red oak, black walnut, black birch, jack pine, chestnut, white ash, locust, elm and maple. The seed may be gathered or seed and seedlings obtained from various nurseries.

The germination of many of the seeds is slow, and a little information on this stage of the work will save much disappointment. Gather the chestnuts, hickory-nuts, walnuts, beechnuts and acorns as soon as they fall, and either plant at once or keep moist by placing in a box of slightly moistened earth until spring. Never plant store-dried nuts. The walnuts may be planted two to a hill wherever you want the tree, pulling up or transplanting one plant if both germinate. The hickory-nuts, chestnuts and acorns should be started in a small patch, easily weeded and covered lightly with leaves or straw manure. The young trees should be transplanted when two years old.

The methods employed in raising the other trees from the seed can, perhaps, be best shown by the following, from the pen of a veteran grower who has had over forty years' experience in growing evergreens from seed: "First, select a small, well-drained spot in the garden, and prepare the seed-bed by spading thoroughly, and then rake the surface until the soil is pulverized as finely as it is possible to get it. On this freshly-made seed-bed scatter the seed, allowing about twenty-five seeds to the square foot of ground. Press the seed into the earth with a garden roller or back of spade, and then immediately cover with a light coat of sand. As soon as planted a partial shade must be made, so that the sun's rays will be broken before reaching the bed. The best way to make this shade is to make a lath box two feet high, and large enough other ways to nicely cover the bed. Leave space of one and one-half inches between the lath; this will give the right amount of shade, and will also keep chickens, etc., from scratching into the bed. Leave one side of the box open, and place open side down over the bed. The seed will germinate in from five to seven days, the first thing noticeable being the seed itself, which comes up through the sand on a sturdy little stem. In a few days the seed shell drops off, and the little tree unfolds its first branches. Keep all grass and weeds from the little trees, and in fall lightly mulch with clean, dry straw or hay. The shade must be left over the bed until trees are two years old, at which age they may be transplanted into rows in the garden."

These rules apply to mostly all seeds of the forest tree, great care being necessary at the start. Some take longer to germinate than others; the hickory sprout may not show till June. Locust seeds, after being cleaned and kept in a cool place till spring, should be soaked in tepid water for a day or two before planting. Always plant the Robina pseud-acacia, called black or yellow locust, if you intend to grow for posts. Thin at about ten years. Plant four feet apart each way. Being crowded thus, they are forced upward for light and air, and make a smooth, straight trunk, on which the lower limbs die before they attain any size. Cultivate regularly, and clean out weeds for a year or two until the trees get a start; a few years later thin out every other one. J. Niagara Co., Ont.

One Solution of the Farm Labor Problem.

Farm life will be improved by every owner of a farm needing outside help if we build a comfortable tenant house for every hired man with family, and give preference to the man who wants a steady job, writes L. N. Bonham, in the Breeder's Gazette.

The sooner we can furnish our help with a house, a garden spot, a cow and chickens, the sooner they will appreciate the advantages of the farm home, and be satisfied to accept farm work in preference to that in the crowded city.

My own experience of forty years with hired help is, they are happier in their own homes, and the married man and his wife can, in their own houses, make the hired single man comfortable and more contented than the landlord can possibly do in his own house. Since providing the farm with two neat tenements for the hired men, we have less trouble in getting good men, and they stay longer. The foreman boards all extra men required when threshing. A near neighbor has for his foreman a man who worked in a factory in a city of 30,000 inhabitants. His wages there were \$1.75 per day, out of which he had to

pay house rent, fuel and living expenses. This man has been on this farm four years, gets \$15 per month, garden and house free, and half the milk of three to six cows which he milks. He also raises enough chickens to furnish eggs and poultry for himself and the landlord. They divide only the eggs, milk and chickens, and the landlord has all the other produce and animals they have to sell. They are both satisfied, and the hired man tells me he is better off than when working in the factory.

These are examples that might be multiplied indefinitely. There is no place on the farm for the man who is grumbling about capital. The employer and his help must realize that they have mutual interests, and the golden rule unlocks all their difficulties.

Fall Plowing.

Now that threshing and fall fairs are well over, the importance of getting all the land intended for crops next year plowed before hard frost sets in, will be acknowledged as imperative, in order that the soil may have the benefit of the mellowing influence of the winter's freezing, rendering it friable and easily prepared for the seed in the spring. As a rule, the land plowed early in the fall comes out in the spring in the best condition, and where attention is paid to having all water furrows and surface ditches well cleaned out and with clear openings for surplus water to get away, seeding may be commenced many days earlier than where this provision has been neglected.

As a rule, the early sown grain crops go on best all summer, and yield several bushels more to the acre than do the later sown. The clover and grass seeds sown with early-sown grain also get a better start and a more vigorous growth, and the plants are in a better condition to endure a drouth after the grain is harvested, and become

Supplies of Wheat from India.

Students of the British fiscal question will be interested in learning that British India, for three weeks in succession, has been the chief source from which the importing countries have drawn their supplies of foreign wheat. India's shipment this week has not only exceeded the Argentine or Russian quota severally, but has exceeded the contributions of the U. S. A. and Canada combined. Looking ahead through the whole season, it seems likely that India may compete with Argentina closely for the second place as a shipper of wheat, Russia taking the first place again, as she did last season.

The following are the exact quantities shipped from the principal sources of supply since the opening of the current cereal year three weeks ago, viz.: 783,000 qr. from India, 612,000 qr. from Russia, 571,000 qr. from the U. S. A. and Canada, 499,000 qr. from Argentina, 483,000 qr. from the Balkan Peninsula, 212,000 qr. from Australasia, and 89,000 qr. from North Africa, Chili and other minor sources of supply.

It is true that these figures are not conclusive; but they appear to have some value as indications of what may happen, for it now seems as if the British Empire were about to prove itself practically independent of foreign and in the matter of its bread supply; the 26,000,000 qr. which the mother country requires annually, may, under conceivable circumstances, be forthcoming during the current season from India, Canada and Australasia. It is particularly noteworthy that this result has been brought about without any special inducement such as the present high prices, for when the crops of those countries were planted wheat was still selling very cheaply. G. J. S. BROOMHALL,

Editor of Corn Trade News.

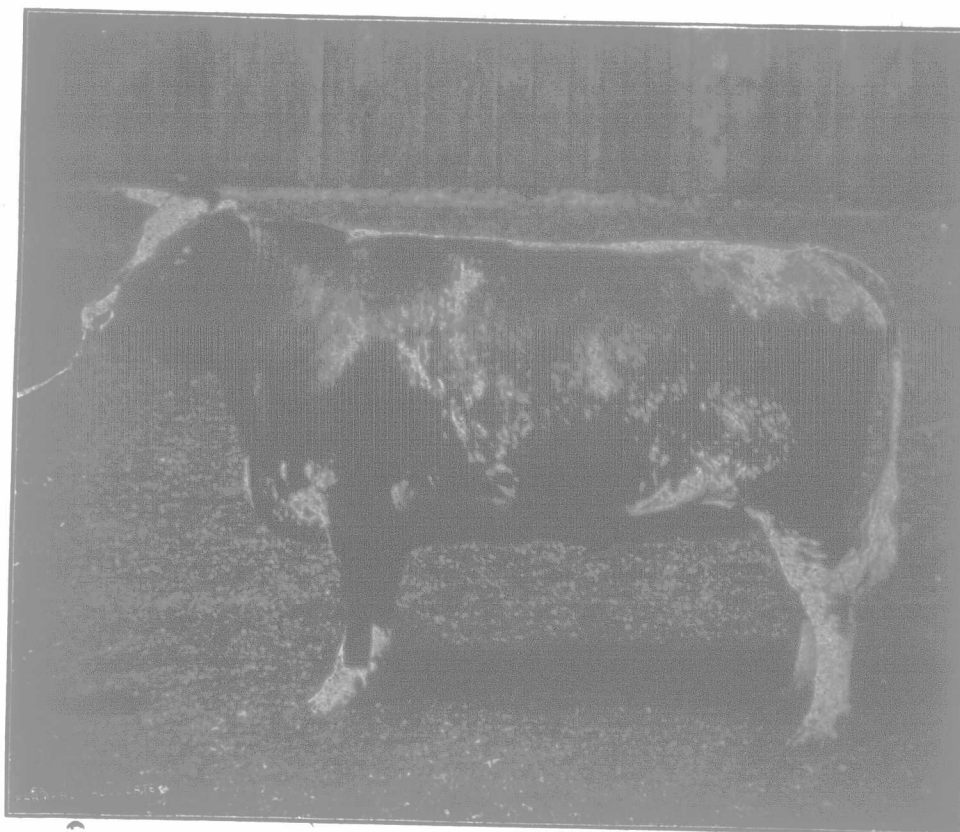
Brunswick Street, Liverpool, Aug. 23rd.

GARDEN AND ORCHARD.

Wind-breaks for the Orchard.

The terrible gales prevailing lately have played

havoc with the apples, both fall and winter varieties. Wherever orchards were exposed to the full force of the gale without any protection fully half of the fruit is blown off, and will be unfit for anything but the cider-mill or the evaporator. And this brings up the question of wind-breaks for the orchard. This question has been discussed pro and con for years. It is claimed that wind-breaks interfere with the free circulation of air, and, as a result, the fruit is more affected with fungus, scab, etc., and there certainly is a great deal in the contention. But when the trees are not planted too close together, and are well pruned and sprayed, they might be well protected by an ample wind-break, and yet produce fine, clean fruit. In fact, one of the best orchards the writer has seen this year is protected by a



Fair Queen.

Two-year-old Shorthorn heifer, never defeated in her class. Winner of junior championship at all the leading American shows of 1903, and grand championship at International, Chicago. Winner of grand championship at all leading shows in 1904 to date, including the World's Fair at St. Louis. Bred by H. Fairbairn, Thedford, Ontario; owned and exhibited by E. W. Bowen, Delphi, Indiana.

stronger to stand the severity of the coming winter. In the case of clay soils, especially, it is well to have the plowing done in such a manner that the furrows stand well up on edge, exposing as large a surface as possible to the action of the frost. It is the part of prudence to economize time, so as to get as much plowing as possible done in October, while the days are of fair length and the land is in the best condition for getting the largest area turned over in a given space of time. To leave off the plowing until hard frost is apt to appear is unwise, as then the work is harder on men and teams, and much less can be plowed in a day, and the effect of the weather upon the upturned soil is less beneficial than in the case of the earlier-plowed land. It is well to be well forward with all farm work at this season, if possible, in order to be ready for any contingency, and have no regrets to worry one for having failed to make the best use of the time.

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high-board fence and a row of spruce trees. During the recent gales this orchard lost scarcely any of its fruit, and the fruit is clean and nice, but it has been well pruned and sprayed. Wind-breaks are more necessary now than ever, owing to the clearing away of the forests. The country is now more exposed to the full sweep of the winds. Wind-breaks exercise considerable influence also as to winter conditions. It is plainly apparent that the blasting effects of last winter's extreme cold has been greatly lessened wherever there was a little protection from the keen, biting winds. The damage in some years from fierce gales, when the trees are laden with fruit, is serious, not only in the loss of fruit, but in the breaking of the trees, and there is more or less of it every year, although in some years they escape fairly well. It is the equinoctial gales, that occur at the change of seasons when summer is changing into fall, that do the damage. And it would be well for those planting new orchards to consider the question of a wind-break, for the wind-break should be planted at the same time, or a few years before planting the orchard would be better. The west side is the most important, as the heaviest damaging gales