

WOODLOT IMPROVEMENT.

In answer to an inquiry from the Canadian Forestry Journal, Lt.-Col. J. W. Harkom, Melbourne, Quebec, an industrious improver of his own woodlands, sent the following remarks:

With intelligent care, farmers' woodlots would give returns that now seem, to the average farmer, unlikely; but wider knowledge is necessary to give such men interest to stimulate their action.

For one thing, the allowing of cattle to run at large in the lot must be prevented. It takes but little time to see how much damage is done by the practice.

Then careful cutting and trimming would furnish much more fuel wood than at first sight would appear, and the result in the growth of timber and general appearance of it would give an added value to the property.

Planting, and encouragement of

naturally-sown young trees would, in a few years, give still more value.

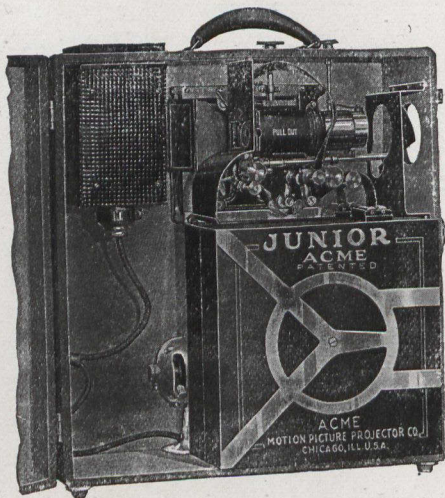
These latter three points cover what I consider the chief work a small woodlot requires to change it from the present general valueless appearance to an asset.

It will be perhaps only by some State action that a wide improvement could be effected, and that by taking over some areas and demonstrating what can be done and its value.

An estimate as to values in cash is not practicable except by survey of the actual sites.

There are several reasons why the woodlots are constantly running down: Thoughtless cutting; grazing carelessness about forest fires, and lack of thinning.

The remedies are simple and easily applied. What then is the trouble? I think there are two reasons for this, both of which lie in the attitude of mind of the farmer. First of all, he is not accustomed to think of his farm



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