



"Rod and Gun" is the official organ of the Canadian Forestry Association. The Editor will welcome contributions on topics relating to Forestry.

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A Crime of the Woods.

A sturdy oak,—its spreading branches filled
An acre round where ages it had stood
The sinless monarch of this mighty wood,
Till one there came who with a vandal's
power

Sent crashing earthward in a single hour
What God required three centuries to
build.

Albert B. Paine, in Munsey's

CARE IN TRANSPLANTING AND PRUNING TREES.

HIS HONOR SIR HENRI JOLY DE LOTBINIERE,
Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia.

BEFORE planting a tree, the roots must be carefully inspected and every torn and injured part removed with a sharp knife, so as to make a perfectly clean cut and to leave only the healthy part. A regular ring of rootlets will then form around the end of the root so trimmed, between the wood and the bark. It is upon these new rootlets the tree has now to depend, and they will begin in good time their task of bringing it nourishment while no rootlets or only a very few sickly ones will form at the jagged end of a torn root.

The writer will venture an opinion with which he expects many will disagree until they have made the experiment for themselves, viz: that there is no advantage in taking up a tree for transplanting to try and preserve long roots and a ball of earth except for an extra large tree removed to ornament some favorite spot, and upon the removal of which such extra care is bestowed as would entail too great an expenditure when a great number of trees are to be planted.

Since we can scarcely ever take up the whole of the roots in lifting a tree for transplanting, especially when it has a tap root, the question arises: how far can we safely shorten the roots without interfering with its future growth? The writer has made several experiments to find out to what minimum length he could reduce the roots without injuring the tree, and he

has been surprised to see how much shortening they could stand.

For instance, for a black walnut tree from four to five years old he would shorten the tap root to say ten inches and the side roots to about eight and even less, if necessary to get rid of all torn and wounded parts. It is easy to try the experiment, the result will be apparent even after one season's growth.

As for the saving of time, trouble and expense in cutting off the roots much nearer the trunk than is generally practised and in dispensing with the ball of earth which in any case must be shaken off to inspect and trim the roots, there can be no doubt as to the advantage of that method from every point of view. Of course the tree ought to be staked, the more so that the long roots, mainly useful for anchoring it in the ground have been removed; but every transplanted tree ought, in any case, to be staked or secured against the action of the wind in some other way as laying stones around the foot of the tree.

As for care after planting and especially pruning, so important where trees grow in the open, of course it is wise not to wait until they are very large before cutting off the branches which ought to be removed, but whatever their size they must be cut off quite close to the stems of the tree, using a chisel or gauge when the saw cannot be worked handily, so as to allow the new bark to cover the wound as soon as possible. If from fear of making too large a wound, or from carelessness and to avoid trouble part of the branch is left sticking out of the trunk, as we see in so many cases, the new bark will never be able to cover the stump so left, before that stump begins to rot under the influence of the weather, and as its starting point is inside the trunk, it will carry down decay to the very heart of the tree and kill it. The writer has prepared a series of photographs representing the result of close pruning and the different stages of gradual healing, until the wound is completely covered by the new bark, and cross sections show that the wound has been covered over in time to leave the wood in a healthy condition. On the other side a collection of photos of bad pruning, where stumps are left exposed to the weather, show clearly how they begin to decay, and how that de-

cay gradually works its way to the very heart of the tree and kills it.

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Forestry Meeting in Vancouver.

The new Lieutenant-Governor of British Columbia is evidently showing his interest in forestry work by calling the attention of the people of that Province to the necessity for a proper study of their timber resources, as his was the principal address at a forestry meeting held at Vancouver on the 8th August last.

The chair was taken by Mr. H. Bostock, M.P., who is vice-president for British Columbia of the Canadian Forestry Association. Mr. Bostock stated that he considered it to be a fortunate thing for the forestry interests of the Province that Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere was there as Lieutenant-Governor and that the most should be made of his presence to arouse an interest in forestry. Mr. Bostock then called upon Sir Henri to address the meeting.

After alluding to the comprehensive nature of his subject, the Lieutenant-Governor said that it was true in British Columbia as in other parts of Canada with respect to the forests that what cost nothing to acquire was not highly valued. In Germany, France and India, the worth of the forests was fully understood, and great pains were taken to create new forests and to preserve those already in existence. Providence had done so much for Canada in this way that Canadians forgot to show their gratitude by taking care of the gift. The forests were wasted and neglected. They were handed over to speculators to be ruined for private profit.

The most important use of the forest was that least understood. In the past, wood had been the chief material employed in the construction of ships, but now iron had been substituted. At present it was used for building houses and constructing furniture, and lately altogether new uses had been discovered among which might be mentioned the manufacture of paper. But for all of these, other substances could be substituted if the supply of wood should completely fail. There was one use of the forest, however, for which no substitute could be found, a use that was often altogether overlooked, and at best imperfectly understood. Upon the forests depended the health, prosperity and agricultural success of the community. Travelers in Italy, Spain and the Holy Land, where forests had once abounded which had made those countries gardens, had all lamented the effects that had followed the deplorable destruction of the forests, and so well was the cause of the evils which had been incurred, understood, that Italy, like Germany and France, was now doing its best to plant trees in those regions which had been denuded of them,