

Saturday noon. The luncheon was the best meeting that I have attended yet. It was not a business meeting in any way, but just a gathering together to get better acquainted.

NEW ZEALAND REFORESTING.

Persons who have recently visited New Zealand speak in warm terms of the success of tree planting on that island. The authorities have discovered that at the present rate of cutting the New Zealand forests will not last for more than thirty-five years, even if none of the standing timber is destroyed by fire. They have, therefore, begun the work of planting barren areas. Most of the districts now being planted are a very difficult field because they consist of the slopes of volcanic mountains from which all the vegetation was swept by an earthquake and volcanic eruption about twenty five years ago. This has left the hillsides covered with a deposit of ashes, underneath which is a stiff clay, too stiff to be swept away by the torrents of water from the upland lakes, which at the time of the eruption boiled over and eroded the hills. It was felt that the native trees would not live in this upland, but good success was met with in planting imported larch, and of these about 3,500,000 trees per year are being planted. The planting is being done by prisoners of the better class, that is to say, first offenders and men who can be, in a measure, put on parole. The officers over them carry no firearms. Every man is allowed eight credit marks per day for good work, and these credit marks go to shorten his term in prison. At the end of their prison term the prisoners may remain at planting work, and for this they receive two dollars per day. In this way many are enabled to earn sufficient to give them a new start in life. Up to the present New Zealand has spent \$930,000 in this work, and it is expected that within twenty years when the second thinnings are begun they will have a very considerable revenue from the poles taken out which will be used for railway ties, mine props and fence posts. The experiment is considered a success from the standpoint of both forestry and prison reform.

TREES ON HOMESTEAD.

On the average homestead of a quarter section does it pay to plant trees for wind-break? If so from what standpoint?—M. R. K.

Ans.—Yes, it pays any man who settles on the open prairie to plant trees as soon as possible. It pays in the matter of shel-

ter from storms, making the home more easily heated and the stock more easily kept; it pays in avoiding excessive loss of moisture from the fields incident to a straight sweep of the wind; it pays in affording shelter for stock from the hot sun. Such reasons can be given in any number. But chief of all from the money standpoint is the increase in value of the quarter section. If an anxious purchaser were to go to your locality he would pay considerably more for a farm on which stood a house and outbuildings surrounded by fine shelter belts than he would for similar land with similar buildings but lacking the trees. Then, do not forget the general satisfaction of a fine house among trees.—*Farmers' Advocate (Winnipeg).*

So serious has the chestnut blight become in the United States that there has recently been held in Harrisburg, Pa., at the call of the Governor of that state, a conference of representatives of the different state organizations to discuss ways and means of dealing with this danger. The blight upon chestnut trees was first noticed near New York City. It has now spread till chestnut trees are affected in New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia, Connecticut, Rhode Island and Massachusetts. It is estimated that it has already caused a loss of \$50,000,000. The damage is caused by fungi which work in the inner bark. The damaged area soon forms a ring about the tree and stops the flow of sap and causes death. The result of the Harrisburg Conference was a call to the governments, state and federal, of the United States and Canada to undertake a vigorous crusade against the blight. Already a number of the officers of various governments are searching for means to destroy this fungus growth and save the trees.

The *American Lumberman*, in pointing out the great need of education on the subject of conservation instances a case in the little town in the State of Washington in a district that had suffered somewhat from forest fires. A merchant of the town expressed to the representative of the newspaper in question the wish that the entire district should burn over, his view being that mills would have to be erected to cut the burnt timber as quickly as possible to save it from insects, and thus the prosperity of the town would be immediately increased. Washington is not the only part of the world where this erroneous idea prevails, but this instance emphasizes the need of educating the general public on this subject as rapidly as possible.