

## AGRICULTURAL.

### Farm Ornamentation.

**R**EADER have you not noticed as you drive along the highway that on some farms are nice rows of trees either flanking the place or bordering the driveway to the house or otherwise in clumps or hillsides, by a stream, or in the immediate vicinity of the dwelling? And have you not also noticed that other farms have few if any trees, except perhaps a few forlorn, looking specimens that are expected to do duty as an orchard; or it may be a couple of willows or poplars guarding the road gate, and judging from their appearance must have been planted by one of that ever-decreasing part of our population, a first settler? And have you not felt a sense of homeliness in the cosy, inviting appearance of the former, and a feeling of loneliness in the dreariness and monotony of the latter? And has it ever occurred to you that the lack or presence of a little farm ornamentation has much to do with the mental and moral development of the general public, and through these upon its spiritual and physical development also? And further does it now occur to you that if the passers-by are thus influenced, that the appearance of the farm is a force of no ordinary moment to those who find their every day world within the boundaries of the old place?

And after all it does not cost very much to fix things up a little. The various kinds of evergreens may be bought in moderate quantities from the best nurseries for a half cent each, and many of our nicest deciduous trees for a price not exceeding one cent each. The nuts from such trees as the chestnut, butternut and walnut may usually be had from some one in the vicinity for the gathering, and they combine both beauty and utility. Indeed a little time and skill used in tree planting may be made to yield a hundred fold in the beauty of home surroundings.

A little grading of the lanes with perhaps a coat of gravel, a small nicely kept lawn with a flower bed or two to relieve and please, a grove of trees adjacent to the dwelling which may be used as an arbor; the fences in the vicinity of the house lower than the ordinary farm fence and neatly built, a few rods of low neatly trimmed hedge; all of these, either singly or in combination, with a host of other little things, may be made to add wonderfully to the pleasure and satisfaction of living on the farm.

### Waste Places.

**H**OW to utilize these waste places on the farm or, at least hide them from view is a problem with many. A few suggestions may not be out of place. Is it a hillside of heavy clay soil, or it may be, no soil at all, but a stiff clay subsoil to the surface? Plant some plum trees on it of a hardy sort, with some currants in the spaces. To give these a chance mulch the whole surface heavily with straw or coarse manure. This will act in lieu of cultivation, and also tend to keep any weeds in check. If the hill be exposed to the prevailing winds or very steep and inclined to slide when the frost comes out, plant two rows of spruce, one on top and the other in the middle, running parallel to the base of the hill. These will improve the ap-

pearance, shelter the young plums, and tend to keep the soil in place. A gravel pit, knoll, or hill might be planted round about with evergreens of some sort to hide its unsightliness. If not too gravelly a clump of deciduous trees might be planted and a useful summer resort for stock be thus obtained. Unused corners about buildings may perhaps be best utilized by planting trees that will offer shade as well as shelter. Some of our nut-bearing trees will answer the purpose. In there a small patch of land made too wet to be useful, by the leakage from the barn yard, and too rich with such impregnation to grow anything but pig weed, etc., look first to the proper handling of the yard contents. Then utilize the extra richness by converting the plot into a kitchen garden. Rhubarb, cucumbers, pumpkins, citrons, carrots, radishes, parsnips and the like will grow amazingly under such circumstances.

Swamps should be drained either by open ditches or underdrains since they are a hindrance to cultivation as well as to surrounding vegetation. The cost will probably not be half as much as you suppose, the accruing benefit very much above your expectations. Low wet places in an otherwise well drained field might easily pay for draining in one season from the fact that these often hinder the timely sowing of spring grain, and the delay of a few days in spring seedling will very often make a difference of several bushels per acre at harvest time—a serious affair when continued year after year. An orchard seeded to grass and left thus may be looked upon more or less as a waste place. Not only do the trees not do so well but a second crop might be profitably taken and the quality and quantity of the fruit improved. Hoed crops are the best for the purpose.

I have merely mentioned a few of the waste places to be found on farms, but others will occur to the reader. It will pay to attend to them since not only are they unsightly but often a positive pecuniary hindrance.

### Kernels.

When plowing up an orchard that has been seeded some time plow lightly.

The feeding value of a crop of corn is not alone to be judged by the number of tons per acre.

The most important time and the cheapest to have on hand an extra food supply for your milch cows is when pastures commence to fail.

### "TEN YEARS OF TEMPERANCE"

A rather pretentious volume is in course of publication under the above title by THE TEMPLAR of Hamilton, Ont. It will be issued in seven monthly numbers, each covering a different phase of the temperance reform, and all profusely illustrated. The first number is a beautiful work of art containing no less than thirty magnificent photogravures of Canadian prohibition leaders, and it is styled the "Men of the Movement." Not only the temperance people, but every lover of fine engravings will be delighted with the work. Twenty-five cents will insure a specimen copy of the first number by mail free, or five copies for a dollar if the remittance is made to W. W. Buchanan, Hamilton, Ont.