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FORESTRY AND ABOICULTURE.

BEING THE FOURTH CHAPTER OF THE REPORT OF THE ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION.

Replanting and Ornamenting Farms.

The method to be pursued by the intending tree-planter, as well as his outlay, will depend much both on the particular object he has in view and the money he has to spend.

"I would recommend," says Mr. Beadle, "for forest planting, the hard maple, particularly as a tree which will be very valuable yet in our country. I am not particularly partial to the silver-leaved maple, though it is a most popular tree with most planters because it grows so rapidly. The hard maple is a more symmetrical tree, and the foliage is very clean and free from insect deprecations."

In Kent, the Commissioners noticed that the maple had been very extensively planted on the field sides and concession lines, a circumstance that was the more remarkable from the fact that the original wood of the district had largely consisted of the elm.

Mr. Cochrane, of Kilsyth, County of Grey, says in his evidence:—

"I think in the matter of tree-planting we are in advance of the rest of the county. The planting by the road-side and along lanes is becoming quite general. The neighbors who lives adjoining my place has planted out, I dare say, 1,000 shade trees. The trees planted by him were chiefly silver maple and rock maple. The first he planted was ten years ago, and they were planted fourteen feet apart. They now meet."

Mr. Beadle says on this point:—

"For forest planting I would recommend maple, taking of course into account the variety of soil. The hard maple does not succeed in all soils, but where it does succeed I prefer it. It flourishes in a dry soil. In wet soil I would use the soft maple. Some little blocks of forest have been planted with maple trees, with a view to their sugar-producing qualities, and some of these have attained a diameter of six or eight inches and a height of thirty or forty feet. They have been planted some years. I do not think they received any cultivation after planting."

The cultivation of the black walnut in universally recommended. Mr. Leslie says:—

"In the nut trees, the black walnut grows very rapidly in its younger stages—almost as rapidly as the English ash, and, at fifteen years, the wood could be used for many purposes, particularly for cabinet-making. I think the black walnut would have to be confined chiefly to the front of the Province. I never saw it east of Cornwall, but the south-west portion of the peninsula is its home."

That the walnut is not a tree requiring an exceptionally mild climate is proved by the ex-

perience of Mr. Beall, at Lindsay. Mr. Roy too, at Owen Sound, says:—

"There is an idea that black walnut will not grow as far north as Owen Sound. Ten years ago I planted black walnut seeds, and at the present time two or three of the trees bear nuts. They are not only ornamental, but coming to be very useful trees. The diameter of two or three of them now will be as much as six inches. They were planted in a strong soil."

If the soil is at all good, Mr. Arnold recommends the planting of the black walnut on lands that may, for any other reason, be unavailable for agricultural purposes.

The butternut, as already noticed, is recommended by Mr. Leslie for planting. Senator Allan says of it:—"The butternut, if transplanted young, succeeds well."

It is somewhat more hardy than the walnut, and, as previously mentioned, is often used as a substitute for that wood.

The hickory is rather a slow grower, but can be used profitably at so early a stage in its existence that it is a profitable tree to plant pretty freely with the view to the sale of thinnings as the trees mature and crowd one another. Mr. Beadle says:—

"I have not the slightest doubt that plantations of hickory will pay in the near future."

The ash can be easily transplanted, and, as a fast growing tree, for the wood of which the demand is certain to increase with time, is one that should be cultivated. Mr. Beadle says of it:—

"The ash will always be valuable, particularly the white ash."

Mr. Leslie recommends the English ash as preferable to some Canadian varieties. He says:—

"For tree planting on waste lands, or hill-sides, with an economical view, I would recommend the English ash as a most useful tree. I think it would come into the market earlier than any other tree that could be planted. It is largely used for handle-making, and about ten years' growth on ordinary soil would produce a tree that could be split into four pieces each of sufficient size to make a handle. The English ash is not the same as our common black ash; there is as much difference as between the European larch and our tamarack. It is a more rapid grower than the black ash, and the wood is better in every way."

Of the coniferous trees none is more beautiful, and none can be planted of a more certain economical value, than the native white pine. Mr. Beadle says of this tree:—

"I believe that plantations of white pine will eventually pay when our timber regions to the north become used up or burnt up. The white pine grows rapidly."

Mr. Dempsey says of it:—

"Pine makes rapid second growth in sections of the country where it flourishes."

Mr. Beall says of this tree:—

"We should not forget our native pine, for there is no more beautiful tree we can have, if taken from the woods when very young."

Where, however, it is desired to plant in an cultivable ground, few, if any, trees will be found of greater value than the European larch. Mr. Leslie, speaking of this tree, says:—

"I do not approve of our Canadian tamarack at all. The timber is poor, and if people desire to go to the expense of planting for timber, I would recommend them to plant the European larch, which is a splendid tree, a rapid grower, and will grow in any part of this country. It is not an overgreen, but it throws out a great number of small branches which are a great protection. It is a very rapid growing tree, even more rapid than the Norway spruce, growing more than four feet on an average every year, unless the ground is very poor, in which case of course the growth will be less. In five or six years the tree will be twenty-five or thirty feet high."

After mentioning it as an ornamental tree for lawn planting, Mr. Leslie says further:—

"The European larch would also be suitable for this purpose (handle making.) The latter makes the best railway ties of any wood in the world, as it is almost indestructible. It is a very rapid grower, and in ten or twelve years' time the wood is of merchantable proportions and useful for many purposes. Of course it would not be fit for railway ties by that time, but suitable for manufacturing purposes."

"It would be decidedly profitable to railway companies, as well as beneficial to the country, if the waste lands connected with their lines were planted with European larch. From this source they could in time obtain an almost inexhaustible supply of railway ties, much superior to the kind now in general use."

"Another use to which the European larch can be put is the production of 'ships' knees, as it can be trained when young to the desired bend."

It was the European larch with which successive Dukes of Athol carried out their extensive tree planting operations in Scotland, extending at last to an area of 10,000 acres, and involving the planting of no less than 14,000,000 trees.

Mr. Roy, of Owen Sound, says of this tree:—

"I have tried the European larch, which is much more pendulous [than the pines]. I have had no difficulty in establishing it here. It is a most beautiful and ornamental tree. I obtained it from Scotland."

The larch is not an overgreen, but, when planted in groves or belts, several trees deep, offers, from its conformation, a very considerable resistance to the winds.

For a perfect shelter-belt for orchard or fields, however, nothing is more strongly recommended than the Norway spruce. Mr. Leslie says of it:—

"We consider the Norway spruce the most valuable tree there is for planting in shelter-belts. It is extremely hardy, very rapid in growth, and easily transplanted." He adds, "I prefer the Norway spruce wholly to deciduous trees and evergreens mixed, as in the latter case, the one checks the growth of the other."

But there are many native varieties of spruce, which, if not in every respect so desirable, are near at hand, and can be made to do duty very efficiently. Mr. Beall says:—

"By spruce I mean the kind that is called the Canadian or black spruce. It varies much in colour. I bought a thousand plants of Canadian spruce a few years ago. I consider it superior to the Norway spruce, because it is equally as pretty in shape and it has a better color. With the Canadian spruce we get almost every variety of shade, but the Norway is all one shade. I suppose the different shades are all of the one variety, but they differ during their life. They can be cultivated successfully in rows, with the branches interlocking in the way described by Mr. Beadle. I have a fine close-cut spruce hedge about five feet high, pyramidal in shape, and five feet across at the base. It can be pruned beautifully, and we have now every shade and color, from the palest yellow to the deepest green. It does not grow so fast in the open ground as the Norway spruce, though I have trees, planted twelve years ago, off of which I cut the tops five years ago, and they are now eighteen or twenty feet high. I do not know how the Canadian spruce compares with the Norway spruce in merchantable value. It will grow almost anywhere. I would plant it along with cedar or pine on hill-sides or rocky places."

Of the Canadian white and black spruce, Mr. Leslie says:—

"We have found the white spruce, a native of this country, a most excellent tree for shelter belts, but it is not so rapid a grower as the Norway, and for that reason the latter is superior. We have a black spruce, but it is not a good variety, as it is apt to become poor at the bottom, that is, in the early stages of the growth of the tree the lower limbs decay and are lost, while the white spruce and the Norway hold their foliage to the ground. When I speak of shelter, I mean shelter for farm buildings, orchards, etc."

A Mistake

It is a great and often fatal mistake to take repeated drastic purgatives for constipation of the bowels, they induce piles and cause debility of the bowels. Burdock blood purifier is a safe and perfect regulator of the bowels, arousing the torpid liver and all the secretions to a healthy action, acting on the kidneys, and renovating and toning the system in a most perfect manner.