

Practical Points for Arbor Day.

TREE PLANTING.

Arbor Day is no longer a novelty, confined here and there to isolated districts, but has made its way to some extent into the heart of Public School life throughout the length and breadth of this and other countries.

In considering tree planting in connection with Arbor Day, the first question to arise is, Where shall we plant them? On this point, W. H. Eggleston, in the U.S. Department Arbor Day bulletin, says: "Where the day is observed by schools, tree planting in the grounds will demand the consideration of the teachers and trustees."

The bulletin above referred to advises that trees be procured from nurseries rather than from woodlands. In the nursery grounds the soil is in a light and soft condition, and the trees as they grow are frequently transplanted.

If the soil into which the trees are to be planted is hard or clayey, so that water cannot penetrate it readily, or if it is coarse-grained and very porous, so that water falling upon it sinks rapidly to the depths below, the roots of trees will fail to obtain such a supply of moisture as is needful for a vigorous growth.

As to the method of planting, it may be summed up by saying that a tree or plant should be taken from the ground with as little disturbance or impairment of its root system as possible, and set in its new place of growth with such care as not to harm its roots, but to bring them all into close contact with the soil, by pressing it firmly around and upon them, thus giving them opportunity at every point to absorb from the particles of soil the moisture necessary for the steady and healthful growth of the tree, and leaving no vacant spaces to promote decay or lessen the supply of moisture.

A New Work on Agriculture.

A new text-book, bearing the title "First Principles of Agriculture," by Edward B. Voorhees, A. M., Director of the New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station and Professor of Agriculture in Rutgers' College, has been issued.

The purpose of this book, in the words of the author, is to state in logical order the elementary principles of scientific agriculture, and to show the relation of these scientific facts to farm practice. We may say that in examining it we find its purpose, as laid down by the author, fairly well carried out.

"The Cotswold, Leicester, and Lincoln are bred chiefly for their long wool. They are larger, and, as a rule, less prolific than the various Down breeds; they are extensively used in crosses to improve size."

We understand one of the main objects of the work is to supply a text-book upon agriculture for schools. When a teacher is well informed on practical agriculture this work should be of value in his teaching, because of the good judgment exercised in the selection and handling of vital topics by the author, and his clearness and simplicity of statement.

of young scholars in ordinary Public Schools, as text-books on other subjects are used by too many so-called "teachers," would not tend to promote the progress of agriculture as a study in our schools. It somewhat resembles in design Mills' and Shaws' "Public School Agriculture," issued in Canada a few years ago; and, by a coincidence, we notice that the title page of the latter and the name of this new work are the same.

We quote the following paragraph from it on "Changing Seed":

"The improved varieties of farm crops of the same kind have been developed by the careful selection of the best seed of these crops grown under the most favorable conditions of climate, season, soil, and management. The natural tendency of the plant, even under favorable conditions, is to go back to its original and inferior state; hence, when the conditions of growth are unfavorable this tendency is increased."

"In making the change, seed should never be taken from good to poorer conditions, but rather from poor to good; that is, the seed from crops grown under good conditions of climate, soil, and management, will not retain their character so well as when grown under conditions poorer in these respects, while the seed from crops which flourish well under poor conditions are likely not only to retain their character, but improve, when changed to good conditions."

"It is also true that seed from crops that do well in rigorous climates are more likely to improve when brought under more favorable conditions in this respect than when those that do well in a warm climate are brought into a colder climate. In other words, in changing seed, particularly of the cereals, they should be secured from the North rather than from the South. These are, however, general suggestions, to be used as guides rather than as specific and definite rules."

The foregoing but emphasizes the need for careful experimental work on this important subject, as we took occasion to point out in our issue of March 2nd.

A Gratifying Announcement -- Transportation of Breeding Stock Restored to the Old Basis.

It affords us pleasure to announce, both to farmers and breeders, that the negotiations between the committee representing the Cattle Breeders' Association and the railway companies have come to a satisfactory termination. The committee had a good case to start with, and they presented it with clearness, promptitude, and discretion, and the outcome was successful. They are entitled to the hearty thanks of all interested. Substantially, the railways conceded all that was asked. In restoring the old basis it is but right to say that the railway people met the representatives of the breeders in a reasonable and courteous spirit. They gave most careful consideration to the representations made, and recognizing their weight, promptly and fully acquiesced, thus showing a commendable desire to remove anything that would really militate against the future well-being of live stock husbandry.

Table listing various types of animals and their weights, such as Bulls under one year old (1,000 lbs. each), Cattle or Horned Animals (One animal 2,000 lbs., Two animals 3,500, etc.), Calves (Under six months old 500 lbs., Over six months old 1,000), Hogs, sheep, lambs, etc.

When small animals are allowed to be taken without being crated, the following will be the minimum weights charged: A single calf, sheep, lamb, pig or hog, 400 lbs. each, or actual weight if in excess of 400 lbs.

A Doubly Anxious Correspondent.

Our Scottish correspondent displays a great deal of solicitude, in the first place, on behalf of the British beef-eater, urging, in his anxiety, that Canadian and States beef should not be "mixed" with the British article in being sold. His protective scheme is in substance what was outlined in our issue of April 1st, viz., forcing those who deal in foreign meats to take out licenses and observe other vexatious and burdensome regulations tending to destroy their profits and compelling them to handle home products. It would also drive the "chilled" American meats into the same category with the Australian and other miscellaneous frozen meats.

Estimated Receipts of the Farmers of Manitoba for 1895.

The following estimate has been made of the produce sold by the 25,000 farmers of the Province of Manitoba in the year 1895, reaching a total value of \$14,574,176.00. Not a bad showing for a new country, more especially in view of the remarkably low prices prevailing on almost all farm produce:

Table showing estimated receipts of farmers in Manitoba for 1895, categorized by crop and animal products. Includes Wheat (12,000,000 bushels at 45c), Oats (8,000,000 bushels at 12c), Barley (2,000,000 bushels at 15c), Cattle (Exported 22,000, Consumed in Winnipeg 9,500, Province 285,000), Hogs, Sheep, Poultry, Butter and Cheese, Eggs, Wool, Hides, etc.

It will be observed that only 27,000,000 bushels of wheat are estimated, which leaves 3,000,000 bushels for seed. The prices are also put very low. A large quantity of wheat has been sold at 50 cents and over, yet it was thought best to be on the safe side.

Fourteen million five hundred thousand bushels of oats, 3,600,000 bushels of barley, and 3,000,000 bushels of potatoes are not included in the above, and it is estimated that this will be used for feed and seed, and in this connection we might say that so far as we are able to gather, stock of all kinds were never in better condition than they are this spring, doubtless showing the benefit of the abundant cheap feed.

The estimate relating to sheep appears a little excessive, much difficulty being experienced in obtaining accurate information, and possibly some of the sheep included were the products of the Northwest Territories.

In addition to the above, there were 2,862 tons of fish exported, valued at \$210,000; 250,000 lbs. of Seneca root, \$50,000; and \$25,000 worth of furs.

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