

SHADE TREES ABOUT THE FARM.

longer period. It is better to store pears in the city where they are to be sold, as the customer can secure his fruit at the time he wants it, and rent or storage charges at thirty cents per barrel per month, are not more costly than to provide storage where the fruit is grown.

6. Importance of co operation—Our fruit business needs to be placed on a better, thoroughly organized business

basis. There should be in every town, where orcharding is attempted, a fruit growers' union or association, to which every grower should belong. All fruit should be properly graded, inspected and placed in the market in the best possible condition. Upon such basis, the income to grower and handler would be materially and permanently increased.—Am. Agric.

SHADE TREES ABOUT THE FARM HOUSE.



THE annual report of Thomas Southworth, Clerk of Forestry for Ontario, for the year 1897, is a creditable one, and a step in the right direction. The terrible famine in India, and the almost annual drought in our province, are warnings that we must beware of denuding of our country of its forest areas, and that it is all-important to make vast forest reservations for the sake of their climatic influence, if for no other reason. And not only so, but our country might well spend some money in making, or at least in encouraging, artificial forestation.

We give an extract from the report, which deals with the importance of planting shade trees near the house.

Nothing will improve the appearance of the farm-house and outbuildings more than a shelter belt, or even a few isolated trees planted near them, care being taken to put them not so close as to exclude the sunlight. They will not only serve as protection from the wind, but their shade will keep the house cool during the heated term. A well-planted, attractive looking farm, with the buildings half hidden in verdure and the lanes and field corners green and shady, will,

should it come into the market, bring a considerably higher price than one where all looks bare and bleak from the absence of trees.

The length of time that must elapse before a tree becomes commercially valuable or useful for its wood to the owner, is the usual objection raised when farmers are advised to become timber-growers. There is no doubt that this feeling has done much to deter them from utilizing in this way their waste land—which at present contributes nothing, except perhaps pasturage, to the returns of the farm. Yet this is a mistaken, short-sighted view. There are many things requiring to be undertaken in every branch of productive industry which involve a large outlay that will not be repaid short of many years. Farmers will build large barns and undertake subsoil drainage on an extensive scale without foolishly expecting to be recouped during the next two or three years for the cost and labor involved. They realize that these are investments which add permanently to their capital. It is exactly the same with tree-planting. A plantation of thriving young pines, maples or chestnuts of merely a few years growth, is not, it is true, bringing