

would be a great boon to Manitoba if a hardy enough variety of apple tree could be found to resist our winters, but on the prairies shelter belts will require to be grown before any success will attend our efforts. After a residence of fourteen years in Manitoba I have come to the conclusion that the best conifer to plant in Manitoba is the Scotch Pine. I have tried a number of other kinds of evergreens, all from seed, but the Scotch Pine is the best. Of the deciduous trees the native Box. Elder or soft maple is the most hardy and rapid grower on our prairies.

Melrose, Man.

ALEX. STEPHENSON.

The Apple Prospects for 1888.

MR. JOSEPH TWEDDLE, of Stoney Creek, writes that after five years of very discouraging experience in apple growing, owing to the fungus spot, insect enemies, he believes that growers have reason now to take courage and prepare for better crops. The fungus has apparently disappeared for a time, the dark green foliage of the past season shows a more healthy condition of the trees, and the insects can now be successfully destroyed with Paris Green. He says,—Experience has shown those who have sprayed their trees the past season, that it saves the crop. One prominent fruit grower of Wmoma harvested and sold nearly \$200 worth of apples off an acre thus treated, while on ten acres of young orchard not sprayed not a bushel of good fruit was produced. The trees were of the same age, and of the same varieties. I neglected to spray my own orchard, and although a fair crop set, nearly all were destroyed by the Codling Moth. I don't intend to be caught napping another year.

Death of Mr. George Smith, Port Hope.

SIR,—I regret I have to announce the death of our old friend, Mr. George Smith, who for a number of years acted as your agent here.

He went up to Barrie with his son, hoping the change would do him good, but he died in less than a week after.

P. GEORGE WATSON.

PORT HOPE, 9 May, 1888.

Forestry.

SIR,—You know the estimate of the humorist on Horace Greeley's "What I know about farming." When I began to talk about forestry I found myself about as far on, and in my endeavor to learn something of the subject I conclude there is hardly any one in America who knows anything of forestry.

I would like very much to appeal to Prof. B. E. Fernow, the director of forestry for the United States, but I hold back, as the opinion I express would not be in as good taste if it came from him.

In the last number of *Garden and Forest* the question is asked, "Why is it not the best policy to cut out the mature wood from a primeval forest and let the rest grow?" and it is answered by the professor—probably the only possible answer is given, but to me it seems to mean that for a man who knows nothing of forestry, any course would probably be wrong.

There is one gentleman in Canada supposed to know something about trees, but I find him flatly contradicted in the public press on some points about timber on the prairie by a settler in the North-West.

Garden and Forest tells of another gentleman, a city forester (in Boston, I think), who proposed to destroy canker worms on the elm trees by boring a hole in the tree and inserting some mysterious powder, and says "it seems incomprehensible that a man in such a position could be guilty of such quackery."

At a late public meeting of a Farmers' Institute a botanist took credit to himself for establishing the fact that the black walnut is hardy in Eastern Ontario; and in some Ontario reports great doubts are expressed on the point. But I find that there are plantations from twenty-five bushels of nuts, now large enough to bear fruit in Lower Canada.

I need not quote all the diverse opinions of tree planters basing their views on special experiences or hasty conclusions. I will overlook a genuine mistake too, and congratulate a man who confesses ignorance or error. I want to learn from them all. When I first took an interest in forestry, I enquired into all these attempts and tried to follow up all that my neighbor writers or public men could tell me of the subject, seldom, however, to find the fact just what was first reported.

After noting all that tree planters and tree owners could tell me, I suddenly found out, that arboriculture was not forestry. Now, sir, in your varied experience, if you have tried forestry I would like to know if there is anything to be learned of forestry in Canada; and I may say that I am now quite conceited as to what I know about forestry, and I think I have told you how far I have got.

FOREST BEFLISSENER.

April 10th, 1888.

NOTE BY EDITOR.—We are pleased to say that we have the promise of a series of letters under this head from a gentleman who is practically engaged in the work. He writes under the *nom de plume* of "Forester," and his subject for this number is "The Wood Lot."