

SEASIDE BETTERMENT

Hints on Beautifying Homes With Trees and Shrubs.

BE SURE TO PLANT CLOSE.

Thorough Preparation of the Soil Very Important—Cut All Plants Back Severely Except Evergreens—Suitable Trees and Shrubs to Plant.

It is natural that people living by the seaside should be as interested in beautifying their homes with trees and shrubs as those who live inland. On attempting to grow plants near the salt water many seaside dwellers have been much disappointed to find their efforts vain; have seen their carefully planted trees and shrubs die, killed by the salt spray and fogs, blown to pieces by heavy winds, torn by flying sand or shriveled up in the sterile soil. The problem of seaside planting is one which should be given special consideration by landscape architects, gardeners and those interested in beautifying the home grounds. The writer has had an opportunity to study seashore conditions governing plant growth on the coasts of Maine and Massachusetts, in landscape work on Long Island with Mr. Henry Hicks, an authority on this subject, and in assisting to make a landscape report on Blackwell's island, New York city.

Some of the most important requirements for seaside planting are: (1) The choice of plants that are hardy under seashore conditions; (2) a thorough preparation of the soil, which usually is sand and should be mixed with one-half to three-fourths per cent of well rotted barnyard manure or else should be removed altogether and fine, rich loam substituted, the depth of preparation being about three feet; (3) close planting, so that the trees and shrubs may afford each other mutual protection—Isolated or scattered plants are almost sure to fail; (4) plant more hardy things in exposed spots, less hardy in more sheltered positions; (5) sometimes an artificial shelter of boughs or planks may be needed to give the plants a start; (6) provide good winter protection of strawy manure and in some cases leaves or evergreen boughs.

For holding banks near the sea and to prevent sand drifting Mr. Henry Hicks recommends pitch pine and red cedar. Beach grass and red oak are also found in nature serving these purposes in a most satisfactory way. It is often possible to fill in later, after these plants are established, with other very hardy trees and shrubs. This should at least be tried, since thick planting is the key to success. Mr. Hicks says, "Plant thick and cut back severely." Evergreens, of course, must not be cut back. He also mentions in a recent letter that he has seen brush used to fill in a depression caused by the wind blowing out the sand, the brush being carefully staked down. The result of this was that the sand drifted about in the brush and nearly filled the hollow again. This treatment, combined with judicious planting, would probably bring the drifting sand under complete control.

Following is a list of trees and shrubs suitable for seaside planting:

Very hardy—Bayberry, beach plum, sea buckthorn, yucca, woodbine or Virginia creeper, wild cherry, tamarisk, American holly (hardy as far north as Long Island), many of the willows, red cedar, pitch pine, black spruce (especially near ocean marshes), black oak, post oak, chokeberry, beach grass, bearberry, black huckleberry, false heather and shining sumac.

Less hardy—Scrub oak, scarlet oak, chestnut oak, Norway maple, red maple, American white birch, horse chestnut, western catalpa, plane tree, honey locust, white spruce, Austrian pine, mugho pine, sweet bay, juniper, European barberry, Hercules' club, California privet, marsh elder, purple fringe, upright honeysuckle, cocksbur thorn, high bush blueberry, sassafras, pepperidge, bittersweet and blackberry. All of these are hardy as far north as Long Island and the majority to Maine.—Stanley F. Morse in Country Gentleman.

Scheme to Boom Trade.

The New York Industries association had a meeting recently to plan a boom for metropolitan merchandise throughout the country. The implements by which the boom is to be developed are the ink of the printer, the colors of the painter, the personal efforts of the dealer and the coaching of the traveling men who go out of the city to talk New York first, last and all the time. This is regarded as about the first confession the city has ever made that she is not sufficient all to herself. There are other trade centers that are threatening her supremacy as a buying and trafficking place, and the Industries association is determined to use all the service the press agent can afford in meeting the competition.

To Protect Trees From Live Wires.

Injuries to street trees by wires are many. Often dead wires attached to trees come in contact with live ones, and all show exasperating powers of destruction. There is little excuse for the attaching of any wire to a tree, yet the very unsightly anchor poles and wires lead many property owners to consent to the use of large street or garden trees as anchors. Where this is done blocks of wood should be placed between the wire and the tree so that the wire will not cut the living wood and will have a non-conductor to protect it against injury through the contact of live wires with dry wires.

WHAT ONE PERSON CAN DO.

Now a Woman and a Pastor Helped to Improve Two Different Towns.

A young woman in a western town is responsible for the remarkable improvement which has lately taken place in its appearance. She had been away to college and during her vacations had visited in the beautiful homes of her friends, and when she returned after graduation to the paternal roof it struck her as being extremely shabby. She had the house painted a pretty colonial yellow. She put awnings on the windows and verandas, had the fence taken down and lawns properly cared for. Then she served tea every afternoon on the veranda, and her friends thought it all so nice that they went home determined to do likewise. The fences came down all along the street, and in other streets the houses took on new colors, and the lawns bloomed with velvety greenness. The value of the property rose, and the municipal government, seeing that there was financial profit in beauty, went in for pavements, parks, fountains and drives. Now there is not a more beautiful place in the west than this town.

A score or more of years ago the pastor of a rural New England church led in organizing a village improvement association. The neglected common on the main street was made over into a smooth, green lawn, and rows of shade trees were planted. The inhabitants as they came to the store, the postoffice and the church were impressed with the change, which constantly grew more pleasing. Some of those who lived along that street purchased lawn mowers, set out trees and shrubs around their homes and made new paths to their doors. Their neighbors felt obliged to follow their example. Visitors one summer who had not seen the town for several years were surprised at the transformation. Nor was it confined to the streets and houses, though it had extended into remote corners. The improvement was evident among the people, young and old. The churches, which had depended on missionary societies for annual appropriations, have assumed their own support. An honorable pride in their town is manifest among the inhabitants everywhere. Its reputation is high among the neighboring towns and is extending into many other towns around about.

RURAL UPLIFT.

How Sociability and Study Have Been Promoted in Many Country Towns.

In Nebraska much is being done to make farm life interesting. Women's auxiliaries to the farmers' institutes and homemakers' clubs are taking up the problem of making home life on the farm more attractive. There is a boys and girls' organization for the purpose of interesting young people in agriculture and the farm home. In certain towns in Nebraska and Indiana rest rooms are provided for the use of farmers' wives.

A woman's improvement club in a small town in Iowa has had astonishing results. Social conditions have been improved. The bazaars, suppers and meetings of this club attracted such crowds that it became necessary to buy a hall for its own use, and raising money to meet this debt has given the club a new incentive. This institution has effaced all tendency to gossip at its meetings by substituting other interests.

The Home Culture club of River Falls, Wis., is devoted to sociability and the study of history, art, etc. The membership is twenty-five, with a waiting list. If conditions are to be bettered, it is the women of the small town who must better them. It lies with them to get things out of the rut. They must be brought to realize that the country town should be a place where plenty of good times shall be possible for old and young, where educational opportunities may be afforded for all ages, and where the talents of all may have a chance of development. If the women could only be brought to desire earnestly a broader life and to realize that such a life lies within their reach, the country town would take on a different meaning for young and old.—Good Housekeeping For March.

Value of a Park Commission Law.

Every state should pass a law similar to the one introduced in the Ohio legislature through the efforts of the Columbus park commission, whereby any city in the state may have a park commission should the people vote for it in majority. The duty of such commission will be to purchase and lay out parks, playgrounds and boulevards, levy taxes and dispose of bonds, but another vote of the people will be necessary to permit of the issuance of such bonds. It will become the sole duty of five men selected in each city to give special attention to this important question and to study the problem for present and future needs and systematize each municipality's holdings. By this legal method it would be possible for a park commission to handle in its entirety any park or playground proposition without interference by the city councils, the whole matter resting with the people.

Care of Street Trees.

In the west side district in Chicago the street trees are provided with devices for furnishing both air and water. Around each tree is a grating five feet square, and each tree is also provided with a four inch tile through which water is conveyed to the roots throughout the summer. Through these pipes the trees are fed liquid manure. All of the parkway save the five feet about each tree is covered solidly with concrete, of material similar to the sidewalks.

Young Folks

A NOVEL POLICEMAN.

Story About a Sagacious Dog and His Master's Money.

One day a man laid a wager with his friend that if he were to hide a silver half dollar in the dusty road his dog would find it and bring it to him. The wager was accepted and the coin secreted. When the two had walked some distance from the hidden coin the owner called his dog, explained that he had lost something and ordered him to find it. The dog turned back, while the two friends continued their walk.

Meanwhile a traveler driving along the deserted road saw the silver piece shining through the dust and picked it up and put it in his coat pocket just as the dog came to the spot. The man re-entered his phaeton and drove to the inn, closely followed by the dog. The dog scented the coin in the man's pocket and made wild leaps at him to obtain it, but the man, supposing the animal had taken a fancy to him and wanted a master, gave the dog food and caresses and took him to his bed-chamber for the night. No sooner had the man undressed than the dog seized the coat and made for the door. The man opened the door to see if any one was without, when the dog bounded through the hall and did not stop until, coat in mouth, he reached his master's house. The traveler followed and accused the dog of robbery. "My dog is a very faithful creature, and if he ran away with your coat it is because you have money in your pocket which does not belong there."

The traveler grew angry, but when the master explained the burial of the half dollar and the dog's desire to find it he understood and cheerfully gave up the money, saying as he patted the dog, "You are indeed a novel policeman."—Philadelphia Ledger.

A STIRRING INCIDENT.

How a Child's Life Was Saved by a Blast of Bugles.

The drum major of a German regiment recently showed that he does not lose his head in an emergency, says the Chicago News. The regiment was on the march from one station to another and had halted on a country road to rest. Suddenly the men heard the terrified cries of a child, and, looking in the direction from which they came, they saw a little girl running for her life from a maddened bull. The animal was tearing along with lowered horns and was so close to the girl that rescue by interference or even by shooting the bull seemed impossible. Just as the men had given up the child for lost the drum major skouted to the buglers, who stood near by with their instruments in their hands, to blow a loud blast. Not realizing what he meant, but obeying mechanically, they blew a blast that would have waked the dead. The moment the bull heard the sound he stopped and looked in surprise at the men and then raised his head and bellowed with all his might. Meanwhile several of the men had reached the child, and when the bull had recovered from his astonishment at the unusual noise she was in a place of safety.

The Lost Balloon.

Up, up, way up in the air
My dear balloon went flying.
Perhaps you think that I don't care,
But it was new,
And it was blue,
And, oh, I feel like crying!



Up, up, way up in the sky
It never heard me calling.
It's drooping now, and that is why
Some other boy
Will see my toy
And catch it while it's falling!
—Youth's Companion.

What Cats Are These?

There's a cat very good for food, 'tis said,
And a cat marks the resting place of the dead.
There's a cat that makes a discordant sound
And a cat that is made to scatter round.
There's a cat that crawls beneath our feet
And a cat whose movements are quick and fleet.
There's a cat that blanches our face with fear
And a cat that wanders far and near.
Answers.—Catsup, catcomb, house cat, catalogue, caterpillar, catamount, castratrophe, cattle.

THE MAN FROM HOME

By Booth Tarkington and Harry Leon Wilson

Not all the traditions of European society can influence this man from Indiana. His triumph over the aristocracy of the old world is clever, humorous and patriotic enough to thrill every one of us.



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