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Sixteenth Year of Publication.

McMINNVILLE - - OREGON

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D. C. IRELAND. E. L. E. WHITE.

D. C. IRELAND & Co.,

PUBLISHERS.

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GOOD TREES TO RAISE.

Some Very Valuable Trees that are Generally Neglected by Farmers.

During the past few years an enormous number of trees have been planted in the prairie region of the west. Some of them have been good, some bad, and some of comparative little value. They have been planted for all sorts of purposes, as for furnishing shade, supplying fuel, providing protection against winds, adding shade, and producing ornaments for the farm. A few have planted hickory, black walnut, butternut, and pecan trees for the purpose of raising nuts, and many have planted catalpa and other sorts of trees with a view of raising trees that could be worked up into fence-posts and railroad ties. Occasionally an enthusiast has set out plantations of trees designed for producing saw-logs and dimension timber. As a rule, however, people have set out forest trees for no special reason. They had been accustomed to them in the parts of the country where they had formerly lived and thought that their farms looked bare without them. Generally they planted the kinds of trees that "came most handy," that could be raised from seed easily obtained or propagated by cuttings. Many took the trees that the nearest nurseryman was best supplied with and which he was willing to sell at very low prices.

Observation shows that cottonwood, white maple, and catalpa trees have been most generally planted, chiefly for the reasons that have been stated. Scarcely any farmer has planted oaks, though there are many things in their favor. Acorns are easily and cheaply obtained, can be kept without difficulty, while they germinate rapidly. An oak tree is highly ornamental, affords good shade, is hearty and long-lived. The wood makes good fuel. The common post oak is highly ornamental in all stages of its growth. The white oak furnishes most excellent timber as well as fuel. In England and Austria large tracts of land are annually being planted to oaks, the acorns being obtained from this country. Large quantities of acorns are collected in Missouri every year and sent to Great Britain. In all the states east of Lake Michigan the beech tree is very plentiful, yet no attempt has been made to introduce it as a timber or fuel producing tree in the far western states and territories. It has much to commend it. It is specially adapted to thin soils and to rocky and hilly land. The seed is easily and cheaply obtained, and it germinates almost as readily as corn. Beech wood ranks next to hickory and rock maple as fuel, while it is more easy to cut and split.

One tree of very great value to farmers has wholly escaped the attention of nurserymen and planters. It is the hornbeam, iron-wood, lever-wood or American *lignum vitae*. The wood is very useful for making beetles, mallets, mauls, and mortars, and for levers, stakes, piles. It is the strongest wood found in American forests. The variety ordinarily found in the woods of the northeastern states and Canada is called the hop-hornbeam because the seeds are in catkins that resemble a bunch of hops, though they are smaller. These catkins ripen during August when they should be collected and dried in the shade till the seed can be rubbed or thrashed out. Persons having friends living where the hornbeam grows can arrange with them for obtaining trees for planting. With little doubt this tree would be the best of any that has been used for supports for barbed fence-wire. It has almost as great strength as iron, while it is not liable to be injured by animals. The tree seldom grows more than thirty feet high, and trunks are rarely found which are more than a foot in diameter. This tree would be attractive in the west on account of its novelty. As it will stand a large amount of abuse, it can be planted on land where animals daily tramp over the ground.

The common black alder, whose diminutive size hardly entitles it to rank with the trees, is after all worthy of attention. It succeeds best on land too low and moist to be cultivated or even to produce new good grass, and on the borders of lakes, streams, and bays. It can be propagated by seed, cuttings, or entire plants. Once introduced on a moist piece of ground it will continue to grow without further care. As soon as the small trunks are cut off the roots will throw up sprouts to take their places. Alder wood makes very excellent fuel for a stove, and furnishes the best quality of charcoal. Large alders make good bean-poles. Those of medium size are useful as fishing-rods, while the branches are valuable for pea-sticks. A bunch of alders in a field or pasture is highly ornamental. The European alder, which is not as much inclined to grow in bush form as the American variety, and which attains a larger size, is now extensively planted in parks and private grounds.

Five Minutes of Gossip About Diamonds.

"Yes, there is a difference between a gem and a diamond," said a State street jeweler; "a gem is a perfect diamond, or a perfect precious stone of any kind. When a diamond merchant speaks of a gem he means something in which there is no fault or flaw, no imperfection of color, shape or cut. The difference between a gem and a diamond may be as wide as that between a 'plug' horse and a thoroughbred racer. One stone may be worth $30, and another of exactly the same size may be worth $100, or even more. Not one person in a thousand can tell a gem from a fairly good stone. The weight, also, is small index to the size of a diamond as it appears in a setting. A karat stone may appear as small as this—o—or it may be nearly twice as great in circumference, like this—O. A gem must be cut so correctly that a hair's-breadth is far too wide to measure the plane of the different facets by. Every facet must be of precisely the same size as every other facet of like position. Its angle, too, must be geometrically correct. The glory of a diamond is its refractive power. Without light the diamond is as useless as a pretty picture, though it is a very common belief among people who have never handled diamonds that the stones have light in themselves, making them brilliant even in complete darkness. Another common error is that the diamond cannot be broken or injured, and I have known of fine stones being ruined by foolish persons who hit them with hammers in an effort to illustrate the hardness of their gems. The diamond is very brittle and is easily injured by a slight blow or fall. Diamonds will burn, too, under a heat sufficient to melt bar iron. They are nothing but pure carbon, and they may be reduced to graphite and finally to carbonic acid gas. The purest stones are highly transparent and colorless, but more generally there is some tint, like white or gray. Brown, blue, green, yellow and red are very rare, while black is met with once in a lifetime. In all my experience I have seen but two black diamonds. John Rice, of the Tremont House, owns one of them. The other is in New York."—*Chicago Herald.*

The Pink and White Terraces, which were ruined by the recent volcanic eruption, were regarded as the greatest natural curiosities in New Zealand. Froude and Sala have described their beauties in recent publications. The terraces were of pink and white crystal, over which the water flowed, forming a series of cascades.

Read the Reporter.

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