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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3

Eleven hunters are dead and 12 were wounded during Minnesota's hunting season, which closed Dec. 1.

If England has increased her army in France to a million and a half men there will be something doing before Christmas.

Two famous English athletes have been killed in battle. One was G. R. L. Anderson, champion hurdler, and the other A. E. J. Collins, a cricket player.

Madame Lamont says the ideal man will not appear on the scene until the year 2308. If the women are all to go into politics and masculine callings, where will the ideal mothers of men be found by that time.

Many of the Belgians are said to be on the verge of starvation in sight of vast stores of food taken from them by German armies and held as war supplies. The people are living in the ruins of their former homes.

The final session of the 63rd Congress will open next Monday and many members are already arriving in Washington. It is hoped that an extra session of the 64th Congress after March 4th will be unnecessary, as all of the important measures are in shape to be disposed of by that time.

Edward Bright, an American citizen, graduate of Columbia, and formerly editor of the Baptist Examiner, is held at Goettingen, Germany, charged with being a spy, according to information received by his wife in New York. Mrs. Bright has appealed to the state department at Washington.

Satisfied that the ravages of the foot and mouth disease are checked the bureau of animal industry has determined to begin lifting quarantines from the cattle markets of the various states. When the bureau is assured all infected cattle in any district have been destroyed the quarantine will be removed from that particular district.

The Governor-elect of Idaho will enjoy the distinction of being the only Jew ever elected Governor of an American Commonwealth. Jews have been cabinet ministers, senators and mayors of the great cities, but it is reserved for a progressive young western state to head a business administration with a representative of a race of business men.

Gen. Joffre has an office 70 miles from the fighting line in France, at a point where he is almost equidistant from his six army centers commanded by Generals Pau, Foch, Alstein, d'Esserray, Castelnau, and Monouray. Telephones and telegraphs connect his office with all and he makes frequent trips in an automobile fitted up with a desk and van, an office on wheels.

Some British military experts believe Field Marshal von Hindenburg's forces have been split into three units in Prussia, one of which is almost enveloped, while the Russians have driven a wedge between the German army and its Austrian ally in the region of Cracow. They declare the Germans have consistently underestimated the qualities of their Muscovite opponents, and have opposed them with a body composed almost wholly of second line troops, who are now rushing heavy reinforcements from the western line to avert Polish Sedan. They express the opinion that the issues depends on whether these arrive in time.

TRUE VALUE OF WOOD LOT NOT REALIZED



Wood Lot Composed Mostly of Young White Oak in Excellent Condition—There is Thrifty Growth and Plenty of Young Trees Starting to Renew the Stand.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

Most farmers already own wood lots; every farmer ought to own one. Yet the wood lot is frequently not a paying proposition financially, and is almost never as profitable as it should be. Why? Simply because the farmer does not realize its true value. As a result he neglects to care for the trees during their life, and is at a disadvantage when it comes to selling them. Any effort to improve present conditions must, therefore, take these two facts into consideration.

The essential point for every farmer to recognize, is that the trees in his wood lot are just as much a farm crop as are his corn, oats, hay, or other products. Moreover, they have many advantages over other crops—they require comparatively little care and labor; they can be harvested during the winter when other work is slack; there are no storage charges on the crop because trees can be left standing without deterioration an indefinite time until they can be sold profitably or used to advantage on the farms; and they furnish protection to buildings, to cattle, and to crops, from wind, drought and frost.

Unquestionably, then, the wood lot deserves better than the present neglect, or often worse, to which it is now subjected. No farmer would think for a moment of burning over a crop of young wheat. Yet that is just what many do with their crop of young trees. Nor is the damage confined to the young growth; even the larger trees, though seldom destroyed outright, are weakened so that eventually they will fall a prey to insects, fungi, or wind; furthermore, the fertility of the soil is greatly lessened by fires. Every fire that runs through a wood lot is a direct source of loss to the owner. The absolute exclusion of fire is, therefore, the first and most important step in the rational management of the wood lot.

Closely connected with this is the exclusion of stock, which do much damage in destroying and retarding young growth, particularly of broad-leaved trees, and in packing down the soil and exposing the roots of trees.

Finally, the farmer should select the trees to be cut in such a way as to improve rather than impair the wood lot. Too often the reverse has been the case and the wood lot has deteriorated steadily through the removal of the best trees, leaving the less valuable species and poorer individuals to take possession of the ground. No knowledge of technical forestry is necessary to enable the farmer to recognize the trees which are defective, crooked, unusually branched, or of undesirable species; or to realize that the cutting of these

ties, mine timbers, lumber, etc.), are in greatest demand in the locality? What species of trees are best adapted for each? In what sizes should the material be cut? By what unit of measure (cord, lineal foot, board foot, piece, etc.) should they be sold? What price should they bring on the basis of their value to the purchaser? These are samples of the questions that every farmer should be able to answer to his own satisfaction before attempting to dispose of his wood lot products. Even then he may be at a disadvantage when dealing singly with a purchaser who is more experienced in such matters and may have more or less control over the local market. Co-operation among wood lot owners in the disposal of their timber is consequently as necessary as in the disposal of their fruit, vegetables, or grains, and is frequently the only way in which they can secure its full value.

Above all, the secret of success in handling the wood lot, lies in the recognition of the fact that trees are a



Cattle Browsing on Young Oak and Hickory Stumps From the Wood Lot of the Year Before—If Cattle Were Kept Out, These Sprouts Could Get a Start and Stand Could Be Quickly Renewed.

distinctive farm crop. When this is once thoroughly understood and the same attention is paid to their production and marketing as to other crops, the wood lot may confidently be expected to become one of the most profitable portions of the farm.

HORTICULTURAL NOTES

In some cases the orchardist ought to employ a disinterested person to do his packing.

Line the fruit basket with burlap, two or three thicknesses, to prevent bruising and scratching.

It tries a man's eyes and his honesty as well to see all the worm holes when packing his apples.

The high-headed tree is easier to cultivate, but the low-headed tree makes the fruit picking easier.

The bushel box is a favorite with the average family, because it suits them better than a barrel at one time.

It is generally true that self-pollinated fruit is not as large or vigorous as fruit from crossed-fertilized blossoms on the same tree.

The unsightly trees with rotted and split crotches to be seen everywhere might have been saved had they been pruned to form a central stem.

Never leave a sharp fork, that is, a branch which extends at right angles out from the trunk. Such forks generally split down sooner or later and destroy the entire tree.

The ground dries out more quickly under a high-headed tree and more fruit is blown off by the wind. When you find cross branches rubbing each other cut one of them out.

Some fruit commission men who have a very particular trade are learning that they can get more for apples packed in barrels without heads than when packed in the usual way and pressed down tightly.



Roots of Soft Maple Trees Exposed as the Result of Heavy Pasturing—The Soil Has Been Trampled and Washed Away.

for fuel and other uses to which they can be put on the farm will greatly increase the value of the remaining stand.

Equally important with the raising of the crop is its final disposal. Every farmer knows what his wheat is worth and what is the best way to sell it. Very few have any similar knowledge regarding their trees. In that fact lies the real explanation of the present unprofitableness of the wood lot. So long as the average owner knows less concerning the value of the timber than any other crop on his farm, he cannot hope to sell it at its true value. What kinds of products (posts, poles,

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