

# The Right and Wrong Ways to Prune Shade Trees

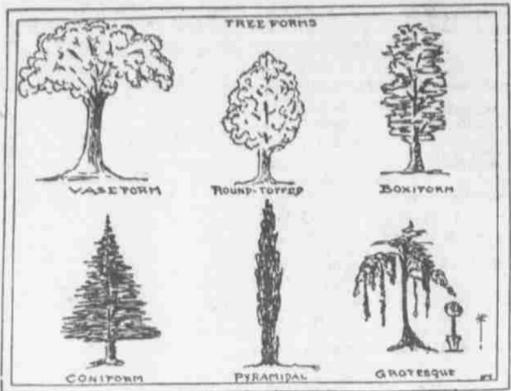
By H.E. Major

No one thinks of shade trees as a profitable crop, and yet of all vegetable growth cultivated by man, none renders more generous return



IN SPEAKING with a person recently concerning the benefits derived from the planting of shade trees, shrubbery and vines around a house, he said: "It is surprising to me that more people do not give greater attention to this phase of home development. In my life I have built five houses and in every instance I have planted some shade trees, roses and other shrubbery because I not only admire them and love to see them grow and develop but in the selling of my property I have realized several hundred dollars more than I would have had there been no plantings made."

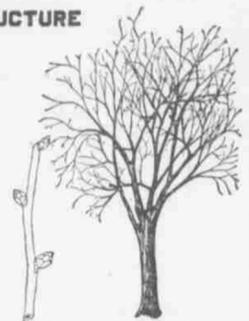
Another writer says: "Twenty-five dollars would plant and care for at least five elm trees for a ten-year period. It is a moderate estimate to say that at the end of the second year, a building lot would be worth \$100 more for their presence. At the end of 25 years no man who owned the land on which they stood would take \$100 apiece for them. Plant an elm or a



## TREE STRUCTURE



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maple near your home and look upon it as a \$100 endowment policy, maturing in 1940, with no premiums after the first year.

If five elm trees are worth \$25 at the end of ten years, for the return of shade and attractiveness only, what would be the value of five good bearing walnut trees. There is no tree more handsome or suitable for planting if only shade and attractiveness is wanted. We think all practical, and really right-minded farmers agree that shade trees beautify and enhance the value of farm property, and the wonder is that any farmer will neglect to plant trees about his home. Of course, they require some little attention for a while at least, and later on they must be pruned and cared for if the best results are to be had from this form of investment. It would be the height of folly to take the trouble of planting trees, and then consider that the work is ended forever on that tree. To obtain symmetrical, handsome trees, they must be pruned.

There is a right and a wrong way of pruning shade trees. Topping should preferably be done after the leaves drop in the fall and before the buds swell in the spring but it is safe to do the work at other seasons.

**Why We Prune Trees.**  
To remove dead wood.—The reason for removing dead wood is obvious. It is in the way. It breeds disease; it is unsightly and dangerous. The way to do it is to cut it out, removing all dead or decayed portion. Smooth off the surface so that water will not gather. If a cavity remains, paint it with a lead paint to keep out fungus and insect pests, then fill the hole with a material that will keep out the moisture and squirrels and upon which a new bark may find support to grow.

To remove crowding branches.—Branches that rub against and bruise one another when the wind blows should be taken out as soon as possible. The branch should be cut off clean, close to the main stem with a slanting cut so that water will drain off. Then coat with a tar or lead paint to keep off water and insects which bore into and lay eggs in green wood.

To increase flowers and fruit.—In order to understand this we must be able to distinguish between leaf and flower buds. The flower buds are usually larger and of different shape from leaf buds. By removing limbs or twigs which contain only leaf buds we will accomplish our purpose. The cut must be made clean and smooth and if a large surface of heart wood is left exposed it should be painted. In removing such limbs care must be taken not

to destroy the natural symmetry and shape of the specimen. This naturally symmetrical shape is precise and fairly regular in its occurrence due to a type structure explained later.

To remove unbalanced parts.—It is a common practice to prune in order to thicken the head, strengthen the specimen, and create a more dense shade. This is the question that most interests us in the general shaping and care of ornamental trees. We want to know how to "top" our soft maples, and whether or not we should top the elm at the same time.

**Tree Structure.**  
To understand topping we must study tree structure. Trees are either opposite or alternate leaved.

In the opposite-leaved trees the terminal bud develops a new stem. The side buds develop also and each in turn develops a terminal bud and side buds. This kind of a tree forms naturally a "leader" or stem that grows straight from the ground to the top of the tree and the limbs unless accidentally injured tend to develop symmetrically about it—e. g., the maple.

When you top such a tree or in other words remove the terminal bud, you give more strength to the side buds. They develop more abundantly, thickening the tree and reducing its spindly length, until it becomes a stronger and a denser shade tree. Such a tree should be topped before it gets so old that the cut will not heal over, and the cut place must be made smooth and waterproof. On the other hand the alternate-leaved trees tend to send a branch first to one side and then to the other side—e. g., the elm.

Until the tree grows out of reach of our hand and strength we can keep it bent straight or the one-side bud removed so that it will tend to send up a straight stem. But as soon as it gets beyond our reach the identity of the trunk is lost in the branches and one may not as a rule trace the main trunk clear to the top of the tree. If such a tree is topped from time to time we may easily leave the last bud always on the same side of the stem and a tree will grow all to one side.

Beyond this we must consider the natural strength of a tree. There is no object in trimming or topping a strong hardwood tree such as an oak or a sugar maple that ordinarily would not be broken in the wind. Such a tree is naturally adapted to self-formation and unless injured by some external cause will take care of itself.

There are two other things we must know about trees. First, certain varieties or species will never make good ornamental shade trees and should not

be used. Many are poor because they are too open; buds too far apart on the stem and branches come out at long intervals. Other trees are objectionable because of the bad odor of their flowers, brittle twigs, drooping leaves, shedding of bark, or short life. Secondly, the method of branching or the angle of branching with the trunk affects its form.

**The Six Forms.**  
There are six forms into which trees may be grouped.

- a. Vase form—elm.
- b. Round-topped—maple.
- c. Box form—hickory.
- d. Coniform—spruce or pine.
- e. Pyramidal—Lombardy poplar.
- f. Grotesque—artificially propagated trees like the umbrella catalpa or Tea's weeping mulberry.

(a). Vase form.—In a vase form tree the branches bend up, then out and down—the trunk forming the stem. Topping this tree will make it dish on top and weaken its structure. It cannot grow together again and a "fatal notch" is formed in the branches.

(b). Round-topped.—The branches of round-topped trees grow out and then bend up and inward, forming a globular top. Cutting off the tips of such branches thickens the top and strengthens the growth.

(c). Box form.—Trees that are included in the boxform group also branch squarely or at right angles to the trunk and the top branches extend to approximately the same length as the lower ones.

(d). Coniform.—Branches of trees in the coniform group form a right angle with the trunk. The lower limbs are wide and the others shorter as they approach the top of the tree until the trunk tapers down to a point.

(e). Pyramidal.—The Lombardy poplar and others of the pyramidal type have limbs that tend to grow straight upwards, parallel to the trunk.

(f). Grotesque trees.—Trees of the grotesque class are of odd and unusual character. They are either too irregular or too formal to be adapted to naturalistic planting and usually branch too low to allow traffic underneath.

It would be safe then to say that softwood trees like cottonwood, box elder, soft maple, and catalpa need topping. Locusts, sycamores, and hickories need to have dead wood removed before it falls. Other trees need to be shaped or headed up and given a fair start in life when they are 12 to 20 feet high. If this is done they will thereafter take care of themselves unless artificially or accidentally injured.

**What Trees Shall I Plant?**  
Trees adapted to shade on lawn and street must have the following characteristics:

- 1. Tall and wide spreading.
- 2. Straight trunk and well balanced top.
- 3. Long life and durability of wood.
- 4. Strength of limb and freedom from insect and fungus pests.
- 5. Deep root system.
- 6. No litter of leaf, flower, fruit or bark.
- 7. Branching high enough from ground to permit traffic underneath.
- 8. Easy to transplant and affording dense shade.

Try the following here stated in the order of their preference:

- 1.—American elm. 2.—Sugar maple. 3.—Hackberry. 4.—Sweet gum. 5.—American and European linden. 6.—Pin and Laurel oaks. 7.—Norway maple.

## MEN'S SHOES NOT BEAUTIFUL

Only the "Female of the Species" Seems to Pay Adequate Attention to the Footgear.

An impassioned commercial person raises this searching question, in large letters and quite regardless of expense: "Why Shouldn't Shoes Be Beautiful?" Well, why not? One trouble is that they are made from the pickled hides of deceased animals

and get rather closely trimmed in the factories. If the original fur was left on in all its bright meadow tints of roan, bay and piebald, to match the tweeds that business men wear in magazine stories, the issue of beauty would take care of itself as far as most male footgear is concerned, and the old injunction to put your best foot foremost would then have a more literal significance. Shoes also have a lot to stand for; they are poked and scuffed into all manner of places; they enjoy no human association or

attention after leaving the shop save from the lower sons of Africa and the Mediterranean. Only in football season does the male boot get any exalted place in the public eye and prints. Woman, in her role as emancipator and innovator, has been given the once humble shoe its due place in the sun these last few years, but man still lags. So economics, sociology and philosophy may collaborate to find reasons, but we suspect, the real answer to that question is "feet."—Collier's Weekly.

## Nostalgia

It used to make me homesick, in our little African clearing, to see the albino woman. She would move about among her brown companions like a flame, and her white body, that flickered in the sun and glimmered in the shade, used to knock at the door of Nostalgia. Homesick people are always longing for a visit, and that albino woman was so white!

not lodge with us; she lodged with the white officer because she was an officer's wife. We used to wonder if she would call upon us. One of us had a pair of field-glasses, and we used to watch her little figure coming and going about the clearing on the government hill. When one day she was seen to come down into our valley by the zig-zag trail, we thought we had a visit. I cannot tell you how anxious we were, in that little bark house, to make a good appearance, or what fresh disposals were made, with our eyes up-

on that descent, of our properties. I do not wish to make you too sad, but that white woman did not visit us. She went away. She did not know about us, or about exiles, that they are always dreaming of a visit.—Jean Kenyon Mackenzie in the Atlantic.

**His Impertinence.**  
"I declare Willie is a pest."  
"What's the matter with him?"  
"He irritates his pa with questions like he thought the poor man was a cystostoma of inflammation."

## CROP VALUES HIGHEST

All Records Broken by the Production in 1916.

Yields of Corn, Cotton, Wheat and Hay in United States Each Worth More Than Billion Dollars.

All records for value of the country's important farm crops were exceeded in 1916, despite their smaller size. The value was placed at \$7,641,000,000 by Uncle Sam in his final estimates of the year. That is \$1,750,000,000 more than the same crops were worth in 1915. Higher prices, due partly to reduced production and partly to the demands for American food from the warring nations, were responsible for the vast increase in value.

Four crops each were worth more than \$1,000,000,000. Corn, with a total value of \$2,295,783,000 showed the greatest increase, being worth \$573,103,000 more than last year's output.

Cotton, the second most valuable, with a total of \$1,079,598,000, increased \$475,378,000 over last year.

Wheat, the third, was worth \$1,025,765,000, or \$81,462,000 over the year before, when the production was almost 400,000,000 bushels more.

Hay was fourth with a value of \$1,008,504,000, an increase of \$95,250,000. Compared with last year's value, other crops showed the following increases:

Oats, \$96,673,000; potatoes, \$95,071,000; tobacco, \$72,727,000; barley, \$41,392,000; rye, \$12,774,000; buckwheat, \$1,521,000; flaxseed, \$13,940,000; rice, \$10,974,000; sweet potatoes, \$13,161,000; sugar beets, \$4,243,000; beans, \$17,962,000; kafirs, \$2,112,000; onions, \$1,601,000; apples, \$27,650,000; oranges, \$9,545,000, and wild hay, \$11,053,000.

A revision of the 1915 estimates of crop production was announced by the department, showing the corn crop had been 2,994,793,000 bushels last year, a reduction of 50,742,000 bushels from previous estimates, and wheat for 1915 was placed at 1,025,801,000 bushels, an increase of 13,296,000 bushels over estimates made last December.

Productions of minor crops, compared with last year's figures, follow:

Crop	1916	1915
Beans	\$346,000	\$220,000
Barley	\$41,392,000	\$14,490,000
Onions (12 states)	6,417,183	5,968,712
Cabbages (6 states)	216,988	670,631
Hops, pounds	50,527,000	52,296,000
Cranberries, bbls.	415,000	441,000
Peaches	\$6,523,000	64,667,000
Pears	19,377,000	11,216,000
Oranges (boxes)	23,735,000	21,390,000

## SHARK SKIN SHOES NEXT!

Use May Be Found for Terror of the Seas If Price of Leather Continues to Soar.

You may at some time in the near future be wearing shoes made of shark skin if the price of leather continues to aviate and investigations now being made by Uncle Sam produce results. The bureau of fisheries of the department of commerce has taken up the possible value of shark skins in making various kinds of leather. Such skins have for many years had a limited demand in the United States as coverings for minor articles of ornament and utility, but their use as leather has been very restricted. An acceptable leather has been prepared from shark skins in several foreign countries.

Shark skins are very tough and durable, and some of them show a beautiful surface pattern which persists in the tanning process. Leather made from the skins of the larger sharks has a very considerable body, and such sharks will be in greatest demand if the experiments of the bureau of fisheries prove as successful as anticipated, although the skins of minor sharks and the grayfish also are being handled.

Arrangements have been made for securing from Florida fishermen a supply of very large shark skins; and further specimens are expected from other sources, especially from a number of lightships off the South Atlantic and Gulf coasts. The bureau of lightships is co-operating in this matter and will authorize the men on southern lightships to catch sharks and preserve their skins. The bureau of fisheries is supplying fishing tackle. The skins will be sent to tanners for treatment in various ways, and it is hoped that such raw material will prove so useful that fishermen on all parts of the coast may hereafter find a market for the skins of all kinds of sharks now incidentally caught in line and net fishing.

## Times Are Hard When Tax Collector Comes Around

Pity the poor corporations! Nearly half of them are operated at a loss, according to the returns filed with Uncle Sam's internal revenue bureau under the income tax law.

Of the 396,443 corporations reporting last year under the income tax law 175,532 claimed an operating deficit or no taxable income, and therefore claimed immunity from all taxation.

Similar figures, showing that approximately half the corporations are losing money, have been filed each year since the corporation excise and income tax laws have been on the statute books.

**Straw on Serge Costumes.**  
Do you know that straw trims serge costumes? That is what a renowned French clothes artist has evolved in the way of novelties for this season. The straw, heavily plaited, is applied three-inch bands to the bottom of skirts and to front upstanding collars. Especially stunning is a suit in blue serge garnished with half-inch-wide patent leather bands, finished with still narrower straw edgings. Does the straw chip away, shatter or otherwise disintegrate? Assuredly not.

## U. S. MINE OUTPUT SETS NEW RECORD

Value of Minerals Produced in 1916 Is Placed at Three Billion Dollars.

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## COPPER SENSATION OF YEAR

Iron Contends for First Place With Yield Worth \$178,000,000—Coal Production Also the Greatest Ever Known.

Three billion dollars is the value put upon the 1916 output of American mines in estimates made by Uncle Sam. The enormous production was accompanied by the greatest profits the mining industry of the country ever has known, copper alone netting about \$300,000,000.

Production, it is estimated, has run at least 25 per cent ahead of 1915. The copper output was the sensation of the year in the mining world. At an average price of 27 cents a pound the 1916 production had a value of \$520,000,000, compared with \$243,000,000 the year before and \$190,000,000 in 1915. The profits were the greatest ever known in the metal. Prices averaged slightly more than 27 cents as against 17 cents in 1915.

Arizona led the states in copper production, mining 675,000,000 pounds against 432,000,000 the year before. Montana came second with 350,000,000 pounds, and Michigan was third with 239,000,000 pounds. Alaska mined 120,000,000 pounds, which was almost twice the 1915 production. Tennessee alone of the copper states failed to increase its yield.

## Iron in Second Place.

Iron contends with copper for first place among the metals produced. Shipments of iron ore last year, it is estimated, amounted to \$178,000,000 in value, an increase of \$77,000,000 over 1915. The country's mines produced 75,500,000 gross tons, against 55,000,000 the year before. Production of pig iron during the year made a record with 39,000,000 tons, against 30,000,000 tons in 1915. Iron ore in stock at the mines is put at 10,000,000 tons, a falling off of 3,000,000 tons since last year.

The 1916 coal production also was the greatest ever known. The mines sold 597,500,000 tons, compared with 570,000,000, the record established in 1913. The quantity of bituminous coal mined was 509,000,000, an increase of 60,500,000 over 1915. The Pennsylvania anthracite production of 88,312,000 was a decrease of 600,000 tons.

Preliminary estimates indicate 4 per cent more crude petroleum was marketed in 1916 than in 1915. The total amount produced is put at 292,300,000 barrels. About 38 per cent of this came from the Oklahoma-Kansas field; 30 per cent from California and the remainder from the Appalachian, Indiana, Illinois, North Texas, North Louisiana, Gulf coast and Rocky mountain fields.

## Millions in Quicksilver.

The 1916 domestic output of quicksilver was valued at \$3,643,000, the greatest production in quantity since 1904, and the greatest in value since 1875. Figures for 1916 show an increase of 39 per cent in quantity and 89 per cent in value over 1915. High prices stimulated unusual activity in the western states.

The value of spelter from United States ore in 1916 was \$150,000,000. The output of zinc increased 95,000 tons, making a new record for the metal. Lead also shows a large increase, the \$15,000,000 output representing a gain of 50 per cent.

Every western state shows a big mining gain. Arizona's output alone shows an increase of \$100,000,000; Utah and Montana combined show another \$100,000,000. Ten mines in Arizona paid \$24,000,000 in dividends during the year. Utah, Montana, Nevada and Idaho combined paid \$96,000,000 in dividends.

## WILL TAKE LUMBER CENSUS

Uncle Sam to Undertake Important Work in Co-operation With National Lumber Association.

Uncle Sam, through the medium of the forest service, acting in co-operation with the National Lumber Manufacturers' association, is preparing to take a census of the lumber production of the United States for 1916. The information to be obtained by this work, it is stated, will be of immense benefit to the lumber industry, the forest service and other branches of the government.

It is estimated by the forest service that there are more than 30,000 sawmills in the country and it is planned to have the investigation reach every sawmill in operation. Each of these will be asked to make a detailed report of its production. Information is sought as to the total quantity of each kind of wood sawed, the number of lath and shingles manufactured and the average mill value for each species.

## Denuded Lands Reforested.

Approximately 10,390 acres of denuded lands within the national forests were reforested in the fiscal year 1916. The total number of trees planted was 6,146,637, while 8,280 pounds of tree seed were sown.

**Quaint Outline.**  
...ound, full akirts gathered at the waist become more and more popular, and almost invariably these skirts are accompanied by tight bodices which are buttoned or laced up the front from waist to throat. A quaint outline but exceedingly attractive.

## GOLF AN OLD GAME

Was Once Played in Holland on the Ice.

Goes Back at Least Five Centuries—So Popular in Scotland in 1457 It Interfered With Other Games.

"You have to be a fine rider, do you not, to play golf?" was the commonest question in regard to the game not more than 35 years ago. At that time the man who traveled about with a set of golf clubs was an object of some astonishment to his fellow travelers!

And yet the game of golf, according to the new Encyclopaedia Britannica, goes back at least five centuries. It is portrayed by early Dutch painters, who generally showed it being played on ice! But one of the pictures in a Dutch Illuminated Book of Hours, now in the British museum, is a painting of three men putting at a hole in the turf as in our modern golf. Although the Dutchmen played and painted golf, they did not write about it and we have no records describing the game.

Just when Scotland took up golf is unknown, but 1457 it was already so popular, says the Britannica, that it interfered with the more important pursuit of archery. In May, 1471, an act of the Scottish parliament was passed forbidding this sport: "Futeball and Golfe forbidden. Item, it is statut and ordnat that in no place of the realm there be usit fute-ball golfe or other silk unprofitabil sport," etc.

It is rather curious that this is an edict of James IV who later became very much attached to the practice of the "unprofitabil sport"—not only he, but his daughter, Mary Stuart. It was alleged by her enemies that, as showing her shameless indifference to the fate of her husband, a very few days after his murder, she "was seen playing golf and pull-mall in the fields beside Seton."

Golf has from old times been known in Scotland as "the Royal and Ancient Game of Golf." Many monarchs have made it their favorite diversion and since its introduction into America all the presidents have found it a favorite form of exercise.

There is still standing in Edinburgh a monument of the prowess of James II as a golfer. After the Restoration James, then duke of York, was sent to Edinburgh in 1681 as commissioner of the king to parliament. He was challenged by two Englishmen, nobles of his suite, to play a match against them, for a very large stake, along with his partner, who was one "Johne Parson," a shoemaker, the duke easily won the game. He made over half of the large stake to his humble co-adjutor, who herewith built himself a house at No. 77 Cannoning, which has always been called Golfer's Land.

## Luminous Watch Dial.

The first thing to do is to procure an ounce of calcium sulphide, luminous. The cost since the war is \$1 an ounce, but you can fix perhaps 50 watches with that amount. This element absorbs light, and after being exposed to any bright light for five minutes will glow with a purple light for about four hours, says Popular Science Monthly.

Remove the crystal from the watch to be treated, and with a pen dipped in shellac go over the numerals and the hands. Some may prefer to make dots only at the numerals. Pour out the calcium on a clean piece of paper, dip your finger in it and press some on the moist shellac. Allow about five minutes for it to dry. The calcium not used may be returned to the bottle.

## Wise Husband.

Mr. Barton lived in a suburban town. His wife asked him to purchase a shirtwaist for her while in New York. After telling the salesgirl what he was after, she displayed a number.

"Here are some very pretty ones. What color do you prefer?" she said. "It doesn't make any difference," replied Mr. Barton.

"Doesn't make any difference?" exclaimed the salesgirl. "Why, don't you think your wife would like a certain color?"

"No, it makes no difference what color I get or what size. I shall have to come back tomorrow to have it changed."

## Important Venezuela Highway.

Consul Homer Brett, at La Guayra, reports that the government of Venezuela has determined to undertake the construction of a highway from Caracas to San Cristobal in the extreme western part of the republic. This road will be the largest public work ever undertaken by the government of Venezuela; it will be 683 miles long and will run from Caracas to Valencia, San Carlos, Guanare, Barinas and San Antonio de Caparo.

## Uses of Troubles.

We shrink instinctively from troubles, as we shrink from hard and painful tasks; we cannot escape the suffering they bring; but we decide whether they shall weaken or strengthen us. It lies with us to receive them as enemies or as friends. They offer us fortitude, patience, courage, strength, growth or cowardice, bitterness, despair; we cannot prevent them from coming to us, but we can decide whether they shall help or hinder us in our life purposes.—Exchange.

## Troubles Enough.

Edith—Cholly says if I refuse him he'll go off and join the German or the French army.

## THE BASIS OF CANADA'S RICHES

A Theme Discussed by the Wall Street Journal.

In speaking of Canada a short time ago the Wall Street Journal made the statement that "The basis of Canada's riches is the fertility of the soil, and no freak of warfare can injure that while her grain will increase in demand as the population of the world grows. An investment field Canada is worthy of consideration." These words are well worthy of attention, especially coming from such a source as this eminent financial journal. With a land area exceeding that of the United States and with tillable areas coming under cultivation, the wealth of Canada's future can scarcely be estimated, while the wealth today is such as to bring her most prominently before the world.

During the past year thousands of farmers in Western Canada sold their crops for more than the total cost of their land. Lands at from \$15 to \$30 an acre produced crops worth \$40 to \$75 an acre. Stock raising and dairying were equally profitable.

The year 1915 saw most wonderful crops and magnificent yields over the entire country, and many farmers wiped out indebtedness that had hung over them long before they came to the country, and the year 1916 put them in a condition of absolute independence. A report to hand verified by a high official might seem marvelous, were the particulars not well known, and where are not other cases that would seem almost as phenomenal. This is a southern Alberta story: A farmer wished to rent an adjoining farm on which a loan company held a mortgage. The applicant said he wanted the first ten bushels of wheat, after which he would divide, giving the loan company one-third. After threshing he paid into the bank at Calgary \$16 per acre for every acre cultivated, to the credit of the loan company, as their share or their third of the crop. Sixteen dollars per acre rent. His two-thirds was \$32 and in addition the first ten bushels of wheat. Land on this same security can be purchased for from \$16 to \$30 per acre. Wonderful yields are reported from all parts of this district. Recently 4,640 acres of a ranch were sold to an Illinois farmer; 300 acres of wheat in 1916 produced a yield that averaged 425 bushels of wheat per acre. George Richard, formerly of Providence, R. I., on a southern Alberta farm got 2,052 bushels of wheat from a 50-acre field, or over 40 bushels per acre, and from a 50-acre field of oats got a return of 78 bushels per acre and still had some sheaves left over for feeding.

A report just issued by the Alberta government gives the yield of wheat in the showing of 1916 as 28 bushels per acre; 45 bushels of oats and 30 bushels of barley.

Travelers through Alberta's wheat belt have had revealed to them scenes of agricultural productivity unsurpassed in any other part of the world.

Alberta farms, selected with even moderate discretion, have raised men to independence and affluence with records of wonderful development unsurpassed amongst the phenomenal industrial success of which Canada well may boast.

Many almost incredible yields have been reported by reliable authorities, wheat exceeding 70 bushels per acre and oats 145 bushels.

Numerous records show that the cost of farms has been more than repaid by this year's crop. In one instance, land purchased for \$3,200 produced wheat which was sold for a little over \$10,000.

During the year 1917 there will be an immense amount of labor required to take care of the crop in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

One of the problems which Western Canada has to face every year is the securing of an adequate supply of labor to handle the harvesting and threshing of its big crops. This problem, indeed, is always present in any country that has a big agricultural production; in the case of Western Canada it is enhanced by the comparative sparsity of population and the long distance from industrial districts, which can be expected to offer a surplus of labor.

In Western Canada the present difficulties are increased by the war. A very large number of Western Canada's small population have enlisted for service with the Canadian forces in Europe, and at the present time there is generally speaking no surplus of labor for the ordinary channels of industry, to say nothing of the abnormal demands of harvest time.