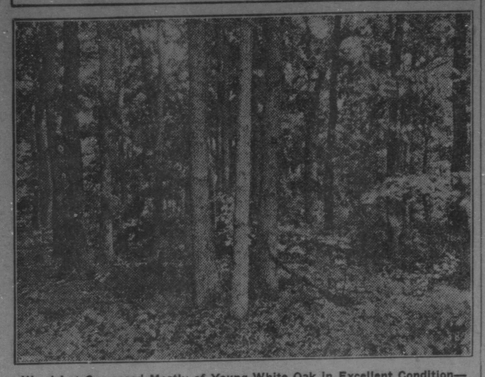
TRUE VALUE OF WOOD LOT NOT REALIZED



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.

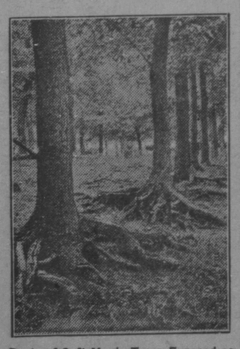
The essential point for every farmer to recognize, is that the trees in his wood lot are just as much a farm crop as are his corn, oats, hay, or other products. Moreover, they have many advantages over other crops—they require comparatively little care and labor; they can be harvested during the winter 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-leaf 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 branchy, 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 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.



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,



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.

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 trunks. 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.

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THAT LITTLE GIRL

By ROBERT DUANE LATIMER.

(Copyright, 1914, by W. G. Chapman.)

"Still a confirmed bachelor, Roslyn?"

"Lonely and hopeless as ever, I should say!" replied Roslyn Ware with a submissive smile.

"Wish you would follow my example," declared Hal Vance exuberantly. "Been married ten years, ideal home, lovely wife and say, Roslyn, we've got a little girl at our house who would just charm you. See here, shake off the dust of ages and come down and liven up with real heart and home folks."

The result was that Roslyn promised to put in a week at Rest Haven ten days later. On the afternoon of a ninth day he left his office with "the girl" of his old friend, Hal, in his mind.

"I suppose the graceful thing to do, is to take her some kind of a present," ruminated Roslyn. "Let me see—Hal has been married about ten years. This little daughter of his, I should judge, must be about eight years of age. Now, what would be an appropriate gift?"

This was really a puzzling enigma for Roslyn. He was twenty-eight, but knew little of femininity. His training had been all business and to a degree he had grown prim and precise. He was shy, so much so that when he went into a department store and approached the handsome brunette in charge of a toy counter, he hemmed and hawed in a decided fluster.

The young lady smiled encouragingly, for Roslyn was a well groomed, handsome man, although he had never stopped to think of it. He stated the object of his call in general terms.

"Child, girl—about how old, now?" propounded the pretty saleswoman.

"Oh, I should think about eight."

"I have the very thing for you," insisted the vivacious miss. "It's the latest thing in dolls."

Roslyn had seen dolls before, but never one like this. Face and dress



"It's the Latest Thing in Dolls."

were radiant and fairy-like. Its eyes opened and closed and its hands moved.

"Let me show you," proceeded the clever young woman, and she wound up some phonograph mechanism skillfully concealed within the body of the doll. A lisping baby-like voice recited audibly and charmingly, "Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star."

"And again," added the saleswoman, and the doll sung, "Cherries Are Ripe." "Four other records go with the outfit," continued the young lady. "As you see, the lips move and at a little distance it is quite a phenomenon."

"It is, indeed," agreed Roslyn. "How much?"

"Eighteen dollars and one-half."

"I'll take it," said Roslyn promptly.

He was very much satisfied with his progress. It was dusk when he arrived at the town on the outskirts of which was located the Vance place. He ordered his baggage taken up to the house. He himself would walk. Roslyn carried the box containing the doll with him. Little Lois—he was sure Hal had called the child that—would, girl-like, be eager to see her present as soon as possible.

Roslyn reached his destination at twilight. A servant answered his summons at the door bell. He told who he was and she was at once all deferential attention.

"Mr. Vance has just gone around to the horses, sir," she said. "Please step into the parlor. He will be here in a few moments."

Roslyn's sight was blurred by the dimness of the hall, but he passed through a doorway indicated. He was about to seat himself, when the sound of careless variant notes from a piano in a corner of the next room attracted his attention. He vaguely made out a feminine form one-half reclining on the broad music seat and striking this and that careless note leisurely and in a dreamy fashion.

"It's Lois, the little daughter of the house," at once decided the well-meaning Roslyn, and he advanced with precision. He placed his hand upon a curly head with the words:

"I am your father's old friend, Roslyn Ware, and you must be little Lois I have brought you a doll"—and then he stooped over and kissed a soft velvety cheek, and then—

"Oh, say—it's an awful mistake!" and Roslyn retreated, dropping the box, his honest face a vast blank as just then the servant turned on the hall light and it flooded the room, and he saw arise from the piano seat, tall, comely, graceful—a full-grown young lady!

Was she flushing indignantly, annihilating him with majestic glance, laughing, or crying? He knew not which, so dazed was he, and because just then, Hal arrived, ran at him with the eagerness of a school-boy, whirled him about in a gay caper and marched him up to his room, drawing out his protestations.

"That little girl of yours," Roslyn managed to sandwich in as they descended the stairs.

"Lois, my wife's sister. We adopted her, you see," explained Hal and Roslyn dimly comprehended the fearful mistake he had made. He shivered and shrank as they reached the parlor again and was greeted by his hostess and introduced to Miss Verner. To his agreeable surprise a welcoming hand was placed in his own. He looked up into a bright roguish face smiling encouragingly. He stammered forth.

"I—I acted under a wrong impression, Miss Verner," but secretly he congratulated himself as he viewed the velvety cheek he had so audaciously kissed.

Here Mr. Vance broke forth with a great jolly guffaw. He slapped Roslyn on the shoulder and jollied him briskly, for his wife had recited to him the piano incident.

"About the doll, too"—blundered on Roslyn.

"Oh, I shall keep that, if you please," said Lois prettily. "You have given me a grand idea, Mr. Ware."

Then followed a week that was full of soulful delight for Roslyn. Lois was a revelation to him, kind, considerate, almost gentle. Closer and closer grew the strength and rare beauty of their congenial acquaintanceship.

"I wish you to come with me, if you will, Mr. Ware," she said brightly one day. "I must show you the good your gift doll has done. There was a poor fading invalid child to whom it has given great joy and a new grasp of life."

Roslyn Ware never forgot that sweet presence near him as they gazed cautiously through the open window of a little humble hut, where a sweet child sat up on a couch, an audience of juveniles about her, while the wonderful doll went through its clever paces.

"Dear Miss Verner," he said, at the point of tears, as they moved on, "let me buy dolls for the whole crowd!"

But Lois smiled forbiddingly at his reckless enthusiasm. She was grave, earnest, womanly the night he left for the city. Her pulses fluttered as he said in his awkward but manly way:

"Miss Verner, I will come back here for my vacation next year, if you say so."

She looked up into his eyes earnestly, as only a woman who is in love can look. Then her head drooped shyly as she whispered:

"Oh, please, Mr. Ware, please come back sooner than that!"

MURDER TRIALS IN HOLLAND

Dutch Judge Puts All the Interrogatories to the Witnesses—Do Not Have Juries.

A learned and capable jurist has asserted that the French method of legal procedure, which, contrary to our own, presumes an indicted person guilty until he is proven innocent, comes nearer dispensing actual justice than our own system. But in Holland the courts have, in some respects, a better system than that of the French. The accused in every case has the benefit of the doubt, and circumstantial evidence as the only foundation for a plea of conviction is in disfavor.

The Dutch do not have juries, and there is no battle of wits among counsel. All questions, whether by the prosecution or the attorney for the accused, are put to the witness through the judges after he has weighed the justice of the interrogation.

This feature of their system has some pronounced advantage over our own. It eliminates the practice of confusing the witness or the accused by misleading questions. It renders impossible the abominable practice in our courts known as the "browbeating" of witnesses, which unfortunately is permitted to an extent that causes the intelligent observer's blood to boil at times because of its unfairness and cruelty. It makes the solemn business of dispensing justice a common trade instead of a heavenly vocation.—Sioux City Tribune.

Hadn't Eaten Breakfast.

"The most embarrassing moment of my life," says my father-in-law, "came to me in Ireland when I was a small boy."

He and his chum would never allow a strange boy to come on their street without picking a fight, and so one morning a lad several inches taller than the young warriors speared and was promptly thrashed. My father-in-law says he did it alone. Feeling rather chesty about it he gathered a good sized crowd by hooting and calling after the retreating foe.

When the little fellow was far enough away to feel safe he turned around and called back in a trembling voice: "Yes, yez licked me, but I bet if I could have me breakfast every mornin' like youse do, youse couldn't do it."

"My mother sent me after him," says my father-in-law, "and he had a very good breakfast that morning, anyway."—Chicago Tribune.

Many hunters go out in the woods without bringing home even a farmer's calf.

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