

### TREES VS. GRAIN.

Why Trees Should Usually Be Planted Only On the Poorer Soils.

A very important distinction between a crop of trees and a crop of grain or other farm produce lies in the length of time it takes to produce each of them.

A farmer, for instance, sows his grain in the spring of the year. It sprouts, goes through the different stages in the blade and the head, and ripens, all in a few months, and in the late summer is harvested. The raising of a timber crop is a different matter entirely. The tree rarely, if ever, is fit to cut (for saw-timber, at least) before it is forty or fifty years old.

Even if the annual crops (i. e., the amount of grain harvested and the annual amount of wood put on the trees) are equal in value, yet the advantage remains with the grain crops. Let us suppose we have an acre of trees which must grow fifty years to reach their best age at which they can be marketed, and are then worth \$500, and that we have beside this an acre of land on which annual crops of grain are grown. Five hundred dollars, divided by fifty, gives us ten dollars as the value of the annual growth in the trees. Let us suppose also that the net value of the grain grown on the other acre is also ten dollars, for purposes of comparison.

Now compare the harvests. On the wood-lot the tree seed is sown at the beginning of the first year, and the trees allowed to grow undisturbed for the fifty years, and then, when cut off, brings five hundred dollars. On the grain acre, on the other hand, a crop worth ten dollars is taken off at the end of the first year—forty-nine years before any crop whatever is taken off the wood-lot.

Suppose this ten dollars is put away in the bank for the next forty-nine years. Again, at the end of the second year (i. e., two years from the time the tree seeds are sown) we get another ten dollars from the grain acre. Suppose this, too, is put in the bank—this time for forty-eight years of course. And suppose, further, that this is done with each ten dollars received for the grain during all the years following until the wood-lot is cut.

If these yearly deposits of ten dollars are left untouched, we shall, at the end of the fifty years, have the following amounts, according to the rates of interest:

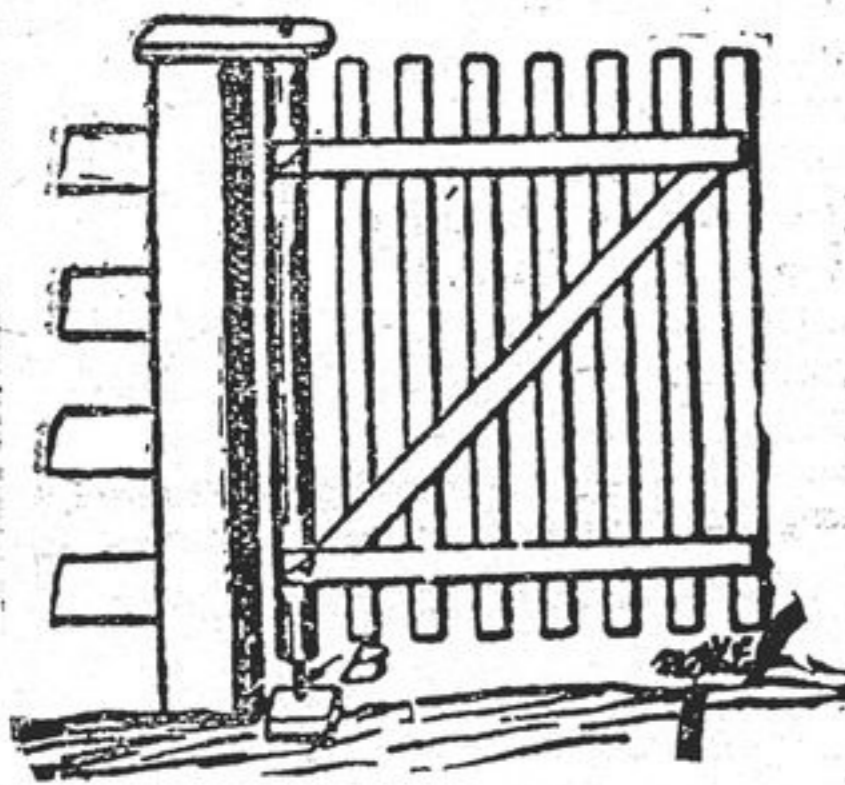
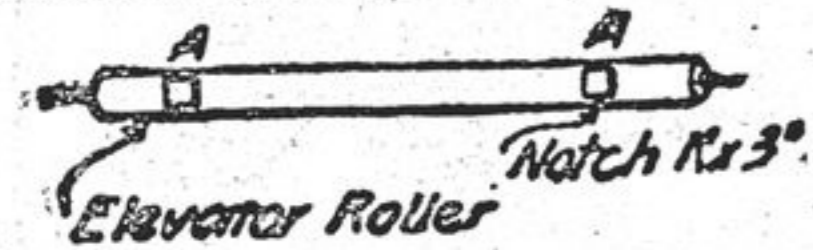
With interest at 5 per cent. per annum, \$2,093.48; with interest at 4 per cent. per annum, \$1,526.66; with interest at 3 per cent. per annum, \$1,127.95; with interest at 2 per cent. per annum, \$845.80.

A calculation such as the above gives very good reason why land, if fertile enough to produce agricultural crops, should be devoted to these crops rather than to forest. On the other hand, trees will grow satisfactorily on soil that is altogether too poor for agricultural crops, and all that the advocates of re-forestation ask is that the land which is too poor for agricultural crops shall be permanently devoted to forest. When that is done, there will be sufficient forest to provide employment for a large number of foresters.

### GATE WITHOUT HINGES.

Utilizing Elevator Roller From An Old Binder.

The elevator rollers from an old binder can be put to good use in making small gates. Cut notches 1 by 3 inches in the roller at A, as shown.



Use 1 by 3 inch stuff to nail the pickets to. At B use a flat rock or a block of wood with a hole in it to fit the iron shaft. To support the gate at the top use a short plank five inches wide and one and one-half inches thick. This makes a very good gate and requires no hinges and little time.—Practical Farmer.

### Crows, Sparrows and Weeds.

Crows not only destroy lots of corn, but also kill many other birds. If they once get a notion of catching little chicks, they are ten times worse than hawks. They do more damage than they do good. English sparrows also are a nuisance. They rob other birds' nests and drive the birds away. As to the weeds, if each farmer would pay more attention to getting rid of such weeds as wild carrots, Canada thistles, strap leaf plantain, etc., there would be less of them. One farmer, perhaps, will be very particular about them, while his neighbor lets them go to seed, and the wind carries them over to the one who has worked hard to get rid of them.—J. A. C. in Farm and Fireside.

### A SOILING CROP.

Heavy Yields of Green Feed Under Favorable Conditions.

Thousand headed kale has been grown in the Willamette valley for twenty-seven years. It attracted little attention among Oregon dairymen until recent years, but is now rapidly becoming a very popular fall and winter soiling crop. It stands the mild winters west of the Cascade mountains admirably and is hauled from the field and fed as needed. It does not head up like cabbage, and the name "thousand headed" is given it on account of the numerous branches.



IN A FIELD OF KALE.

ches the plants have when given plenty of room. It is very much like rape, but the plants are much taller, and the leaves are longer and broader. It is claimed that kale will yield thirty to forty tons of green feed per acre when grown under favorable conditions.

Kale is used for table green, but its chief use on the Pacific coast is for feeding green to dairy cows from October to April, for which it is highly prized. If the growth is forced in the early spring, it can be fed much earlier than Oct. 1. Kale would probably be an excellent winter feed also for hogs and poultry. It does best on well manured, deep, rich loams and sandy soils. The only objection to the use of kale is the difficulty of getting it out of the field when the ground is wet and muddy. For this reason well drained land should be selected upon which to plant this crop.

Where the weather is quite cold kale is not sufficiently hardy to stand out during the winter, and its use as a soiling crop would be limited to the fall.

### OWLS AS PETS.

Barn Owls Amusing In Themselves and Also Useful As Mousers.

Among the many bird pets I have owned at different times owls have always been my favorites. At present I have three tawny owls, which I have reared from the nest. Two I took from an old hawk's nest and one from a hole in the wall of a tumbledown cottage.

They have been brought up in company with several other bird pets, magpies, jackdaws and hawks, and when quite young it was an exceedingly pretty sight to see them all together on a perch, the owls watching the proceedings of the "jacks" and magpies with an air of absorbing interest.

Sometimes a "jack" would fly up to the perch and give one of the tawnies a friendly dig with his beak, as though he wanted to say:—"Wake up, old fellow!"

Whereupon the owl would proceed with great gravity to comb the disturber's plumage with beak and claw, occasionally pausing during the operation to survey his work out of a half-open eye, "jack," the while, winking at his mates below with the air of:—"It's all right; it pleases the old duffer."

Barn owls, also, I have domesticated, and have found them very amusing pets. I had one which would fly down in broad daylight from his cage and catch a live mouse, and back again to make a meal of it, swallowing it whole by a succession of fearful gulps.

I have seen him swallow three in succession, and have no doubt that had he been offered a fourth he would have been equal to the occasion. Incredible as it may seem to those who have never witnessed the feat, he would think nothing of devouring a sparrow, feathers and all.—Rosary Magazine.

### Poultry Raising.

One of the best talks given at a recent county institute was by a bright and wide awake farmer's wife on the subject of poultry raising. In the course of her remarks, which were practical and helpful, one point was dwelt upon which is worth more than passing notice. She made a plea for the passage of a pure food law which would compel the labeling of all preserved, packed and cold storage eggs, thereby removing them from competition with strictly fresh laid stock. She held it an injustice that while the grocer often got better prices for the fresh eggs than for the storage product under no circumstances would he give the egg producer more for the fresh laid article. As the situation is there is no incentive to have hens lay in winter, when eggs are produced at heavy expense, if they fetch no more than eggs packed in August and costing only 10 cents per dozen. The point is well taken—the packed stuff ought to be labelled.

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Thos. Robson,  
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