

BEST PROTECTION.

PREVENTING THE DESTRUCTION OF TIMBER IN EUROPE.

Forests Have Supervision Over Private as Well as National and Communal Forests—Reforestation Carried on by Established Departments.

In Germany the various governments own and manage, in a conservative spirit, about one-third of the forest area, and they also control the management of another sixth, which belongs to villages, cities and public institutions, in so far as these communities are obliged to employ expert foresters and must submit their working plans to the government for approval, thus preventing imprudent and wasteful methods.

The other half of the forest property, in the hands of private owners, is managed mostly without interference, although upon methods similar to those employed by the government, and by trained foresters, who receive their education in one of the eight higher and several lower schools of forestry which the various governments have established.

The several states differ in their laws regarding forest property. Of the private forests 70 per cent are without any control whatever, while 30 per cent are subject to supervision, so far as clearing and devastation are concerned.

The tendency on the part of the government has been rather toward permissive measures. Thus in addition to buying up or acquiring by exchange and reforesting waste lands—some 300,000 acres have been so reforested during the last 25 years—the government gives assistance to private owners in reforesting their waste land. During the last 10 years \$300,000 was granted in this way.

In Austria, by a law adopted in 1852, not only are the state forests—comprising less than 30 per cent of the total forest area—rationally managed, and the management of the communal forests—nearly 40 per cent—officially supervised, but private owners—holding about 33 per cent—are prevented from devastating their forest property to the detriment of neighbors. No clearing for agricultural use can be made without the consent of the district authorities, from which, however, an appeal to a civil judge is possible, who adjusts the conflict of interests.

Any cleared or cut forest must be replanted or reseeded within five years. On sandy soils and mountain sides clearing is forbidden, and only culling of the ripe timber is allowed.

In Hungary, also, where liberty of private property rights and strong objection to government interference had been jealously upheld, a complete reaction set in some 15 years ago, which led to the law of 1880, giving the state control of private forest property as in Austria.

Under a law adopted in Italy in 1888 the department of agriculture, in co-operation with the department of public works and in consultation with the forest committee of the province and the respective owners, is to designate the territory which for public reasons must be reforested under governmental control.

The owners may associate themselves for the purpose of reforestation and for the purpose of borrowing money at low interest from the State Soil Credit Institution, the forest department contributing three-fifths of the cost of reforestation upon condition that the work is done according to its plans and within the time specified by the government.

In Russia until lately liberty to cut, burn, destroy and devastate was unrestricted, but in 1898 a comprehensive and well considered law cut off, so far as this can be done on paper, this liberty of vandalism. For automatic Russia the law is rather timid and is in the nature of a compromise between communal and private interests, in which much if not all depends on the good will of the private owner.

A federal law was adopted in Switzerland in 1876 which gives the federation control over the forests of the mountain region embracing eight entire cantons and parts of seven others, or over 1,000,000 acres of forest. The federation itself does not own any forest land, and the cantons hardly 100,000 acres, somewhat over 4 per cent of the forest area, two-thirds of which is held in communal ownership and the rest by private owners.

The federal authorities have supervision over all cantonal, communal and private forests, so far as they are "productive forests," but the execution of the law rests with the cantonal authorities under the inspection of federal officers.

In France not only does the state manage its own forest property, one-ninth of the forest area, in approved manner, and supervise the management of forests belonging to communities and other public institutions, double the area of state forests, in a manner similar to the regulation of forests in Germany, but it extends its control over the large area of private forests by forbidding any clearing except with the consent of the forest administration.—Century Magazine.

A Great Scheme.

"Scribble has a great scheme on hand."

"What is it?"

"He's getting up a book that is bound to sell well and be popular with the ladies."

"What is it?"

"It's the last chapter of 20 different novels. So, no matter where it's opened, it will be the last of the book."—Chicago Inter Ocean.

An Agreement.

Fred—How are you getting on with Miss Angell? Did you speak with her governor as you determined?

Frank—Yes.

Fred—And how did it come out?

Frank—So so. I said to him, "Mr. Angell, I love your daughter." Said he: "So do I. Now let's talk about something else."—Boston Transcript.

SMART GUMDROP PEBBLERS.

They Fly a Trick on People in the Horrors of Seasickness.

A gentleman living in a metropolitan suburb was strolling down one of its streets when he came by chance across a couple—a man and a woman—whom he immediately recognized as having been his fellow passengers in a steamer crossing the channel. His reminiscences were not of a particularly agreeable nature, for he lost no time in getting them arrested. The tale which he unfolded to the police commissary was as follows:

The steamer had hardly left the English port en route to the shores of France when he and about 50 other companions in misery were seized with all the symptoms of mal de mer. The only traveler who seemed exempt from suffering was the man who had been arrested. He paced the deck with the utmost complacency, now and then taking from a bonbon box a lozenge, which he swallowed with apparent satisfaction. The woman in whose company he was met in Paris acted on the steamer as if she was a perfect stranger to him, and she seemed indeed to be the greatest victim of them all. So intense was her sufferings that the man walked up to her and offered her one of the lozenges, remarking that they were a sovereign remedy against seasickness. She took one, and in the course of a few minutes said that she was completely cured, and soon her fellow passengers beheld her dismissing with considerable relish a plate of sandwiches, washed down by a bottle of stout.

One after the other they begged the possessor of the marvelous lozenges to favor them with one. "It so happens that I am the inventor," he replied, "and as I have a few boxes with me I shall be most happy to oblige you with them at the rate of 50 francs each." The unucky passenger, whose misery had in the meantime rather increased than otherwise, enthusiastically welcomed the offer, and soon all the boxes were sold, the gentleman from the suburbs being the purchaser of one.

But consider the lozenges had no effect. Not one of the buyers was to be seen calling for stout and sandwiches, and the whole party did not get to the end of their troubles until they were once more safely on terra firma. The suburban gentleman had the lozenges analyzed, and they were found to be ordinary jujubes. Chance had thrown the couple in his way, and he told the police commissary that he was quite sure that they had acted this comedy for the purpose of getting money out of their fellow passengers. The man and the woman both declared at first that the suburban one must have mistaken them for another couple, but afterward they made a full confession. Oddly enough they had gone to the suburb to inspect a house which they had thought of buying with the proceeds of the sale of many boxes of jujube lozenges in numerous passages across the silver streak when the stormy winds did blow.—Paris Cor. London Telegraph.

Four Years in a Barber Shop.

"It is rather a curious fact," said a prominent local railroad man who sports a luxurious beard, "that one of the few occasions of my going to church in recent years is responsible for my growing this beard. The minister happened in the course of his sermon to say that a man spent a third of his time in sleep, and that one living to the age of three-score and ten would pass 23 years in slumber. As the sermon was not a particularly interesting one, my mind wandered away from it, and I began calculating how much of one's life would be spent in a barber's shop. Allowing a reasonable time for waits and for the actual process of shaving daily, I soon discovered that in the years left to me, if I should attain the patriarchal age of 70, I would spend at least four in a barber's shop. Think of it! Condemned to four years in a barber's shop! That settled it, and although that was 10 years ago I have never been shaved since."—Philadelphia Record.

Keep Accounts.

Keeping household accounts is an affair, if not of necessity, still of the greatest wisdom. In comparison with the small amount of time and labor which the doing so employs, the satisfaction of knowing, at the end of each year, how the family funds have gone is the amplest compensation. One special satisfaction gained from the keeping of household accounts is the ability, when or if the necessity arises, to reduce expenditures on the outlay for luxuries and unecessaries. The money spent for food, for medicines or for fuel is capable of far less reduction than that used for amusements, for wages or for clothing, and a system of accounts which will show at once where expenses can be lessened is entitled to respectful consideration.—Philadelphia Times.

To Clean Furniture.

Cherry and mahogany furniture can be cleaned in the following way to look almost like new: Dissolve a small lump of common washing soda in some very hot water. Wash only a small portion of the wood at a time with a bit of flannel dipped in the soda water and dry it immediately with another piece of flannel, rubbing until it is highly polished.—New York World.

A Fellow Feeling.

"D'Anber made quite a hit with his new picture, 'Sympathy.'"
"Didn't see it. What was the idea?"
"Simply a blind man making his way through a crowded street."
"Humph! How did that typify sympathy?"
"Why a fellow feeling, you know."—Buffalo Courier.

A Nice Way.

He—I wish I had the key to your heart.
She—Indeed! What would you do with it?
He—Insert it in wedlock, give one turn and throw it away forever.—Kato Field's Washington.

Wines of France.

The skins of fruit should never be eaten, not because they are not palatable or digestible or are unhealthy in themselves, but on account of the danger arising from microbes which have penetrated into the covering of the fruit. Everybody has noticed that at times a slight scratch will create a considerable sore on the human body. It is generally ascribed to an unhealthy condition of the blood, but a close microscopical examination will show that it is due to the presence of microbes thus introduced into the system. So with an apple, a peach, a pear or a grape. The fruit may be perfectly sound and healthy, but on the skin or covering may be microbes, which, introduced into the human system, will breed disease. These germs are not uncommon; neither are they always present. It is possible to eat this covering without injury, but the danger is such that it is best not to incur the risk.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

Jack Tar's Scheme.

Many years ago an Englishman employed an honest tar who had quit the sea as a gardener. Jack had no sooner entered his service than he found himself much annoyed by a dog who nightly invaded the garden. One morning the sailor reached the garden before the dog had left and made him captive. As soon as he had seized the animal, Jack deliberately took a spade, cut off the dog's tail and set him at liberty. Shortly after the owner entered the garden and inquired if the dog still annoyed the gardener. "He'll never trouble us again," replied Jack, "I caught him this morning, unshipped his rudder and set him off before the wind, and hung me if he will be able to steer his way back."—Exchange.

Politeness of Swedes.

"The unflinching politeness of the Swedes is a constant source of wonder and astonishment to visitors," said George C. Truena of New York. "They have a large assortment of boxes and courtesies according to the age and sex of those who are thus treated, but the lifting of the hat is universal and it seems to be going all the time. Even the butcher's boy in meeting the baker's assistant, instead of passing him with a careless 'hello' or giving him a friendly buffet, as an American lad might do, doffs his hat to him with elaborate courtesy."—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

In the heart of London is a public newsroom without a librarian or any one to look after the papers. They are chained and padlocked so they cannot be carried off. Little damage is done, and the room is usually quiet and orderly.

Missouri grows 210,000,000 bushels of corn, 30,000,000 of oats, 20,000,000 of wheat and 13,000,000 pounds of tobacco. The lead product has exceeded 100,000,000 pounds in a single year, and the zinc has equaled 12,500 tons a year.

Miss Mary McGreevy of Indianapolis does not seem to share the supposed feminine desire for an elaborate wedding. She was married the other day to John Perry, and the ceremony occupied exactly 2 1/2 seconds by the watch.

The Egyptians moved great masses of stone without the aid of machines. Large blocks were drawn up inclined planes of earth or stone. Sometimes 500 men were required to draw one block into its proper position.

Charlotte, complaining of boarding school, said: "The worst of all was nothing to eat between meals. Why, mummy, from breakfast to dinner you just had to starve!"

New Zealand has set apart two islands on which hunting and trapping are forbidden.



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