

# The Bloomfield Times.

HOUSE, FARM AND GARDEN.

We invite communications from all persons who are interested in matters properly belonging to this department.

### Waste of Woodland.

In most long settled portions of the country the wood lot is mostly of little practical profit. It furnishes yearly what fuel is needed for the family, but it does this by diminishing the amount of wood rather than by taking the increase. In fact the growth of wood on a partly cleared lot is of the smallest importance. It is an investment lying idle and without interest—ready to be drawn upon at any time, but sure sooner or later to be exhausted. It used to be the practice in some states to exempt from taxation all unfenced woodlands; but this rule has long since been done away with. It scarcely needs argument to prove that such unproductive lands should be cleared and put to some profitable use. It may pay in some localities to replant such clearings with forest trees. There are doubtless some localities where this is as profitable a use as any to which certain broken lands can be put; but if so let it be done purposely and systematically and not drift along with no plan but that of letting things take their own course and doing everything in the easiest way.

An acre of growing timber should contain from 800 to 2,000 trees, according to their size. At eight feet apart each way the number would be nearly 700; but until the trees had attained considerable size they could well bear to be much more closely planted. Close planting is indeed necessary to secure straight and handsome trunks to the trees, especially when young. After a few years they may be thinned by removing alternate trees in rows each way. The wood thus procured will partially and sometimes wholly pay the interest on the value of the land. Some kinds of timber becomes useful very early after planting.

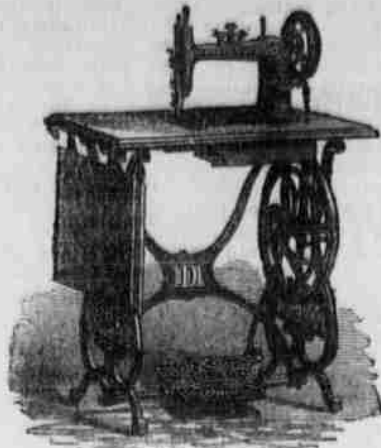
A successful farmer, living in a neighboring town, planted an acre with locust trees about twenty-five years ago. The trees were planted in rows, north and south, and cultivated a few years. This acre of low ground, of little value for any other purpose supplies him yearly with hundreds of locust posts, besides stakes and poles. When cut in winter or spring, sprouts shoot up from the stump, one of which is selected and made the main tree, thus perpetuating the grove indefinitely. It is probably the most productive and valuable acre which this gentleman owns. Contrast this policy with that of leaving half cleared forests to stand year after year as "woodlots," often not carrying more than twenty to fifty trees per acre, and those not growing. Can there be any doubt which method is most conducive to profit? There are some thin orchards of sugar maples saved year after year for their sugar alone, and this is entirely excusable. Yet even for the sugar maple there is a great advantage in having the orchard as compact and in as solid a body as possible. It is a yearly saving of time and labor in gathering the sap, as well as a saving in the amount of land required.

Of the trees for nuts the chestnut and black walnut are both rapid growers and quickly come into bearing. Their timber is very valuable, though if planted for fruit it should be at much wider distances than if timber growing is the object. But for either purpose it is important to have the trees as evenly distributed as possible. No farmer need regret the loss of his woodland if he supersedes old and decaying timber with an equal or larger number of vigorous and more valuable trees, growing on a smaller area. It is the number and kind of trees rather than the number of acres which make a wood lot valuable.—Country Gentleman.

### Ice-Houses.

Any person in the country, where timber is cheap, can erect an ice-house at but little expense. All that is required is to put up a strong frame of the size of the house required, and board it up close, inside and outside, with a space between all around. This space is stuffed close with straw or sawdust. The roof is made in the same manner, and the house is then complete. Straw and sawdust are cheap, and good non-conductors. The house should be situated on a dry spot, and should have a drain under the floor. It should be convenient to be easily filled. The walls of stone and brick ice-houses should be double, as well as those of wood. Great care should be exercised in packing ice; all the blocks should be clear and solid and about the same thickness, so that they may be packed close together and frozen into a solid mass. In favorable situations, good ice-houses may be excavated like caves on the face of a hill.

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