

THE GREAT PLAINS.

EXPERIMENTS IN TREE CULTIVATION.

(CONCLUDED.)

Peanut.—Seedlings 4 to 9 inches.
Peach.—Seedlings 30 inches; transplanted 3 to 4 feet.
Cottonwood.—From cuttings 24 inches; transplanted 3 to 5 feet.
Linden.—American, transplanted 9 to 15 inches.
Poplar.—White, from cuttings 12 to 27 inches; transplanted 24 to 36 inches.
Lombardy, transplanted, 24 to 36 inches.
Willow.—White, from cuttings, 24 to 36 inches; transplanted 3 to 4 feet. Golden, transplanted, 3 to 4 feet.
Tulip Tree.—Transplanted, has made about 10 inches growth.
Walnut.—Seedlings 12 inches; these have grown here without any cultivation by just planting into the soil, after breaking and leaving them to care for themselves; transplanted, these are all living, but have made only 6 to 8 inches growth.

The evergreens have nearly all lived, and have made a growth of from four to eight inches. All have done well. Nothing in the appearance of these trees to discourage the planting of evergreens in Kansas.

Transplanted trees of the same kinds as at Wilson, except cedar and cottonwood, were tried at Ellis; and notwithstanding that the hail storm of June 1, had greatly damaged them, the trees, with the exception of larch, chestnut, Norway spruce and Corsican pine, did remarkably well. A second trial of larch and chestnut, with better treatment in planting, and good cultivation would probably result in success. Osage orange promises well for hedge and timber. A memorandum made at Ellis, on the 23d of August, shows:

Planted Growing.	
Atlantic	74
Ash	110
Box elder	108
Catalpa	9
Chinese locust	9
Cypress	79
Elm	51
Lombardy poplar	50
White poplar	40
Silver maple	61
Tulip tree	10
Black walnut	54
Scotch pine	33
White pine	38
Austrian pine	24

At Pond Creek, certainly one of the most forbidding spots of the plains, the growth of some kinds of trees was very encouraging. Allantus, ash, box elder, catalpa, honey locust and osage orange did best. Elm and black walnut survived the summer, with moderate growth. Silver maple grew tolerably, but suffered somewhat in foliage from the winds. Chestnut, larch and most of the evergreens failed; but a few of the pines lived, and in another season will probably do much better. Lombardy and white poplars, and white and golden willows, made but feeble growth. In addition to great atmospheric aridity, the trees at Pond Creek had also the disadvantage of unfavorable soil.

IRRIGATION.

These experiments were all without irrigation. Not one drop of water was applied by human agency either before or after planting, except to soften the seeds or to puddle the roots of the trees as they were set out. The object was to test the possibility of growing trees and other plants depending only on the rain-fall, not because irrigation would not be beneficial, but because it would in many parts of the plains be difficult to apply, except at a cost beyond the means of the average settler. The leading interests of the plains will be cattle, horses and sheep; but it is deemed important to show that the settler may adorn his home with trees, and grow his timber, may fill his stock yard with nutritious fodder, and may raise all the grains and other food needed for his live stock and his family, without resort to costly processes of artificial watering.

As wealth shall increase, and population shall begin to equal the food production attainable with present modes of cultivation, we may expect that undesirable and irrigation will be largely brought into use, in all parts of the West now settled, in order to guard against failure of crops in any season; and when that day shall arrive, the same necessity for large and certain production will justify outlays to provide irrigation in many parts of the great plains. But in the meantime, each succeeding year will show that much more can be done without irrigation than has heretofore been believed possible.

When in June, 1870, the plow was first put in the ground at Wilson, there were but one or two settlers within sixteen miles of that point. But since that time many homesteads and pre-emption claims have been taken on public lands and land has been largely purchased of the railway company, even as far west as the Kansas City and Santa Fe railroads. In 1870, Dr. Lewis Wilson, having purchased for himself and associates five sections of land at Ellis, began to break prairie in April last, and raised corn, sorghum, Hungarian grass, broom corn, peanuts, pumpkins, squashes, melons, sweet potatoes, &c., with such success as to secure for products exhibited a special medal at the Kansas fair in September. Specimens of his produce, and also trees, grain, &c., from the trial farms of the railway company, attracted much attention at the St. Louis fair.

The "Frontier Farm" of Hon John H. Edwards, at Ellis, contributed to the splendid collection of agricultural products at the Kansas City exposition, held in October. No feature of that truly magnificent exposition drew more attention or elicited more favorable comment, than the products of the "Great American Desert."

It is now conceded, by those who have studied the climate and resources of the country, that it is practicable to grow remunerative crops, without resort to irrigation, as far west as Ellis, or 300 miles by rail west of Kansas City. Settlers in families and colonies are coming to possess the land. Already they have spread westward to a meridian which embraces 60,000 square miles of available Kansas lands. The increasing population of the United States assures us that this movement must go on until the frontier of Kansas shall meet that of Colorado. Without irrigation, or, if necessary, with it, the spread of settlements over the great plains, is only a question of time.—Missouri Republican.

BREVITIES.

A St. Louis minister charged \$300 for a first-rate funeral sermon.

According to the Richmond Dispatch the productions of Virginia have steadily decreased every year since the war.

In Minnesota recently a Coroner's jury declared a man to have been "severely frozen to death."

An unpoetical youth described his fiancée's hair as frizzled in front and frizzled and scrambled at the back.

The New York Mail says: As men part their hair in the middle, ladies have taken to wearing their's parted on the side.

"Ah!" mused Smith, as he contemplated his exact collection of New Year's gifts, "how true it is that in the midst of life we are in debt."

A colored preacher, in discouraging his people on the efficacy of earnest prayer, delivered himself in this manner: "Tell me, brethren, 'tis prayer that gibe de debil de locked jaw."

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