

Spreading the Gospel of Farm Beauty

By Wilhelm Miller

The University of Illinois is telling Rural People why trees and flowers and fine views add value to property.

NOBODY can afford to have bare and ugly home grounds. It is bad business. Of course we do not commonly take a business view of our homes; we think of home in terms of sentiment. For we all want the best there is in life, and we know we can raise better children if they have beautiful surroundings.

But, granting that we all have the best sentiment in the world, we cannot escape the business side. For instance, we all have to consider the cost of making a lawn, of fertilizing and planting.

Now, there are two ways of handling these practical matters, one of which gives little or no profit while the other gives very great profits. Of course you do not expect to make money out of your home—you expect to live in it—but the day will come when you or your children will wish to sell part or all of your property. And the buyer will look at everything you have done from the cold, unsympathetic viewpoint of hard-cash value. The man of wealth who indulges every personal whim, and makes an eccentric place, will lose a lot of money. On the other hand, if you leave your place bare, it may be absolutely unsalable when the time of need comes, or you will get less than it is worth. But, if your farm is sensibly planted, you can get a bigger profit for the money you put into trees and shrubs than for the same money spent on house, barn, or hogs. Then, old trees, that cost you nothing to plant, may bring you a millionaire buyer. Ten dollars spent on shrubs and vines planted against the foundation of your house may add \$100 to its cash selling value.

If you spend \$10 in the ordinary way of "beautifying the farm" you will get back not one single cent. If you spend it in the "Illinois way," you cannot help increasing the cash value or salability of your farm, because permanent trees are worth, for beauty alone, \$1 a square inch in cross section of their trunk three feet above the ground, and they increase in value every year.

The common way of planting is to scatter flower beds over a lawn. It aims to make the biggest show for the money and get immediate results. That is why beginners make fancy beds of complicated design and fill them with flowers which give great masses of striking color for three months or more.

But next winter those beds are vacant and ugly, and next spring the same work must be done, and every year there is a fresh outlay of money for the same thing. Soon the constant repetition of the work gets monotonous, and next we realize that the effect is gaudy, for our standards are constantly rising, and what we admired five years ago now seem in bad taste. It dawns on us that any beginner can put flower beds in the middle of the lawn, and that every beginner will try to make each dollar stand up on edge where everyone can see it. Thus, we come to hate show, and to care more for privacy, permanence, dignity, peace, restfulness, outdoor living, winter comfort, views, a playground for the children, old tree, cut-flowers in the house all the time, and low cost of maintenance. Why lose money by planting now what you will tear out five years hence, when you know better? Why not anticipate the growth of your own and everybody's good taste, so that you will waste no precious years, and your place will grow lovelier and more valuable every year?

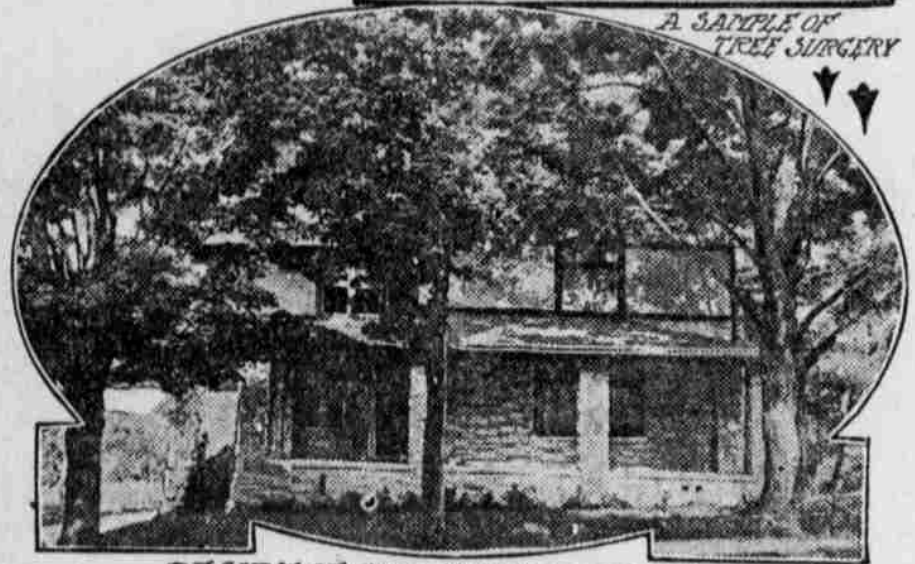
The right way is to use permanent plants, instead of temporary ones; and to place them where they will meet every practical need of the family, instead of scattering them for show. And the "Illinois way" is to meet all the outdoor needs of the family by having 90 per cent of the planting composed of trees and shrubs that grow wild in Illinois. Why Illinois trees? Because they are hardy, and therefore economical to maintain. We do not have to test their hardiness, since nature has adapted them to our conditions by experiments covering tens of thousands of years. Moreover, we want Illinois to look different from all the rest of the world, and to have a noble character of its own! The highest ideal that any farmer can realize is to have a profitable farm with permanent buildings and permanent planting, both of which are utterly different from those of Europe, and as full as possible of American and even of state character.

European farm houses are so different that you can usually tell simply from a picture whether they are German, French, Dutch, Italian, or Spanish. The English farmer often lives in a house of brick or stone which has sheltered his family for generations. In front of it stands a pair of oaks that have defied the storms of 300 to 500 years. The house is covered with ivy or with roses, which climb to the top of the red-tiled roof. The yard is surrounded by a hedge of hawthorn or of holly. The Englishman boasts that he loves his home more than any other man living, and points to the fact that the English language is the only one that has separate words for "house" and "home."

Every old state in America tends to have its own style of building and planting. Massachusetts is famous for her colonial, or Georgian houses, like the one in which Longfellow lived, with century-old elms sheltering the stately roof like



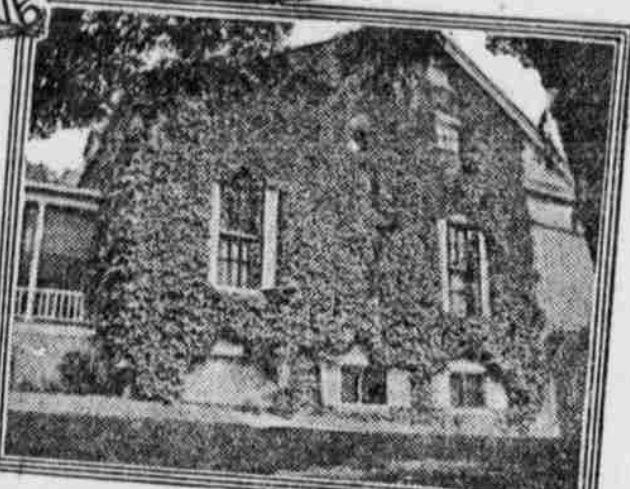
A SAMPLE OF TREE SURGERY



RESULT OF GOOD TREE PLANTING



THE BEAUTY OF WELL KEPT GROUNDS



BOSTON IVY AS A BEAUTIFIER

for they often hasten the decay of a roof by giving too much shade and moisture, to say nothing of making a home look melancholy, instead of joyous. The sugar and Norway maples are fine trees, but, like all round-headed trees, they tend to hide the view of a house more quickly than is commonly realized.

The ideal tree for framing the view of your house is one that will give enough sunlight and enough shade, enough shelter and enough cooling breeze, to keep a family healthy. The only tree that does all these things to perfection is the American elm—not the European. Moreover, a pair of elms will make a pointed or Gothic arch, suggesting high-roofed cathedrals and God's first temples. Unfortunately, the enemies of the elm are multiplying, and if you plant elms you must be willing to stand the expense of yearly spraying when the time comes. Be sure to specify vase-form elms. They are the only ones that make the Gothic arch, and are more valuable than the other types or straggling kinds.

A pair of oaks will last longer than elms and cost less to maintain. The oaks excel all other trees in nestling close to a house and making it look snug and comfortable. The common idea that oaks are slow growers and hard to transplant is true only of the white oak. The pin, the scarlet, and the red oaks are easily moved, and will soon overtake maples and other trees that are quicker at the start. They will last for centuries after the quick-growers are dead. Plant the trees that you know will make your property more valuable every year.

Soldiers Noisy Dreamers.

Landladies of London lodging houses near by the railroad terminals such as Victoria and Waterloo are becoming diffident about taking in soldiers just back from the front, particularly those who have participated in the fighting around Loos.

The landladies say the poor soldiers fight the terrible battles over again in their sleep and the shrieks and hysteria are enough to shake the strongest nerves.

Many of the men who took part in the engagement are afflicted with the most horrible of dreams and somnambulistically slash and kill, to the terror of all the other lodgers.

Figures are unobtainable, but the cases of nervous breakdowns during the last few weeks have reached a high figure.

Even officers have been affected, and men who have stood up under the strain since the early days of the war say that the sights during the recent offensive are too terrible for mention.

Souvenir Grenade Killed Boy.

A soldier had a tragic home coming at Boulogne-sur-Seine, France, recently. His grandson, five years old, was examining some souvenirs of the trenches which he had brought with him, when a loud explosion occurred. The boy was killed and his grand-uncle sustained severe injuries. The explosion was caused by a German grenade.

Degrees of Insanity.

"What's the difference between a futurist painter and a post-impressionist?"
"Not being an expert alienist, I can't answer that question."

How Can He?

Social Worker—Do you obey the Bible injunction to love your neighbor?
Freshman—I try to, but she won't let me.—Cornell Widow.

Eye to Utility.

"I want a pair of pants."
"Something in rough goods or smooth?"
"Rough, I reckon. I find it handier to scratch matches on."

Isn't Maud Mercenary?

Maud—Would you marry for money?
Ethel—Not I. I want brains.
Maud—You certainly do if you wouldn't marry for money.

IN THE LIMELIGHT

BUT OAKLEY IS NO SAVAGE



As a rule, the man who becomes a member of congress first gets his name up while occupying some other office. The rule applies to P. Davis Oakley of Hartford, Conn. Oakley made a reputation for himself as president of the American Association of Baldheaded Men. The organization, while national in its scope, usually held its annual meetings in Connecticut, and Oakley made speeches at these gatherings which could not fail to impress one and all with his mastery of the spoken word.

In addition to heading the baldheads of America, Oakley has served as alderman in Hartford and as a member of the school board.

One feature of Oakley's speeches which has helped to popularize them, and him in Connecticut is their brevity.

In addition to not having as many opportunities for making after-dinner speeches as he would like, Oakley's life has been marred somewhat by the fact that he is always being thrown where he is obliged to listen to music—and he was born without the slightest sense of tonal harmony. Music may soothe the savage, but Oakley is no savage, and it merely annoys and distracts him. What is music to anybody else is to Oakley only a systematic distribution of needless noise. He dislikes it all from lullaby to oratorio, and from ragtime to dirge.

QUIT MAKING SPEECHES? NEVER

Senator Martine of New Jersey dotes on making speeches. He is free to say that he would much prefer to abandon almost any other vice he has rather than speechmaking. Last summer Martine was one of a number of members of congress who went on a journey to Hawaii. Part of their entertainment there consisted of an initiation into a so-called Order of Hawaiian Chiefs. This initiation, which was held on a lonely island, reserved for that purpose, was a good deal like joining a college fraternity. Dignified congressmen wore no clothes except a modish skirt made of grass, and were put through various amusing capers. One feature of the exercises was an electric mat on which great men were laid full length, with hands and feet tied, and blindfolded. Then the electric current was turned on and all manner of grave promises were exacted from the victims. Uncle Joe Cannon, Congressman McKinley, Senator Martine and various other comedians were among the number.

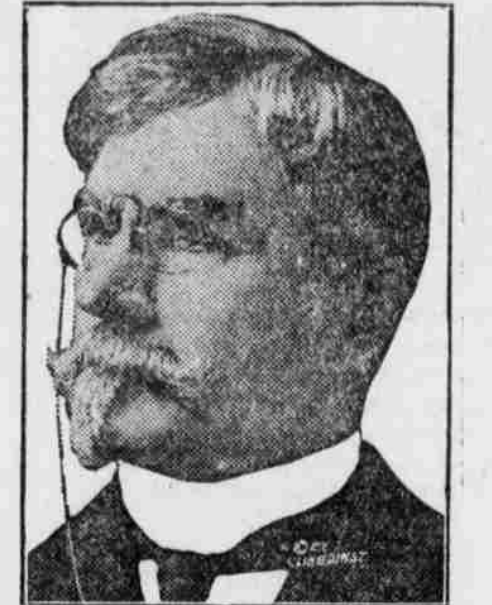
McKinley was ordered to promise that he would stump the country for Theodore Roosevelt in 1916. At first McKinley was inclined to demur at this, but they turned on the 'tricity and he promptly agreed to do as he was asked. Uncle Joe Cannon refused to pledge himself to support the Democratic tariff policies.

"Never," he insisted. They increased the flow of electrical current and he hastened to shout, "I promise!"

The next man was Martine. They bade him to enter into a covenant never again to make a speech in the United States senate.

"Nuh, nuh, nuh!" exclaimed Martine, excitedly. "I'll never promise that." They gave him a series of severe electrical shocks. But Martine was firm.

Nor would all the electricity at the disposal of his tormentors move him from his purpose.



HE DISAPPOINTS MANY



Dr. Harry C. Frankenfield, one of the chief forecasters of the weather bureau, is a member of the National Aero club. In spite of the fact that throughout the entire country eighty-five out of the hundred forecasts of the weather are correct, it is generally believed that Doctor Frankenfield has in his prognostications disappointed more persons than anyone else in the United States, but the fact remains the weather bureau saves the country at least \$100,000,000 annually and that he is known throughout the world as one of its greatest meteorologists.

The variability of weather conditions is one of the stumbling blocks of aerial navigation, and a comprehensive study of its fickle laws is necessary to every flier, but particularly to the one who must fly over the sea. Hence it is easy to see why Admiral Peary wanted Doctor Frankenfield on the commission. John Hays Hammond, Jr., the first advocate of the aerial coast patrol for all coasts, is young but well known. Possibly above all others he has obtained control by electricity without wire connection of objects detached and distant from the source of the current's discharge. His boat controlled from the shore without pilot or crew, his aerial torpedo and other activities are new war factors which may revolutionize military methods.

TEACHES BOYS WAR GAME

Washington has a unique "preparedness" feature in the school which has recently been started for officers of the High School Cadet regiments. Lieut. E. Z. Steever, U. S. A., who is the voluntary instructor, is careful to keep all thought of war in the background, as far as possible, in teaching the boys, yet the lessons which they are learning are such as will better qualify them to "do their bit" for their homes in case the need ever arises. At present the work is along theoretical lines, conducting imaginary troops over large maps; later practical work is to be done in the field.

Boys who have "played" the "map game" are enthusiastic over it. They claim it is more interesting than checkers, chess or cards. Withal, they are learning something; not how to be militarists, but how to be resourceful; how to be logical and how to act promptly. Lieutenant Steever is also enthusiastic. Not only is he greatly interested in boys as boys, but he was himself a member of the High School Cadet organization of Washington.

