

DESIGNATED DEPOSITARY OF THE UNITED STATES.

National Bank of the Republic OF CHICAGO.

CAPITAL, ONE MILLION DOLLARS.

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W. T. FENTON, Vice President and Cashier.

R. M. MCKINNEY, 2d Asst. Cashier.

FORESTRY AS AN INVESTMENT.

EDITOR CONSERVATIVE:

In THE CONSERVATIVE of July 26, Mr. C. T. Robinson of Pawnee City, Nebraska writes of his forty-acre post farm.

Had Mr. Robinson started out to grow sawing timber, he would now be receiving an income far beyond what his post farm brings him.

Taking his own estimates, supposing all to have been catalpas, his forty acres would by this time have at 7x7 feet, 26,664 first class post trees with at least ten posts each, worth much more than his four-inch posts; say \$5,332.80, while the 8,888 permanent trees left 14x14 feet apart, would at this time be worth ten times as much as his fence posts are now valued at.

Had he planned for cross-ties, they would now be worth \$26,664 in addition to the sale of posts as above.

It is utterly impossible for 2,700 catalpa trees to thrive on an acre of land only 16 sq. ft. per tree. They will live, but cannot increase in size until nature, after years of struggle, kills out the weaker, giving room for the stronger to finally get a start.

If friend Robinson or the hundreds of your noble men who have been planting trees 4x4 feet through a mistaken idea that they could develop at that distance, would consider the root system of a tree, how much water it requires to form the wood growth, how much food is demanded, they would see that 16 sq. ft. or even 36 sq. ft. of 6x6 feet will not support a tree after it is eight years old.

I dug a tree on Governor Furnas' place, a four-year old catalpa. The length of root which ranged from 1 to 4 inches in diameter was 104½ feet. At four years old it occupied entirely 100 square feet of ground, filling every portion of that space with fibrous roots. But it had grown to a height of 24 feet, with a diameter of five inches. At four years old it was much larger than farmer Robinson's trees at fifteen years' growth, which were thickly planted.

This is the most important feature of forest planting. The great Farlington, Kansas, plantation, 1,200 acres of catalpas, is another and most complete failure. 10,000 fence posts have been taken from it worth probably \$1,000.00, while if it had been properly thinned



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ten or twelve years ago it would now be supplying cross-ties by the hundred thousand.

The farmers who would try to keep ten hogs having only food for one, would not get rich by the operation.

From 7 to 8 feet each way for the first ten years, and 14 to 16 feet afterwards, is as close as trees should be grown if success is desired.

Yours truly,

JOHN P. BROWN.

Connersville, Ind.

MR. CAFFERY'S DECLINATION.

In declining to stand as an independent candidate for the Presidency, Senator Caffery in effect lends the weight of his influence to McKinley. Like J. Sterling Morton and many other gold-standard anti-imperialists, he regards Bryanism as so much the greater of the two evils as to make the re-election of

Mr. McKinley decidedly to be preferred. This was the substance of an authorized interview with Mr. Caffery in these dispatches some months ago, of which his present declination is but a logical sequence. As a Southern man, with strong democratic leanings, this preference is significant, and will be of considerable service in influencing doubtful voters.—N. Y. Evening Post.

H. W. Johns Manufacturing Company, 100 Williams Street, New York City, recently secured a contract from the Pittsburg Plate Glass Co., Ford City, Pa., for furnishing and applying their Asbestos Fire Felt Covering for their factory No. 3, in which plant they are now installing twelve new boilers and the necessary steam pipes. The contract in question will amount to over \$2,000.