

A MERE RIDING WHIP.

On Wednesday, the 8th day of May, 1901, it was the pleasure of THE CONSERVATIVE to accept a joint invitation with Governor Furnas, to ride with Professor Hartley from Lincoln to his beautiful, well-systematized, well-cultivated orchards of 200 acres of cherry, plum and apple trees, three and one-half miles northwest from that city. We arrived on the ground at 5 o'clock in the afternoon and drove hurriedly through the avenues and winding roads that adorn the estate. There never have been any cherry, or plum, or apple orchards better conceived or more intelligently planted, pruned and cultivated, in this commonwealth. But Governor Furnas has promised to write up the orchards, and therefore THE CONSERVATIVE will give only the biography of an early "switch" which has played a prominent part in the utility department of the Hartley estate.

Twenty-seven years ago this spring, the respected and worthy father of the present Mr. Hartley, Senior, was riding a lazy horse. Twenty miles below Lincoln, he alighted and cut off a willow switch with which to stimulate the aforesaid equine to greater celerity of movement. This switch was vigorously applied as a power and speed generator, until at last Mr. Hartley arrived at the farm where the orchards are now growing. Alighting, he jocularly said that he thought he would plant that switch near the well and so pushed it into the ground, not believing that it would really take root and flourish after the numerous flagellations it had inflicted upon the indolent horse. Nevertheless, in a few days it was discovered to be putting out new buds and, in a little while, twigs and limbs made their appearance.

Years passed by and the senior Hartley had passed on to another life, when a tenant informed the present owner that the willow tree roots were destroying the well, that they had already broken into the well and were filling up the water receptacle so as to soon make it useless, unless the tree was cut down and destroyed. Reluctantly, the present Mr. Hartley consented to the destruction of the tree. But, with a reverent and affectionate memory of his father, he made the tree into stakes and cuttings and replanted the same by driving them along the banks of a little stream on the property. The years have demonstrated, that even willow sticks driven into the soil of Nebraska, where it has been properly moistened, may grow into great forest trees; and thus in this ride, Governor Furnas and party were in the shade of as beautiful and graceful willows as have ever adorned any homestead in the state.

During the last ten years, we were

credibly informed, this willow forest has contributed a large proportion of the fuel for the tenant's house, and there is more timber in the willow arboretum today, than there ever was before.

THE CONSERVATIVE has seldom seen trees so suggestive of thoughts, as the willows which have grown from the riding switch of Mr. Hartley's father. His act of planting the same, twenty-seven years ago, has reached down into another generation of men. It has given them shade in summer, and shelter and fuel in winter, and yet this great beneficence came from the simple act of planting a willow riding whip. Nothing has come under our observation in a long time, so usefully and pertinently practical, and resulting from so trivial an act as that switch-planting. The possibilities, looking into the future—which is without end, so far as human ken goeth—the influences and bestowals of happiness and usefulness, of that riding whip, are beyond computation. The human mind is not capable of summing up, indexing, cataloging, or in any way forecasting the innumerable benefits which may come to mankind from the riding whip thus planted a generation ago.

DECLINE AND ADVANCE.

THE CONSERVATIVE calls the attention of the fault-finders, populists and vagarists generally, in the United States to the fact that the railroads of this republic are constantly receiving less per ton per mile for transportation, while their employees are as constantly receiving advances in wages. The people of the United States should bear in mind the fact that they are getting the cheapest passenger and freight transportation in the whole world, while the men who make up the labor, providing that transportation, the railroad employees of this country, are paid higher wages for the work they perform than any other railroad men on the face of the globe.

The New Republic and Patriot is a much more efficient organ of the prohibitionists of Nebraska than they have ever before established in this state. THE CONSERVATIVE wonders why those extreme temperance advocates do not enforce the Slocum law in this commonwealth? The Slocum law, enforced rigidly and to the very letter, would make prohibition laws and constitutional amendments unnecessary. The enforcement of the laws we have is a matter much more vital than the making of new

laws, with which to experiment. Public sentiment must be for, a law by a large majority, or the law cannot be put into vigor. No statute can be enforced which a great majority disbelieves in and antagonizes in practical life.

COST OF TREE PLANTING.

NEBRASKA CITY, May 10, 1901.

EDITOR CONSERVATIVE:

As per your request, I take pleasure in submitting the cost of planting trees by the Standard Cattle Co., of Ames, Dodge county, Nebraska. They planted fifteen thousand, two hundred and twenty trees this season. The cost in labor per tree was sixty-six one-hundredths of a cent per tree. The value of the tree can be very closely estimated from trees converted into fence posts by the company this season. They cut one thousand eight hundred and nineteen fence posts from trees planted ten years ago, averaging three posts per tree of seven feet. The company, being heavy buyers of that commodity, it thus behooves them to raise their own fence posts. One acre containing six hundred and eighty trees will, in ten years, produce two thousand and forty posts, at seven cents per post. Market value one hundred and forty-two dollars and eighty cents; tops and limbs will make five cords of wood worth \$2.00 per cord. Estimating land at \$50.00 per acre; rent at \$6.00 per acre for ten years; cost of trees and planting \$109.00 for the ten years, leaving a profit, above the rental, of thirty-four dollars, besides the incalculable benefits derived from climatic changes, caused by the trees, during growth and maturity. I remain,

Yours very truly,

H. N. SHUMAN.

WILL SHUT DOWN FOR ENLARGEMENT.

First announcements of a recent action of the starch trust made it look a little compromising for J. Sterling Morton, and by that token it doubtless gave a temporary exhilaration to Editor Bryan and ex-Attorney General Smyth. The announcement set forth that all factories, including the one at Nebraska City, would be closed for a few months. This looked bad for the laborers employed, but now comes another statement that that particular institution will keep all hands and employ more, for the purpose of making improvements. Whether the trust will increase prices during the shut down, so as to make expenses and a profit notwithstanding, remains to be seen. If it does, the eminent gentleman who inveighed last year so bitterly against Mr. Morton's starch works, will have occasion to do a little more cackling.—Fremont Tribune.