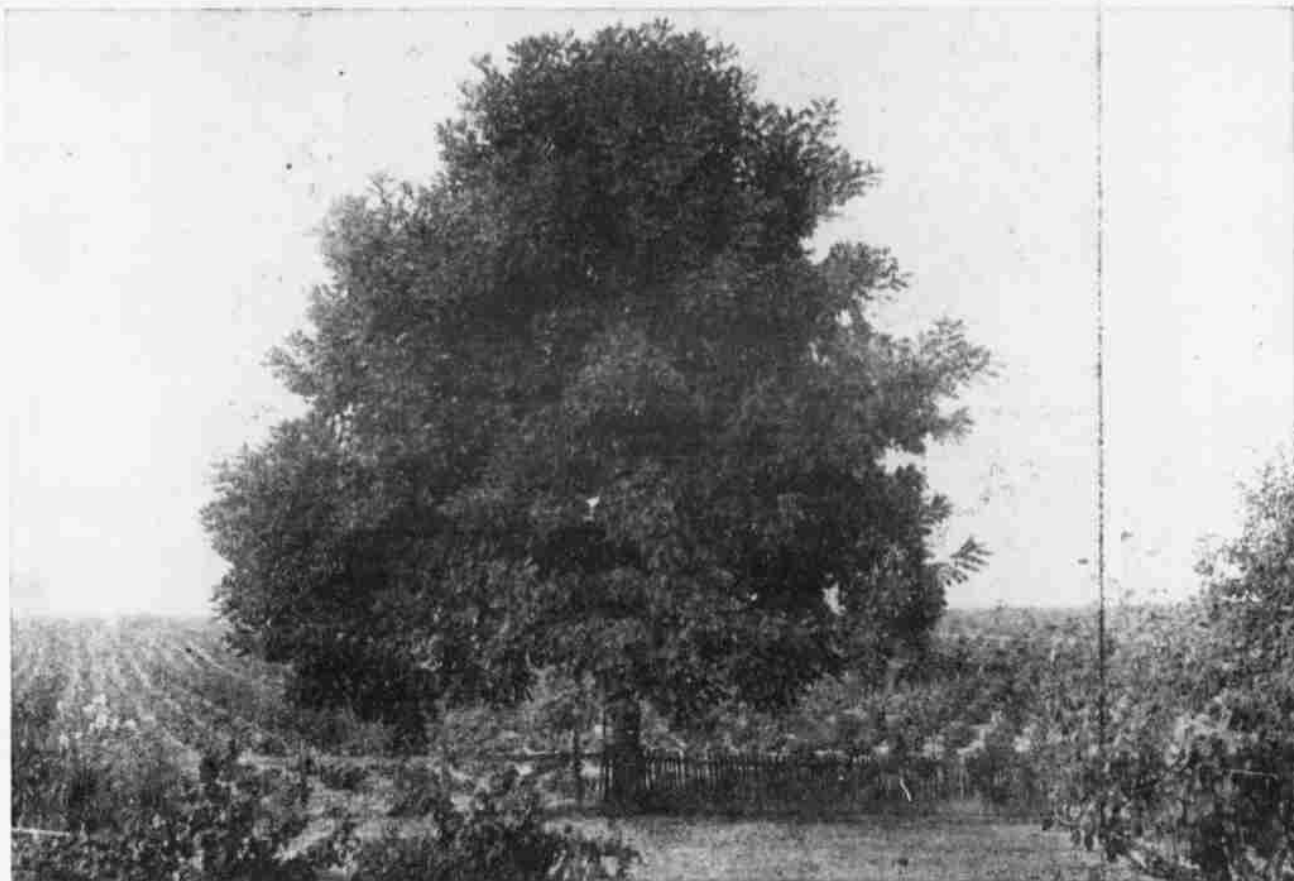


A Thirty-Six Inch Walnut Tree in Twelve Years' Time



The Burbank Royal Walnut

TO THE breeder of new plants all things seem possible.

It is not alone that he can create new flavors in fruits—he can lengthen their bearing season more nearly to correspond with the market for them; it is not alone that he can add scent and size and color to flowers—he can fit them to grow in soils in which they never before have grown; it is not alone that he can add to the food value and improve the taste of vegetables—he can make them ripen earlier or later, almost at will.

Doing these things constantly, it appeared to Luther Burbank that the walnut tree, America's most valuable lumber tree, had a different kind of fault—that it took too long to mature.

So he set about to devise means of hastening its growth.

His plan was, by cross breeding, to produce thousands of new walnut trees and from these to select, ever and always, those that showed the greatest tendency to quick growth.

After many experiments, by joining together the native California black walnut and the old-fashioned New England black walnut, Mr. Burbank produced the new hybrid, or cross breed, shown above, which he named the Royal.

This tree had a thirty-six-inch girth when twelve years old.

At seventeen years after planting from the seed it looked as shown above.

It was eighty feet in height. Its branches spread fully seventy-five feet.

And the trunk was over seventy-two inches in girth at the height of a man's head.

The walnut tree as Nature planned it is slow to grow. At thirty-five years it will stand scarcely more than twenty feet high with an eighteen-inch girth.

Thus it will be seen that by simple cross breeding and selection Luther Burbank has produced a walnut tree which grows eight times as fast as the walnut trees which Nature gives us—a quick-growing walnut with which to replenish our fast disappearing forests.

On the following page is shown an illustration of the finished lumber of the Burbank Royal walnut—more like mahogany than any other North American wood.