

FOREST PLANTATIONS SUCCESSFUL

E. P. WILCOX OF STANFORDVILLE MAKES HIS WASTE LAND PRODUCTIVE.

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In several recent issues of the Dutchess County Farm Bureau News, brief articles have appeared with reference to the forest plantations on the farm of F. P. Wilcox near LaFayette in the Town of Milan.

A better demonstration of the profitable use of waste land will be difficult to find. Hillsides and more or less rolling stretches of poor soils that are full of stones and rock outcrops comprise much

growth made by the trees has so encouraged Mr. Wilcox that he has continued his planting operations almost every year since. To the present time over 50,000 trees have been planted. Nor is the work completed.

Considerable areas still remain that are to be reforested. When these are completed, the farm will be a most excellent example of the correct use of land; agricultural land

2 to 6 feet high, in thrifty condition and just reaching the stage of most rapid growth.

There have been scarcely any losses. The fungus and insect pests inclined to trouble white pine have caused but very slight damage. A few trees only have been attacked by the white pine weevil. The plantations of Red pine and Scotch pine are perfect. The black locust, a tree that cannot be planted in many localities because of an insect known as the locust borer, averages 10 to 12 feet in height, with scarcely a failure. In another five years the owner can begin to cut posts, and the almost everlasting quality of this wood will soon make the fence post problem on this farm a thing of the past.

From another angle the entire proposition is even more attractive. To reforest costs but from \$10 to \$15 per acre, including both trees and labor. Once planted, no future care beyond an occasional inspection is required. The satisfaction of knowing that your land is producing, of watching a crop of trees grow more valuable year after year, and of remembering that all of this results from only a small initial outlay of time and money, is a feeling that every owner of waste land can and should have.

The common argument that trees take so long to mature avails little. It will take 40 or 50 years to grow trees to maturity. That is admitted. But waste and idle land produces nothing. Once planted to trees, land immediately assumes an increased value. Furthermore is it not worth while to place land in a condition so that fifty years in the future it will be covered with a growth worth \$400 to \$500 per acre?

Mr. Wilcox says, "I believe in the long run that this work is a profitable investment. The bare land on which I planted this stock was practically worthless. If the timber was mature today it would be worth three hundred dollars per acre with no knowing what it will be worth by the time the trees are mature. The investment at the outset is comparatively small and if one is not afraid of a long time investment and wants to build up a substantial property for the benefit of his children I do not believe that there is any better method than to make the investment in seedling forest trees and plant them out now."

Forest planting is an experiment no longer. Actual proof of what can be done is on the ground. Mr. Wilcox will be glad to show his plantations at any time. If one feels skeptical regarding such a venture it will pay well to inspect the results of his work.

The establishing of a forest plantation is not difficult. The Dutchess County Farm Bureau and the Department of

Forestry at the New York State College of Agriculture at Ithaca, are at your service at any time. A representative of the latter is usually available to examine land, to advise on all details of securing and planting trees, and so far as time permits to actually help in superintending the planting.

There are few farms in Dutchess County without their share of waste land. A pine forest in Dutchess County, on the other hand, is almost unknown. Why not make a start this spring? The sooner you make the plantation, the sooner will your waste land be producing, and just so much sooner will you have the satisfaction of seeing the bare, brown hillsides converted into stretches of green woods.



IN NEED OF FOREST PLANTING

There are estimated to be two hundred square miles of land in Dutchess County better adapted to forestry than to farming.

The photograph taken in the town of Hyde Park shows a typical view. Every town has land of this character. Much of it has been in fields but is now in brush.

of the Wilcox farm. For pasturage such land is of low value. For tillage its use is out of the question.

To put all of his land at work was the owner's problem when the farm was acquired, and in 1911 he started to reforest those areas that were obviously adapted only to timber growing. The various pines, red, white, and Scotch were used.

This work was continued in 1914 when 10,000 more trees were planted, including 4,000 black locusts. The complete success attending his efforts and the rapid

being tilled and in orchards, pasture lands used for grazing, and the remainder, too rough for either of the above, covered with young forests of evergreens and hardwoods.

An inspection in company with the owner was made of this property during the first part of November by the writer, who has been in close touch with the planting operations since 1916. The pines set out in 1911 are now from 12 to 15 feet in height. The others are from

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