

Horticulture
and its relation to
Agriculture

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By the majority of the reading public and especially the farming class the word Horticulture has a very peculiar meaning. When one speaks of Horticulture to an ordinary farmer he immediately thinks of a large amount of money to be spent, years of toil and so far as he can see no pay for his hard days work. But by looking over the history of various industries I find that Horticulture is as old if not older than Agriculture.

As man developed from his barbarous state and formed a more social state we find him improving those things which he can most easily use and that will add most to his support. Then is it any wonder that among the old records we should find Horticulture so well developed? Man's physical conditions made it impossible to compete with the larger animals and exist so he had to turn over the forests to the wild beasts and settle down to a more peaceful and higher occupation. It is not surprising either to see him cultivating those things which would yield directly to his wants and this is what he obtained when he began to cultivate

the fruits of nature.

Horticulture is of great importance to man because it supplies him with a cheap food. Most fruits may be eaten as it is gathered ~~and~~ without further labor being expended upon it, and this perhaps accounts for its early development by man.

In primitive times he had none of the modern machinery with which to grind his wheat or corn nor a modern or an ideal electric stove on which to cook.

To the present generation of men horticulture has no less importance than it had to the primitive man. The man of today, it is true, has all the equipments with which to cope with nature and to turn his products into articles of utility. With all these he does not see fit to discard his fruit for his animal flesh, but he is more inclined to press his fruits farther to the front and depend less and less upon his animal products.

There exists today a society of people and they are quite strong too,

who think that it is wrong to eat any flesh, that it is detrimental to men's health and no doubt they have very good reasons for thinking so and can find plenty of instances where too much meat has injured the health.

Fruit has been found to contain many useful medicines. The acids of fruit are so essential to health that sailors will not go to sea without a sufficient amount on board.

The benefits of fruit to man has been almost beyond value and yet its value to a country should not be overlooked. A country which has the reputation of being a large fruit country, the reputation of a country "flowing with milk and honey" is always a thickly populated district. Here in this place we find the best educated people of the land. In these districts we find people who take the most prominent part in all the affairs of the country, people who have time to think, time for pleasure and recreation which is not afforded

by some other occupations. The wealth of a country is judged largely by those who pass through it by the amount of improvements put upon the land. In looking for these improvements he does not look for large houses or barns or fields but he looks more especially to the well arranged, well kept place with their orchards and the more homelike places.

No matter how rich the land may be or how much a man has made off his land, if he only has a few scattering shade trees, a few neglected fruit trees it does not afford an attractive appearance which would draw a buyer. It would on the other hand tend to turn him away and give him the impression of a poor wornout ground. If on the other hand this place is well supplied with fruit which is kept in good shape, and a good liberal supply of shade, it will make things have a clean refreshing appearance and will make one feel as if it is a place of prosperity and a most

desirable place to live. This kind of a place one might say would add indefinitely to the value of the county.

A place with a good orchard is considered by all "a thing of beauty and a joy forever."

It adds to one's place nearly double its original value. This not only means a better price for the one place but it will add to all the neighboring country. If we will look at land where fruit is largely grown we find it worth two or three times as much as land which is as good but has not yet had its fruiting qualities developed. We find examples of this in parts of California, Wisconsin and Florida.

Many places in this country have as good facilities for raising fruit as these and only remain to be opened up.

Horticulture undoubtedly adds greatly to the value of the land and yet this is not its greatest mission for it adds still greater to the benefits of man.

One can easily see that without the various fruits man would be at a loss for from them come the largest

part of his food but it has a no less mission as a resource for money.

Since our population has grown so large and more land is being called for, it has become quite a problem how one can work the dry fruitless part of the country and make a living.

Irrigation was perhaps used in dry parts of the old world many years ago, but as the mad rush for wealth became the chief aim of man he thought little of tending his small acreage well but rather he wanted a large field and as his fields grew in size he lost his knowledge of irrigation and it gradually fell into disuse. Man has now commenced to realize his mistake and is trying to undo his passed work and is endeavoring to reestablish the art of irrigation. He has once more realized that a large acreage of weeds is much inferior to a small well tended field. When he is fully convinced of the fact and realizes that his future does not lay in amount but quality

who knows what the western part of our great state will then be? It might be one garden spot.

While Horticulture may be pursued by itself it is usually carried on in connection with Agriculture. Agriculture, curious to say, is the pursuit of the poorly educated rather than those of the better educated class and they are also poorer financially. Farmers consequently think themselves a poor down trodden lot and to further help things along they always picture the dark side of their life. I admit that there is much hard work connected with farming but where is the occupation that requires no hard work? Is there not much at the clerks desk and especially in a close room on a warm day? Does not the mechanic have to stay at his bench whether warm or not? The merchant can not close his store or sit down when he is warm or tired but he must be right there at his work whether he wishes to or not and above all he must have

as much patience as "Job" to endure the many trying ordeals to which he is subjected by that class of people who are always looking but never buying.

But can we say that the farmer can leave his work whenever he pleases. Most certainly not. This is what is the matter with too many of our farmers now. They have ridden their privileges until they are on the verge of failure.

They must tend to their work the same as the merchant but they are not like him. The farmer may arrange his work so as not to be out of the breeze or may plan so as to rest during the heat of the day and more than that he is not bothered with some one pulling over his goods to see what he has. If office work is not more wearing on a person than the farm why is it that it is thought so necessary for clerks to take a month's outing in the heat of the summer?

Who ever heard of a farmer taking his gun and going to the mountains to rest up and gain gain strength for

the ensuing year?

Although the farmer does not necessarily need this vacation, yet his work may become very monotonous and a change would undoubtedly give him great pleasure. Would not Horticulture if interwoven in a sensible manner with his other work give him this change? Would it not furnish him a change of thought? There is a ready market for fruit and as it scarcely ever fails it would not only yield him a source of pleasure and recreation, but also a source of profit and often a very large profit for the money and labor expended. It is an undisputed fact that it not only adds to the value of a place but it also adds to its beauty. What is more beautiful than a tree white with blossoms or red with fruit? Can anything make a place look more beautiful more homelike than a nice large grove around a house with its cool refreshing shade in summer and its windbreak in the winter with a good well kept orchard back of it?

Carl Snyder.