

The Importance of Shelter Belts in Farming.

Several articles on this subject have appeared in the *Farmer and Grazier* from time to time, but the matter is of sufficient importance to once more bring it under the notice of our readers. The stock-breeder should recognise these belts as an absolute necessity, more especially in the hot weather, when they afford a harbour of refuge from the heat, and to a certain extent from the torture caused by troublesome flies.

There are other aspects as well in which shelter belts are beneficial. According to a bulletin issued by the United States Government, they are invaluable in protecting crops from the damage frequently resulting from the full force of hot destructive winds. They also help to conserve the moisture so essential to crop growing in a climate like ours. It has been proved that wind is a great help to evaporation as its velocity increases, evaporation is rapidly augmented. Shelter belts in breaking the wind effectively retard evaporation, and thereby save to growing crops the soil moisture necessary to keep them thrifty during dry, windy times. These facts are especially pertinent in a treeless, level, agricultural country, where the wind has an unobstructed sweep for miles, and gets constantly drier in its course.

If tree planting is done judiciously in districts where natural timbers are scarce, there is the further advantage of having the necessary timber needed on the farm at hand. The various uses of the shelter belts will go hand in hand and between them will materially improve the value of the land and the comfort of the farmer and his stock.

Acetylene.

When the Chinese Prince sets to work to write a testimonial, he uses no grudging phraseology. The following is the testimony of Prince Na Ching-Wang, of Peking, to the merits of acetylene. It is published in *Acetylene*, the journal devoted to that form of illuminant. 'Wei-lin-shih (Mr. Williams) has introduced a new system of shui-yuch-tien (acetylene), which is excellent, satisfactory, and comfortable. Without the use of kerosene oil, candles, coal, or electricity, he can make a light which is of greater brightness than the noon. The new light was fitted up last year in Na-Wang Palace, and up

till now proved very satisfactory. When it gets dark one lights the lights (lamps), and the room is just as bright as if it was still daylight. There is no danger connected with the light, and no explosion need be feared. Of all new inventions acetylene is the best.' The inventions of the West are evidently making headway in China, but may it be long before the charmingly effusive diction of the Oriental is toned down to the dull level of European commercial correspondence!

Further Light on Real Morocco.

As we noted at the time, a firm in the furniture trade has lately had the hardihood to make a plea for "real Morocco leather." It is now established beyond question, by the authority of a letter from our Consulate at Tangiers, that comparatively little of what is sold as Morocco leather comes from Morocco. Only 65 cwt. were exported from Tangiers in 1905. This was to supply the whole world!

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NOTE.—**HOLIDAY EXCURSION TICKETS** issued at any station between Te Aro and Masterton, inclusive, to any station between Te Aro and Masterton, inclusive, **WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE** by the Te Aro-Napier and Napier-Te Aro Mail Trains on 3rd JUNE, either on the Outward or Return journey. Passengers holding such tickets must travel by the trains leaving Wellington at 4.45 or 9.6 a.m., and Masterton at 4.15 or 5.30 p.m.

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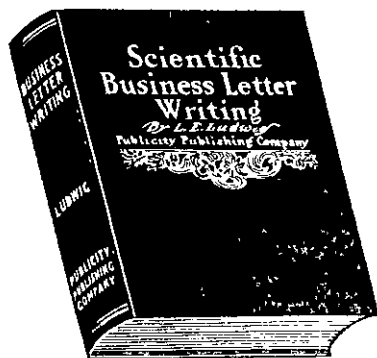
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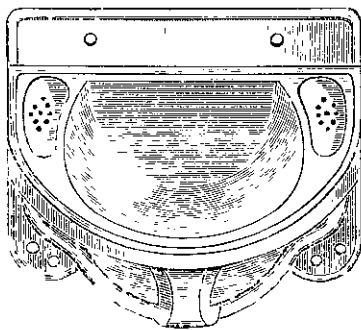
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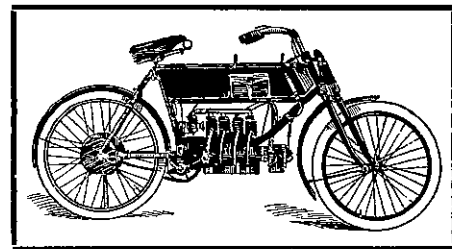
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