

A TOWN FOREST COMPETITION



AUGUST IN THE PERMANENT CAMP.

noisy crested flycatcher, that diverting Wild Irishman among the birds, is dominant; and the waxen cups of the sweet-bays empty their faint, delicious fragrance into the morning mist above the lake. So far, on account of the babies, we have sought fair weather; but even so, many a gray day of blustering rain has caught us; and "Father," splashing through the mud at nightfall, with shining face, has found us snug and safe. And, as they grow older, we mean to pass on to them our own love of the good earth in all weathers. The woods are never bankrupt, even in December. They always keep something in store. Some of the months flaunt their gifts, some love to hide their special treasures for us to hunt for; but none comes ill-provided. We have learned to name each month for its unique delight, and through the happy outdoor lessons that Nature, with her woods and streams and changing seasons, has taught us, we have learned far deeper and more wonderful truths than any school-books could hold.

HOW ONE STATE IS ENCOURAGING TOWN FORESTS

UNDER the new Town Forest Law recently passed in Massachusetts, cities and towns may own and operate forests of their own. It is to encourage the movement in this direction that the Massachusetts Forestry Association is offering to plant 60,000 three-year-old white pine transplants on fifty acres of the land acquired for the town forest, of the city or town that wins the prize. The young trees will be spaced six feet apart.

In order to enter the contest, a municipality must own and set aside at least 100 acres, under the new Town Forest Law, and fifty acres of that area must be planted to forest trees. In Massachusetts the white pine is the best commercial species, and most of the places entering the contest will plant white pine.

A committee appointed by the Association to judge the contest will visit all the forests. It will determine the standing of the contestants on the area acquired, the amount of planting done, the quality of the trees planted, extension provisions, advantages for lumbering, and water and soil protection, fire protection, recreation and æsthetic possibilities, and general improvements. Appropriate scores are allowed on each point. As a result of the requirements, the city or town having the best possibilities for a permanent and efficient town forest wins the prize. At least ten entries must be made before the prize will be awarded. The contest opened June 1, 1914, and will close June 1, 1915. This allows for fall and spring planting.

When we consider the splendid advantages which a town forest will bring to a city or town, and the small outlay required to start such a forest and to maintain it, we should expect to hear of many places entering this public-spirited contest. They have nothing to lose and much to gain.

Many places already own considerable areas on their water-sheds to protect their drinking water from pollution. They could do nothing better than to plant these areas to trees. Besides getting the best protection for their water supply, they will be growing a crop of timber. It is to be hoped that many cities and towns will avail themselves of this opportunity to beautify their surroundings and conserve their resources. Is not the idea worth carrying out in other States also?—From *The American City*.