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SHELTER-BELTS AND HEDGES AT RUAKURA.

THE EXPERIENCE OF TWENTY YEARS.

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NOW that the Ruakura Farm of Instruction has been established for almost twenty years, it is possible to give some valuable information regarding the various shelter-belts and hedges planted during the early years of development. Fortunately, in the first place, the trees in these belts were well selected and planted in proper order, and since then have been well cared for. In every case wire fences protecting the trees from live-stock were erected, and have since been kept in sound repair. The planting and cutting-out later of nurse-trees is another factor which certainly has had a great influence over the present excellent state of these shelter-belts.

Those who have had experience in the growing of trees on wind-swept areas fully appreciate the value of quick-growing nurse-trees. They protect the slower-growing and more permanent trees from strong winds, draw them up straighter, and encourage more rapid growth. On the other hand, nurse-trees must not be allowed to remain too long in the shelters, and thinning-out is work which must be attended to at the right time. Many properly planted shelter-belts are ruined by allowing nurse-trees to remain too long. They