

P.C.O.B.

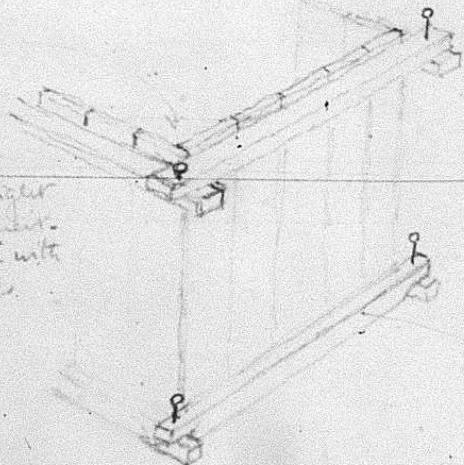
FEB 4, 1911.

Dear Dawson:

I think you ought to have some hammering experiments tried on different available species, at several seasons, beginning at once, using two different methods on each.

1st method. Solid ball. Make square box sides of sheet steel stiffened by angles set vertical \rightarrow with a cross stiffener at the top and with bolts to hold them together at the corners in a box. Might be made just about as well perhaps of wood.

Other two corners might be permanently framed with corner braces on top.



Section

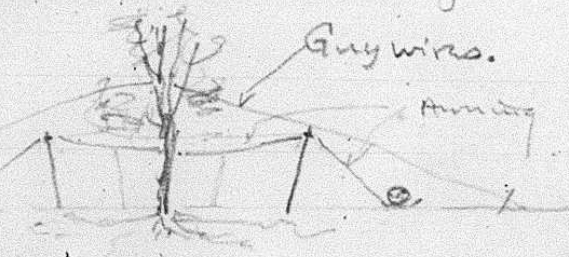
Bolts on bottom so as to give a good chance to pick at dirt as box is being sunk.

Provide a bottom of steel plate (about $\frac{3}{16}$ " thick) sharpened on one edge and stiffened with steel angles about $1\frac{1}{4}$ " x $1\frac{1}{4}$ " (?) to push in under box when it is sunk around ball. To be done by jack screws like Taylor's hedge-moving machine, and bolted up to sides of box by screw clamps



I should soak the ground first, but it might be well to try it also ^{with the earth} comparatively dry. In any case after getting box bolted up I should grant the ~~ground~~ ^{cracks} between the sides of the box and the necessarily irregularly cut ball with a pea scamp ^{of} grit of clay and water and let it ~~dry~~ ^{set} a little, so as give no chance for irregular ^{pressure} ~~pressure~~ and cracking. Of course the box would be set up around tree trunk and driven down snugly around the ball as fast as the trench is dug as Russell Allen described. I should try a 3' x 3' x 3' box first with ^{very} moderate sized trees first and 16 success warrant a bigger box can be made later.

2^d method. Sawing the roots. Stretch ^{a thick} ~~a~~ awning with a slit in it around tree trunk so as to shade all the ground and ~~the~~ come down tight to the ground outside of the furthest roots, but high enough to work under.



Have a hose with a fine spray nozzle and keep inside of awning wet and also keep ground moist. Dig and

pick roots from periphery toward center like Hickies, and make up as fast as they are exposed into small bundles soaked and plastered with ~~sopradobe~~ mud covered with

some packing material the best substitute for sphagnum that is available. Perhaps bands of ~~knit~~ ^{wrapped} right on the adobe would be O.K. As fast as ~~the~~ enough of the small bundles of branch roots of a main root are made up to permit it, several small bundles would be bundled together. ~~After~~ Move on a big skid or truck, and in planting repeat operation in reverse, water, awning and all.

Only extremely painstaking work will make either method successful, and someone with real ideas and a determination to succeed must ~~be~~ actively handle every step of the work personally trusting nothing to men or foremen out of his own sight and omitting no precaution.

A good variant on the first method would be to sink the box and ~~refill~~ ^{the trench} with earth or mulch and leave for a while to mellow from the shock of root pruning before cutting off. With the bottom plate and masonry. A second variant would be to cut the ball down smaller than the box ~~and place~~ set the box around it and fill in the space with four or six inches of heavy ~~soil~~ soil and cover manure and leave for a year.

to form new fibrous roots inside the box before cutting
off the bottom.

Personally I think the solid ball method
~~with~~ straight or with the second variant is the
most promising method but I think the other ought
to be tried for a check on some of the species, especially of
Eucalypts.

Yours.

F. H. Oakes

