



Changing the tune of the prairie to "Home, Sweet Home." A fine growth of Manitoba Maple on the farm of Mr. W. Slade, in the Carseland district, Alberta.

generally retarded. The principal trees of Northern Manitoba include only a few species, namely, spruce, white and black, poplar, tamarack, birch, and jack pine. Of these, the white spruce is practically the only durable species for saw-mill purposes. It grows to a fair size on high land surrounding the lakes, averaging from 18 to 24 inches in diameter. Samples up to 36 inches diameter have been found on the shores of Reed lake. It generally grows tall and straight, up to 90 feet in height, and makes excellent lumber, pulp and paper. The black spruce is a slower-growing tree and does not usually reach such a size as the white spruce. It is found in low swampy ground. Jack pine is found on nearly all dry sandy ridges. It is used extensively for ties. Tamarack grows extensively throughout the district, and is used for poles, fences, ties, and fuel. The poplars, aspens or cottonwoods, and the birches have not yet been found of much commercial importance, but are extensively used locally as fuel.

The Fire Loss.

The greater part of Northern Manitoba was covered with a much heavier forest than that at present standing. This was nearly destroyed by disastrous fires many years ago. The present forests are principally second-growth—following such fire. Many regions, for instance, the Burntwood River district, have not reforested.

The cut of timber in Manitoba has been comparatively small, in 1916 being less than one million dollars in value as compared with sixty-

six milloins for the whole of Canada. The Finger mill, located at The Pas, is one of the largest operating in the Prairie Provinces, the cut for 1917 being 15 million board-feet. This consisted entirely of spruce cut on timber berths along the Carrot river within the boundaries of Saskatchewan. Three small portable saw-mills are in operation north of The Pas. The Hudson Bay Construction Company operate one at mile 185, for their own use. The Mandy Mining Company have one on Schist lake, while one has recently been installed on Wekusko lake in connection with the Rex mine. The annual cut of these three mills amounts to about half a million feet.

A Pulpwood Plant.

Great quantities of wood for the manufacture of pulp are available, and plans are being considered for the erection of a plant at Grand Rapids, where the Saskatchewan river enters lake Winnipeg. Water-power is available at this point, and the location is favourable for the transportation of wood to the site.

Other resources of these forest areas are the extensive bogs and swamps which occur in low-lying parts. While no steps have been taken to utilize them it is believed that they might be made to profitably yield vast quantities of peat. The production of either pulp or peat, however, has yet to be inaugurated, and more definite information must first be obtained with respect to the extent of the raw material available. It is reasonable, however, to expect that great possi-