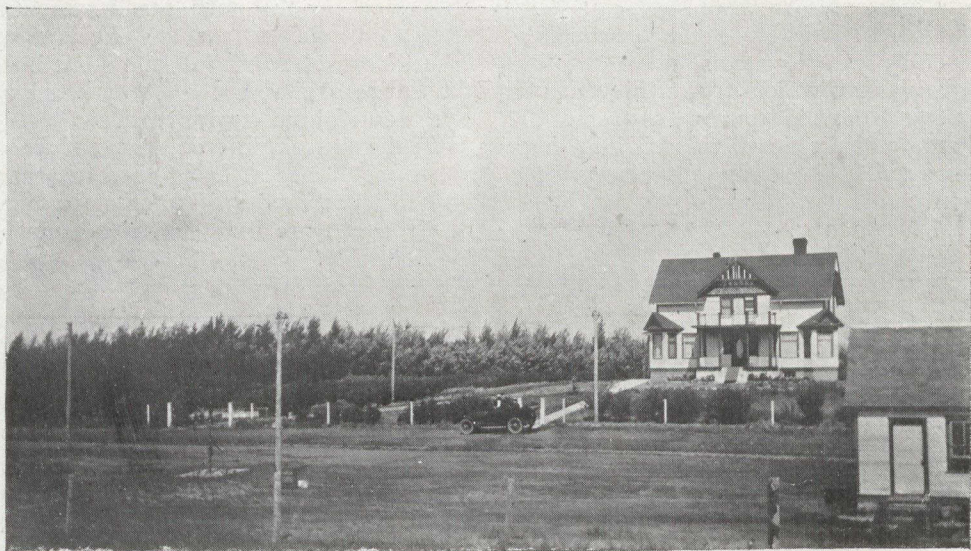




A real home on the prairie. Trees shelter the orchard and garden and attract feathered friends.

Attracting Birds to the Prairie Home

By Hoyes Lloyd

WHEN the white man first crossed Western Canada he found a great deal of the country practically treeless. Perhaps these plains were looked upon for so long as unsuitable for cultivation because they grew no trees. An easterner, while admitting the fertility of these plains, often shuns the thought of living there in spite of prospects of wealth because the level monotony of the prairie had not the same appeal to him as has a partially forested country.

On the treeless prairie, with its lack of shade, the home however well-built, has not the beautiful setting that a grove of trees would make for it. Even the camper on the prairie who usually pitches his tent where dark overtakes him will travel many miles and be late in getting his evening meal in the hope of finding a clump of trees or even a few prairie shrubs such as wolf willows to shelter his frail home.

Some of the important reasons for

planting trees are often emphasized; trees are beautiful, and they are useful. A sheltering belt of trees about the house breaks the hot dry wind of summer and the blasts of winter alike. The kitchen garden protected by a shelter belt from the prairie winds will not be blown out by the roots and is bound to be a greater success than the unprotected one.

Fortunately the foresters have selected a variety of trees that will make this welcome shelter and many are the homes on the prairies that are now improved in this way.

The wild fruits of the prairie are found in the shelter of the coulees—the cultivated fruits—apples, currants, strawberries, and all are grown only in the shelter of planted trees.

There is one advantage in tree planting that has been overlooked. The prairie has its own peculiar bird life. It is the home of the Longspur, the Horned Lark, Sprague's Skylark, the Western Meadowlark and many