

## REVIEWS.

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*Report of Dominion Experimental Farms for 1904: Dr. Wm Saunders, Director. Pp. 509.*

This report comprises, in addition to the general survey by the Director, the reports of the officers having charge of special departments, and of the experimental farms in the different provinces. The report of Mr. W. T. Macoun, the Horticulturist at the Central Experimental Farm, gives some interesting information in regard to the forest belts, as follows:—

“It has been found that the trees which were planted 5 by 5 feet apart, the closest distance used at first, are making the best trees from a forestry standpoint as the side branches are killed much sooner. The trees planted 5 by 5 feet apart are more protected from storms than those farther apart and hence the tops are less injured. They are also a little taller in most cases, but are not so great in diameter as those 10 by 10 feet apart. During the first years of growth there is a great advantage in having the trees close as in order to get thrifty growth the soil should not become hard, nor should the trees be almost smothered with weeds or grass, and to get these good conditions it is necessary to cultivate at first, and the farther the trees are apart the longer one will have to cultivate, thus making the expense greater.

“Until the last three years the trees in the mixed plantation were making the most satisfactory growth, and are yet making better growth than some of the clumps composed of single species, but the rapid growing kinds are developing so fast in the mixed belt that they are overshadowing some of the more valuable trees, and those which cannot endure much shade are being killed. To some extent this overshadowing is prevented by shearing the side branches and letting in more light.

“In some of the clumps of single species the disadvantage of not having two or more kinds mixed is quite as apparent as the disadvantage of having so many kinds mixed in the mixed belt. Ash, Butternut, Black Walnut and Elm, which have thin foliage, do not kill the sod, and the growth on this account is checked. If other heavy foliaged kinds, such as Larch, Spruce, Pine or Box Elder, had been mixed with these the results would have been, almost certainly, much better.”