

supplies are frequently contaminated with seepage from barnyards or sloughs where vegetable matter is allowed to collect. This should be avoided, if possible, as the germs of many dangerous human diseases are spread in this way.

**Roads and Walks.**—An attractive feature in connection with any well developed farmstead scheme is the presence of good roads and walks. There is frequently a danger of getting too many roads and walks, particularly around places of small extent. The roads and walks should be direct, and of sufficient width to accommodate teams or carriages passing from one part of the grounds to another. The appearance of walks and drives is very much improved if they are so planned as to have graceful natural curves, and if the edges are kept trim and neat.

**Protection.**—Protection and ornamentation of the homestead are worthy of the fullest and most careful consideration. No effective farmstead scheme can be developed on a Western farm before proper protection is afforded in the nature of a windbreak or shelter belt. The belt should be located at a reasonable distance from the farm buildings, should be heaviest on the north and west sides, and should be of such density as effectively to protect the buildings from the strong winter winds. Wind-break trees, properly planted and given reasonably good care, make a very satisfactory growth under prairie conditions. Trees for this purpose should be planted only in well prepared soil, planting in rows four feet apart and setting the trees four feet apart in the rows. Best results are obtained in tree planting by mixing the varieties, i.e. by planting rapidly growing varieties as well as trees of slow growth. The advantage of mixing varieties is mainly in the mutual benefit that the trees derive from each other, and the fact that not all varieties are so likely to be destroyed by insect or fungus attack. Of the quick growing varieties to be recommended are the Golden and Laurel-leaved Willow and the Cottonwood, while among those of slower growth might be included the Manitoba Maple, the Green Ash, the Basswood and the White Elm. The Willows and the Cottonwoods can be started quite successfully from cuttings, while the others are grown with greatest success from seed. From general experiences in the West, the best results are obtained by planting deciduous trees in the spring, and by using small trees.

Windbreaks of coniferous trees have not as yet been very extensively planted in the West, due, no doubt, to the difficulty experienced in growing stock of this class. A well-grown windbreak of Scotch Pine or White Spruce would not only add very much to the attractiveness of a farm home, but would prove to be a very desirable protection against the wind.