

*Tree Planting on the Prairies of Manitoba and the North-West Territories of Canada: Norman M. Ross, B.S.A., Asst. Supt. of Forestry.*

This is the first bulletin of a general nature issued by the Dominion Forestry Branch. It was written with the idea of affording practical information to the settler on the western prairies, as to the best methods of propagating, planting and managing hardy trees for shelter belts, windbreaks and plantations. The information given is from the results of planting and general nursery work, which has been found successful, and only such trees are recommended for planting as have been proved absolutely hardy under western conditions.

The advantages of plantations of trees are mentioned as the protection of crops and buildings, the holding of the snow, the preservation of moisture, the supplying of fuel, fencing and material for repairs, the beauty and comfort added to the home, and as a general result, the increased value of the property. The three main points to be observed in setting out a plantation are (1) that the soil must be thoroughly prepared before planting, (2) that only such varieties of trees should be used as are known to be hardy in the district, and suited to grow in the particular kind of soil, and in the situation where it is wished to plant them, and (3) that a certain amount of cultivation of the soil after planting is absolutely necessary,

Detailed instructions are given under each of these heads, followed by information as to the setting out of plantations, and descriptions of different species of trees, with suggestions as to their management. The bulletin is profusely illustrated, and is a creditable beginning for the Dominion Forestry Branch in its efforts to supply information to the public on forestry work.

*Cross-tie Forms and Rail Fastenings, with Special Reference to Treated Timbers: Herman Von Schrenk, U. S. Bureau of Forestry.*

The supply of railway ties is becoming a matter of absorbing interest to the railway companies, and investigations of methods for prolonging the life of such ties are, therefore, of practical moment for, while substitutes for the wooden sleeper have been and are being tried, the latter is still the main dependence of the railways. The object of this bulletin is not, however, to consider methods of preservative treatment of the wood, but forms and fastenings, and it starts with a warning that chemical treatment is not the only point to be considered in the life of a tie. Such treatment, though it may be done so as to prevent decay will not ensure woods of poor texture against physical deteriora-