

that out they are growing vegetable gardens, yes and flower gardens between the trees along the boulevards. They had a "bee", both for planting and pruning their trees and everybody is enthusiastic. There is a lot of civic pride in these Cuparites.

But while there is much to commend in these little town boulevards, there is also room for a word of warning, for several of the towns had made no preparation of the ground previous to planting and the trees are just planted in a hole about two feet in diameter dug out of the prairie sod.

are devoted to preparing the ground it will be all the better. Elm and ash are the best boulevard trees for the prairie. They are long lived but slow growing at first, and it is well to plant between them with a faster growing poplar, like the Russian (Populus Petrowskiana) the Cottonwood or the Balm of Gilead. These grow rapidly but are generally short lived and when they have outlived their usefulness, can be removed leaving the Elm or Ash which will now be of substantial size to become the permanent shade tree. Where water

the tree and the stake; it should never go completely round the tree.

Attend to the Watering

The watering of these boulevard trees is a very important matter and in dry seasons demands a lot of attention, but here is where the previous preparation of the ground and especially the sub-soiling will be found worth while. The deep preparation provides a larger reservoir for the natural moisture and if the surface is kept well stirred during the summer, artificial watering will rarely be necessary. If it has to be done, one good watering once a week is the best. A shallow hollow is raked back round the tree, from four to six feet in diameter, and filled with water. Let this drain away and fill it again and after it too has drained away and the surface is dry, throw back the loose dirt and fill the hollow up again.

The boulevarding of the little town streets is receiving more and more attention and is a notable good sign in these hard and difficult years. It is very important the work should be done wisely and well.

BIGGAR'S PROGRESSIVE STEP.

THE Biggar Agricultural Society of Biggar, Sask. has shown most commendable enterprise in inaugurating a tree growing competition with substantial cash prizes, silver cups and medals. The contest extends over a period of five years. Writing to the Secretary of the Biggar Agricultural Society, Mr. Norman M. Ross, Chief of the Tree Planting Division at Indian Head, Sask., made the following interesting statement:

"Tree planting is one of the best investments a farmer can make, providing the tree belts are properly arranged, composed of suitable varieties and given reasonable care and protection. Such belts will increase the actual value of the farm from \$500.00 to \$2000.00 with an outlay of but little cash and not more than three or four days' labor annually. A tree plantation increases in value from the day it is planted; buildings, fences and other improvements depreciate in value and require periodical expenditure for upkeep in the way of repairs, painting, etc.

"The Biggar Agricultural Society is showing considerable enterprise in encouraging a competition of this kind. I know of no other organization which is conducting tree planting propaganda along such practical lines. If the Association is able to keep up interest in these competitions it will undoubtedly result in a very great improvement in general farm values in the Biggar district."



What five growing seasons will do in making a prairie windbreak of willow

This kind of treatment is fatal, for while the tree might grow and sometimes even grow well for a year or two, in time the battle for the moisture which is at once set between the tree and the grassy ground surrounding it, can have only one ending and the trees will die. We saw several places this year with just such conditions and it is very unfortunate, for not only will the enthusiasm of the people in the village end in disappointment in course of time, but the whole tree planting movement will suffer in proportion. When a thing is difficult, discouragement is easy and there are already far too many people who believe that tree growing is impracticable and will only be too ready to point to the result of this mismanagement as just so much further proof.

How to make a Boulevard

The proper way to establish a boulevard is to break, backset and thoroughly prepare a strip eight to ten feet wide alongside the sidewalk, and between it and the open street. Sub-soiling will be found a great benefit in heavy clay soils and indeed, anywhere. And if two years is plentiful, the Cottonwood and

Balm of Gilead may be the permanent ones. These are excellent shade trees and long lived, but when artificial watering is not possible they rarely live over twelve to fifteen years.

The Manitoba Maple should not be used for street planting in the little towns. It attracts insects and requires a lot of spraying, pruning and other attention to make it a really good tree. The Elm and Ash are far superior.

Boulevard trees may be about six to eight feet high and they should be supported for a few years by a stout stake driven into the ground four or five inches from them. Sometimes two or three stakes are used. They should be about four feet out of the ground. The string tying the tree to the stake should not be too tight as it has a tendency to cut into the growing wood and the top may break some day in a wind. It is a good plan to have a piece of old garden hose to go round the tree to protect it, or even a band of burlap. This prevents the string from cutting into the bark. In any case the tree bands should be overhauled every June, July and August, slackened and retied where necessary. The string should always be recrossed between