

Trees for the Prairie Home—A Practical Plan



Winds, the One Disagreeable Feature of Prairie Life, are Easily Counteracted and Home Life Transformed — A Helpful Story by a Practical Expert.



By Archibald Mitchell,

Western Lecturer of the Canadian Forestry Association.

Of the necessity for trees about the home, it should not be necessary to write.

One has only to live even a few months on the Prairies to know how welcome a shelter is when the wind is blowing.

We are glad to see the Chinooks in the winter. We look upon them as a special blessing after a spell of 30 below, but they are all the better when you can enjoy the balmy weather they bring, behind the shelter of a well-arranged belt of trees.

And even in the summer; who does not know how disagreeable it can be sometimes to go out, anywhere away from the shelter of the house, and be swept almost off one's feet by the sheer force of the wind.

Then there is the dust. In this country, as in all other dry countries, the dust like the poor, seems to be always with us; and yet, these trees stop a tremendous lot of dust. At least the smother from the neighbouring summer fallow never reaches the houses when there is a substantial shelter belt between it and the west wind.

And Temper and Nerves! There is no telling the difference a few trees make. No wonder some poor women get discouraged and, indeed, almost distracted, sometimes, when the wind comes sweeping down, the washing blows away, and everything goes wrong at once. Two or three days of steady high wind have an uncanny power to rattle ones nerves; there's no mistake about it.

And yet, one can get about quite comfortably in the lee of a good belt of trees whether it blows high or blows low.

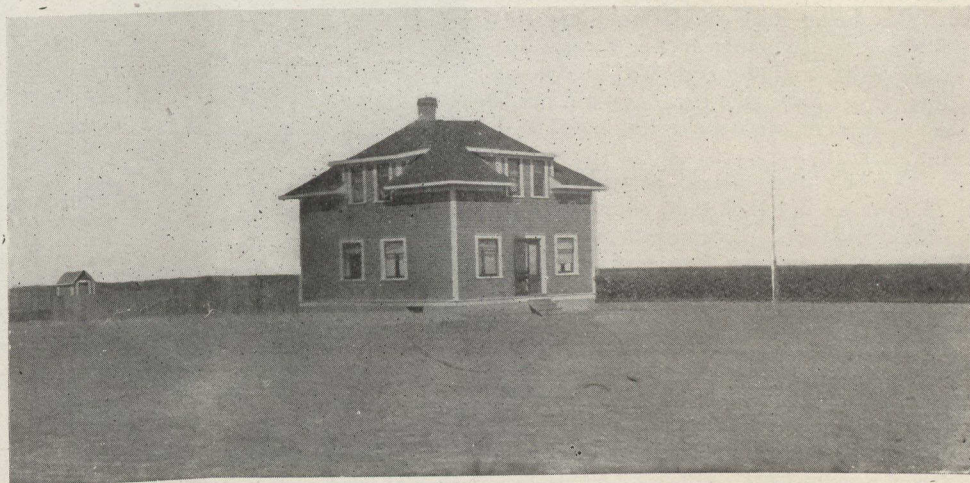
How often these days do we see mention of the optimism of the western farmer.

How, no matter how badly he is hit, he just launches out again and carries on, seemingly as full of optimism as ever.

"This is going to be the banner year, the best yet" he says, and off he goes to prepare for another crop.

It is an optimist's country, and there is no doubt about it, we owe it in great measure to the fact of the sunshine.

It is a country of sunshine, and the bright, clear, sunshiny days one after another make it an ideal country to live in. Even in the winter this is so, for most of the bright, sunshiny days we get then would be highly enjoyable but for the one drawback, the wind. There is no getting away from it, the wind is a source of great discomfort, both in winter and summer, and surely it is only reasonable that the first thing one should think



HE PRACTISES WHAT HE PREACHES.

Two photographs showing what trees can accomplish about a prairie home. The owner of this place is Mr. Archibald Mitchell, Western lecturer of the Canadian Forestry Association. Mr. Mitchell occupied the property at Coaldale, Alberta, in 1912, at which time the photograph of the unplanted homestead was taken.



After five years, the house and grounds are beautifully bordered with trees and shrubs.

of when starting out on the Prairie is to do what one can to stop it by planting a few trees.

Not that we will ever be able to stop the wind from blowing. We can never do that. But there is no reason why we should not have all the little local shelter we need for the house and farm buildings, if we want to.

Curious isn't it, when one stops to think, the one all-the-year-round, disagreeable, feature of our climate is the one we can most easily overcome. And we

can overcome it effectually too if we just want to.

And fortunately for the Prairie, this is true on dry land as well as irrigated land. There is no trouble about the trees growing if they get a fair chance. Use the right methods and the right kinds of trees and there is no doubt of the result. They will grow.

When starting to plant, the first consideration is the main shelter belt around the whole group of farm buildings.

When Starting to Plant.