

The evergreens are at first slow growers but after about five years the growth is much more rapid and will in a few years overtop maples and ash of the same age.

During the first two winters after planting evergreens must receive some protection from the sun, the most damage from which is done during late February and March, the bright sun at this season literally burning up the needles. Unless covered with a good bank of snow some shade should be given the young plants at this time. Spruce and pine should not be mixed in a plantation of cottonwoods, willows and maples, as these varieties grow very quickly at first and would soon smother out the young evergreens. They should, however, be set out where an established belt of such trees would afford them some protection without directly overshadowing them.

PLANNING THE FARMSTEAD AND BUILDINGS.

(Article by A. F. Mantle, Deputy Minister of Agriculture.)

A problem that sooner or later confronts every farmer on the western plains is that of the erection of suitable farm buildings. To many a farmer in the older civilisations this problem never presents itself. He may be a tenant farmer and use the buildings which have been the equipment of the farm for a generation past. Even if these have to be renewed or others added the problem rests with the owner and not with the tenant who must take what is given to him. But here, where happily there are few tenant farmers and where most of the land is still occupied by the original owner, each is confronted sooner or later with this problem of building.

A man at the outset (unless he is a capitalist) puts up just such temporary structures as will shelter himself, his family perhaps, and his stock. His intention is to equip the farm with creditable buildings at a later date as means will allow, and put the original structures to humbler uses, such as hen houses, pig pens, blacksmith shop, granaries, etc.

Permanent Units vs. Piecemeal Work.

We believe this to be a wiser plan than to attempt a portion of the permanent buildings at the outset with the intention of adding to them at a later date. With frame buildings additions are seldom very satisfactory and a house, the two halves of which were built five or ten years apart, is not apt to prove a warm and comfortable place. A person's ideas change as time passes and the plan that was in view when the original portion of each building was erected is not likely to be satisfactory when the addition is to be built. So there are architectural and structural reasons for not planning to erect the permanent buildings piecemeal or by halves. Put up temporary structures first—such as can be used later on as outbuildings, then add a permanent unit—barn house, granary, as the case may be—as circumstances call for it and finances permit.