

# Great Results from Jack Pine Planting

By M. J. Stevenson, Morris, Manitoba

**T**HIS tree is found growing over a very wide range. It represents the extreme limit of hardness of all the pine family. It grows from northern Quebec to well within the Arctic circle down the McKenzie river almost to the limit of tree growth. No evergreen grows faster while young, than this. The white and Norway pine will overtake it sooner or later, but for the first 25 or 30 years of its life I have never seen an evergreen that will equal it. This tree has been called the fire pine, from the fact that a great many of the cones hang on the tree for years unopened until a fire sweeps through the forest melting the pitch covering allowing the cones to open. The seeds are scattered by the wind and an even aged stand is the result. It starts to bear cones while very young. I have often found young trees 3 feet high loaded with cones. It seems to grow with equal vigor on sand or clay and will grow on sandy sterile soil where another evergreen could not exist. It is easily grown from seed. I have grown a great number from seed with good success under prairie conditions.

## Rate of Growth.

In 1888 in eastern Manitoba a jack pine forest about a section in extent was entirely killed by fire; not a green tree was left over the whole area. This was an even aged old growth stand one hundred and thirty years old, apparently having come in after an Indian fire. These trees were from 10 to 20 inches in diameter and from 80 to 90 feet high. This timber was all cut within 4 years. By this time the young jack pines seedlings were as thick as wheat over this area. These trees got leave to grow till 1897 when they were again entirely destroyed by fire. This fire was an intensely hot one owing to the amount of tops and debris left from the former forest most of the young trees were entirely consumed and I thought as I walked over the blackened waste this is the last chapter in the history of this jack pine forest. But no! Going over this area 4 years after the last fire I was agreeably surprised to see millions of the young hopefuls again sticking their heads up through the snow. The last time I saw these trees was in 1908. What a revelation! Many of them were from 18

to 20 feet high by actual measurement and from 3 to 5 inches in diameter. They had far outstripped the birch and poplar growing with them and these trees had the advantage in that in nearly every case they were found growing from old roots. Even on the heavy clay loam of the Red River valley their growth while young is remarkable. A plantation of this species set out 8 years ago are now 12 to 16 feet high. Some White and Norway pine set out the same time under the same conditions are not more than half this height.

At least two thirds of all the tie-timber used by the railroads in Manitoba is jack pine. It makes a good tie, lasts fairly well, especially the old growth. It will grow to tie-timber in from 50 to 75 years. It makes good lumber; a great deal of it is sawn and sold as Norway and White pine in the west. The old growth makes excellent fuel being as a rule very pitchy. And now since it is known to make good paper great inroads will be made on the jack pine forests to supply pulpwood, as it will grow to pulpwood size in about half the time it takes the white spruce. In the early days there were splendid stands of this species but repeated fires have almost exterminated it where it once reigned supreme. In eastern Manitoba we have vast areas specially suited to the growth of this species which today is producing nothing but grass and useless brush. Now when our timber supply is on the wane we find a tree so desperately eager to help us out we ought at least to protect it from fire.

## UNITED GRAIN GROWERS

Winnipeg, April 5, 1921.

"The Directors appreciate the splendid work which is being done by the Canadian Forestry Association."

E. J. FREAM,  
Secretary.