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fiere winds are somewhat checked by trees in one shape or another, it is almost impossible to have a good vegetable or flower garden on the farm, and in winter the barnyards are so filled with snowdrifts that it is difficult to move around and any article left outside is soon buried under several feet of snow.

While a windbreak made of several rows of trees does good service for this purpose, a good many trees are required and the snow is very apt to break them down. In my opinion, a cheaper and better windbreak can be formed by planting the trees in the shape of a hedge; for this purpose it is best to have two hedges, the outer one 100 feet from the buildings; this should be made of willows, either sharp-leaved or Russian Golden. Willow will bend when loaded with snow whilst most other trees will break. This tree can be grown from cuttings and makes a rapid and cheap hedge. When planting leave only one bud out of the ground, otherwise they will dry out and fail to grow. The trees should be about two feet apart, and a single row is as good as a double one. After the first year very little pruning will be required for this kind of a hedge.

Inside of the willow hedge, and about 25 feet distant from it a row of seedling Maples should be planted; they can be set out from two to three feet apart and in a single row. A slight pruning should be given this hedge each year until it gets beyond reach, when it will do well without pruning.

In the twenty-five feet of space between the two hedges small fruits, such as raspberries, can be planted and abundant crops of excellent fruit obtained every year; the hedges provide shelter and the high banks of snow that always gathers there furnish moisture that lasts all through the fruiting season.

There are a number of other trees suitable for farm hedges, but I think these two are the best for the purpose and both are cheap and easily procured.

Mr. Stevenson.—With reference to the hedges, there is no doubt that a man needs a considerable amount of courage, as it requires to be pruned. The average man wants his hedge to grow quickly and does not prune enough, and very often he regrets it afterwards. Prune the first year's growth. In pruning shelter belt trees, some people will start in with the knife, and slash off branches. They have an idea that they should prune. Even if the cultivation must go they will prune, and oftentimes will cut down what should not be cut down.

Mr. Bedford.—We had a Maple hedge at Brandon, and we cut it right down level to the ground and we let it grow again, and it is one of the best we have now. Spruce is a very satisfactory hedge.

Mr. Scott.—What about the Tartarian Honeysuckle?

Mr. Bedford.—Not very satisfactory while I was there. Willow is very good for the purpose.

Mr. Stevenson.—It is a very great subject and leads to a great deal of discussion. Ginnalian Maple does all right on our place. Also the Buffalo Berry does well and is very hardy. I have seen it north of Moose Jaw.

Mr. Bedford.—The Buffalo Berry is found more frequently along the Souris River. White Spruce from the uplands stands pruning all right. But I think it is better without pruning. I would take the ordinary sickle and trim the ends of the new growth of the Maple twice a year—in June and July. For city or town you should prune very frequently. Not so often in the country. For my own part I would not prune spruce. I would cultivate the soil a great deal.

Question.—Is the Hawthorn a desirable hedge?

Mr. Bedford.—Not a rapid grower, but it is good for hedge purposes.

Question.—I find Spruce die in the soil by being planted too deeply.

Answer.—It depends upon the locality where you are as to how deep you may plant them and expect them to live. Do not plant them deep around Winnipeg. You can always distinguish between the black and white spruce. Do not take the black spruce. It is not as nice a tree, as it is inclined to die out around the bottoms. The black has a darker foliage; but not as dense a top.

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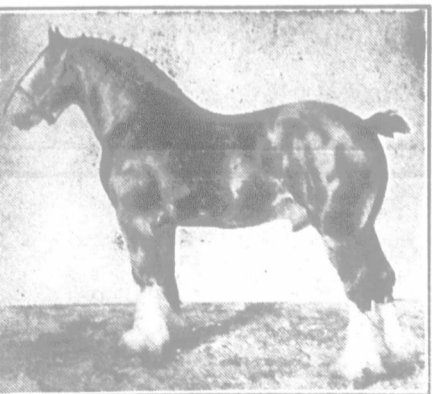
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