

country from these particular shrubs because I know them to be vigorous and hardy, and they will assume these beautiful proportions of their own accord—and if you keep the shears off you will have an object of great beauty. We have about eighty different kinds of hedges grown in fifty feet lengths. The trees are planted about fifteen inches apart. There is also a little maple which grows on the Amour river, which divides some portions of Russia from China. It thrives as well on the bleak wind swept plains of the north as here. The leaf is a regular mapleleaf, a little larger and in the autumn it becomes a brilliant scarlet, as pretty a color as you could possibly imagine. Every year we collect a number of tree and shrub seeds. You may think that this plan of getting trees and shrubs from seeds is slow, but it is much more rapid than one anticipates. We have now all over the northwest patches of trees at the settlers' homesteads, and these have nearly all been grown from seeds distributed from the experimental farm. During the last nine years about

#### Seven Tons of Tree Seeds

have been distributed from the experimental farm in that great stretch of country,—about 1,000 miles east and west, and 300 miles south and north,—in Manitoba and the Northwest territories. In that section we are trying to make them better men and women by giving them seeds to grow. Many people who went there to grow wheat, are now so much attached to their homes that they would not think of coming back to Nova Scotia or Ontario. One of the most beautiful and vigorous trees that can be grown in the eastern portions of the Dominion is the Colorado spruce. This spruce assumes a lovely tint of blue in the spring time, and during the winter it becomes steel blue. It grows native in the

rocky canyons of Colorado. If you take the seeds of this Colorado spruce and try to grow them in Canada, you will find them tender. But, if you went up to the mountain tops and got a hardened race of seedlings, you would have no difficulty in growing this tree. Whenever a seed has ripened, that seed is better able to grow and stand the severe weather than its parent, and I hope that law will apply to the population of this country and that the youth will be better able to do the work than their parents. The Japanese spruce and *Arbor vitae* would enable you to decorate a good large space about your house. Then there is the lilac. We have 120 varieties, and we could enlarge that number twice over if we could get all the varieties in the nurseries in Europe produced during the last ten years. We can now carry them for eight or ten weeks, where they only lasted at one time for ten days. We have a common lilac which is crossed with an Hungarian lilac called the Josephesky. We have also another variety which is produced in the greatest profusion from the Himalaya Mountains. We have one from Japan, which blooms for four weeks, and is an excellent variety.

#### Good Flowers to Grow.

In flowers I would refer you to the peonies. Those of you who have seen some of the more recent productions of peonies must have been delighted with them. We have one-hundred and forty or more varieties which have been gathered together from different parts of the world. One we have from Siberia, has a beautiful form with a leaf cut as fine as threads all over. The flowers are a beautiful, bright scarlet.

There is also a cultivated form double. Then we have the Siberian peony crossed with some European varieties. The Japanese have done a good deal of this work.