

Questions and Answers on Prairie Forestry

QUES.—We are paying \$8.00 to \$10.00 a cord for firewood here. Would it be possible to grow our own firewood on the farm?

Ans.—Yes. The Dominion Forestry Branch Nursery Station at Indian Head have found they can grow eighteen cords of fair firewood in eight years from Russian Poplar cuttings. This is a little over two cords per acre per year. This at \$8.00 a cord would give you \$16.00 worth of wood for every year your trees would be growing. There's a lot of wheat land that has not paid as well as this the last few years.

Ques.—How late in the summer should I irrigate my trees?

Ans.—Not later than the end of July.

Ques.—When is the best time to trim a Caragana Hedge?

Ans.—Anytime, three or four times during the summer if you like.

Ques.—What are those big green caterpillars eating the leaves off the tops of Russian Poplar Cottonwoods and Ash in my plantations? And what should I do for them?

Ans.—These are the larvae of the Sphinx Moth and their attack is rarely serious enough to require spraying. Their size renders them very conspicuous and they are readily picked off by the birds. Spraying with Arsenate of Lead powder at the rate of a tablespoonful to two gallons of water will effectively clear them.

Ques.—I have been advised not to clear the brushwood under the trees at my summer cottage. What should I do?

Ans.—Leave the underbrush alone. This is nature's way of keeping the soil moist and in good condition for your taller trees. If you clear off the brush the trees will die in a few years.

Ques.—My Tartarian Honeysuckle are being eaten up by a bluish green

beetle about half an inch long. What are they, and what can be done for them?

Ans.—These appear to be a lesser variety of the Blister Beetle and may be destroyed by spraying with half a tablespoonful of Arsenate of Lead in the powder form to a gallon of water. The Arsenate is the same as is being used for killing grasshoppers.

Here's the inquiring spirit of the West advancing in mass formation on the Tree Planting Car of the Canadian Forestry Association at Neptune, Saskatchewan. These boys and girls will determine the character of Western Canada within the next ten or fifteen years. They will control governments, and dictate poli-



"We're coming to find out about tree planting"

cies. The Canadian Forestry Association is doing its utmost to persuade every Western youth to become a tree planter, adding not only to the business profits of Western farm lands but enriching human life itself and stabilizing prairie population.

Q.—I am informed that the fall is a good time to transplant evergreen trees from the woods. Is this true, and what size would you recommend?

A.—Evergreens can be quite successfully transplanted in August. The tree has completed its growth for the season then and yet there is sufficient root action going on to enable it to take hold in its new site before winter. Select trees two to three feet high growing out in the open

and lift them with a good ball of 'soil' taking care not to let it break off. Plant firmly about two inches deeper than the tree was before, and water well after it is planted.

Q.—Our cottonwoods shed a lot of cotton this year which seems to have collected among the needles of our Spruce trees, making them look dirty and dull. What can be done to get rid of it?

A.—Your trouble is not due to the cotton from your cottonwood trees as a close examination will show. It is caused by red spider or mites, species of Tetranychus. The creatures are very small and you will require a magnifying glass to see them. They are present in thousands on spruce this year all over the

country and as they are continually wandering about among the needles, spinning a web as they go, the branches soon get covered with the wooliness you mention. Just sticks to the web, air is shut out from the needles and the plant slowly dies of suffocation. Besides this of course, the spiders are living on the sap of the tree. Your trees are in a dangerous condition and should be at once sprayed with a strong force

of water to break up the web. Look out for them next year again about the middle of June and wash them off every two weeks during summer with the water spray. Many spruces have died on the prairies from red spider the past few dry years.

Q.—The cottonwood trees in my plantation grew splendidly till they were about twenty feet high, but now most of them are dying at the tops. What can I do about it?

A.—Your experience is a common one on the Prairies. It would seem that the cottonwood requires more moisture than it has been able to secure the last few years and unless under irrigation, or unless you are prepared to give them special care, they should not be planted under dry farm conditions.