

Boulevarding the Prairie Town Streets

Tree planting and civic improvement "Bees" bring attractive results in Western centres
—Some errors to guard against.

By ARCHIBALD MITCHELL,

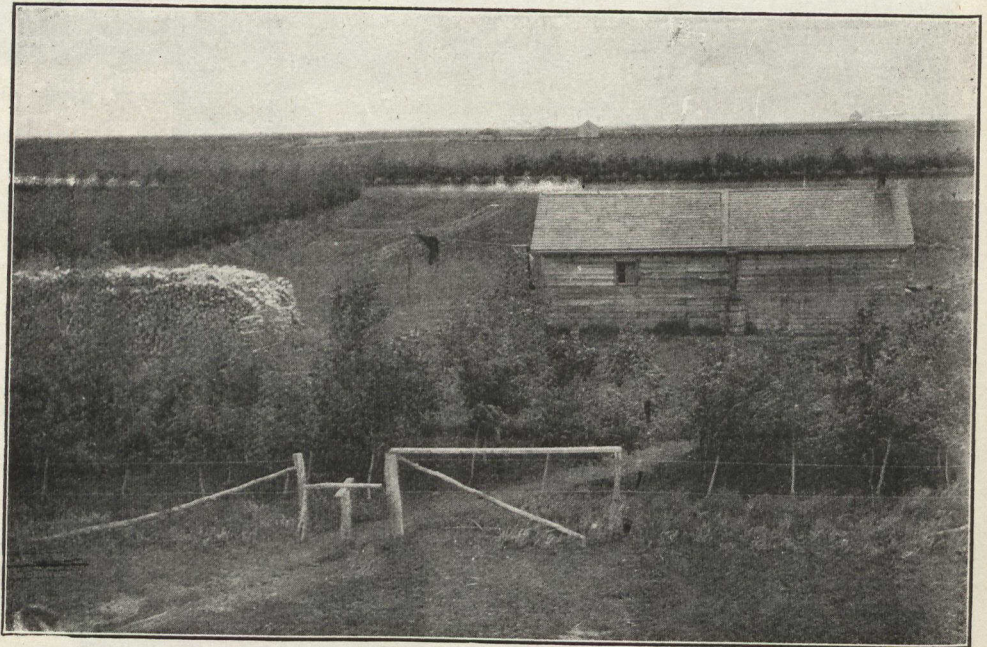
Western Lecturer of the Canadian Forestry Association

ONE of the most interesting improvements noted this spring has been the boulevarding of so many of the little country towns throughout the Prairie West.

Pride has been responsible for many improvements but when it is that form of civic pride which prompts people to plant trees along their streets in a bare country, it is most significant and points to something beyond the mere dollars and cents of existence.

The community spirit alone that is engendered in such a movement is worth a great deal, and is an eloquent reflex of the spirit of the people undertaking it.

In a city, the civic authorities attend to such things. It is their business and the citizen of course takes a certain amount of pride in his city-constructed boulevards. But when a small town of two or three hundred, or one or two thousand inhabitants takes such a matter in hand it is a different thing altogether. The citizen himself has to do it or it



What the Prairie West can do with trees. A plantation on the farm of Thomas Peat, near Asquith, Saskatchewan

can never be done, and it becomes a personal matter with him. The

trees he plants become personal objects of interest, and he cannot help a feeling of genuine personal pride as he contemplates the work of his own hands. Sometimes we find the work undertaken just by the people living on a particular street. Sometimes we find a "Bee" has been the occasion of the planting, and sometimes we find the town has broken the ground and purchased the trees out of the public funds, the people doing the actual planting. Sometimes the town has prepared the ground while the people have purchased and planted the trees. No matter how it has been done, it is done, and it is good to see.

One of the best examples of this little town boulevarding we have seen is that at Tugaske, Sask. There the entire work has been done by the town authorities and has been well done.

Another little town with a most ambitious boulevarding programme is at Cupar, Sask. There the town broke and prepared the ground and purchased the trees, the citizens planting them, each planting opposite his own house. They are keeping the ground cultivated, too, and to help



He had only to wait six years for a twenty feet high plantation about his farm buildings and gardens. The homestead of D. J. Whitney, Lethbridge, Alberta