

Farm, and each year since from 75,000 to 100,000 trees have been sent out free to settlers. Last spring the distribution to Alberta was discontinued on account of that province having two Experimental Farms from which trees may be procured, as well as from the Forest Nursery Station situated at Indian Head.

As maple and ash seed could be obtained in large quantities in the early years, and as these species were found very suitable for windbreaks and plantations, they were used almost entirely for distribution, as well as for planting on the Farm; and to-day they constitute the great bulk of the trees sent out, chiefly from the ease with which they can be propagated and the small loss in transplanting.

The Native Maple is a very unsatisfactory tree in some respects; its propensity to send out suckers from all parts of the trunk is a constant cause of trouble when grown singly; when used for hedge purposes, however, the suckering is an advantage.

The Ash may be considered one of the best trees yet obtained for the prairies, its only fault being its lateness in leafing out in the spring, and earliness in losing the leaves in the fall.

Native or American Elm for street or avenue purposes is the most satisfactory yet secured, its only fault being the liability to have branches broken in heavy wind-storms.

Dakota Cottonwood has so far proved a good avenue or shade tree on the Experimental Farm. This species is easily propagated from cuttings and in growth surpasses all others except the Russian Poplar.

Russian Poplar, which at one time gave promise of being a valuable species for this country, has for some years been injured by a fungus disease which makes the trunk unsightly and eventually kills the tree.

The Native Birch, which grows in many sections of the prairie, is well worthy of extensive growth, both for ornamental and commercial purposes. This is propagated from seed which is usually abundant each year. The Cut-Leaf Birch is quite hardy and is the most beautiful tree to be found in all Canada.

Mountain Ash, which in the early years was extremely tender, is now quite

hardy and at all seasons one of the most beautiful trees that can be grown. In the summer with its white flowers, or in the fall with the large clusters of red berries, it is especially attractive.

In the Evergreen family, the Scotch, Jack and Stone Pines, Rocky Mountain, Norway and White Spruces, and Balsam Fir are quite hardy. Tamarack or Larch, both Native and European, is hardy, also nearly all the Arbor Vitæ (Cedar) family, but the latter are very slow growers.

In the twenty years of tree-growing on the Experimental Farm, cultivation has been the main reliance towards success. With a few exceptions water has never been used, even in the driest seasons. In all cases the land was prepared the year before planting—either by breaking and backsetting, if new, or by summer-fallow, if old. In no case has failure occurred with either of these preparations when the trees were in proper condition at time of planting.

The last week in April or the first two weeks in May have been found the best time to plant deciduous trees. Planting late in May has given better results with evergreen varieties, on account of the strong and warm winds prior to that time injuring the leaves or needles.

In propagating trees from seed, Maple, Ash, Elm and Birch are the only varieties attempted on a large scale. Elm ripens its seed early in June, and should be gathered at once and sown shallow as soon as dry. The other varieties come in about the time of wheat harvest, or early in September. Ash and Birch should be sown late in the fall or early in the spring, with no danger of being winter-killed. Maple can be sown in the fall with considerable risk of being killed, or can be sown early in May with safety. When fall sowing succeeds, as it has done for some years back, the growth of the young plants over the spring sown is very marked. A wise plan is to sow both in fall and spring."

Mr. Angus Mitchell, Assistant in the Tree Planting Division of the Forestry Branch, then read his paper on "Problems in Tree Growing in Southern Alberta and Western Saskatchewan," which is published in full elsewhere in this issue.

Mr. Mitchell's paper was followed by a brisk discussion, which was led by Mr.