

bility to fire. Extra precautions are necessary on the part of the track forces to keep fire from getting into the plantation.

There are some fine examples of tree fences in the orchard belt of Ontario. Some of these fences have evidently been located at least fifty years. On the wind swept prairies too, settlers have found trees an excellent protection both in winter and in summer.

Tree Fences Are Now Cheap.

Railway officers have been aware of the practicability and desirability of this type of fence for some time, but the price of lumber and posts, until recently, has not made tree planting very attractive. However, tree planting today, in Eastern Canada, can be done for less than one half the cost of wooden fences. Live fences are effective and economical. After the third and fourth year, no maintenance is required. They are decorative and do much to make the right of way attractive.

Planting has been done very successfully by the Intercolonial in northern New Brunswick, since 1887. Here the local red spruce has been dug up from nearby fields and transplanted. This work is still being carried on.

When the trees reached a height of 9 feet to 10 feet, the tops are trimmed. Trees from 18 inches to 36 inches in height have been planted in two rows. From time to time any failures have been taken out and replacements made. This is perhaps the most striking example of just what can be done along this line.

The Canadian Pacific and the Soo line have been planting for a number of years in the prairie country. Moisture conditions limit the varieties to deciduous shrubs and trees. From six to eight rows of shrubs and trees are required. Locust, carragana, willow and poplar are the species used. Attempt is being made after the plantations have been several years located, to interplant with spruce.

Pine and Spruce are Best.

The ideal snow fence appears to be

the white or red spruce of this country, or the Norway spruce, planted two or three rows staggered. The trees hold their foliage well to the ground. They grow rapidly making from 10 to 16 inches annually, after having become established. They make an excellent snow barricade and are striking in appearance.

Balsam, though of a more rapid growth than spruce, is subject to more enemies, is considerably more brittle, and is not so satisfactory in holding its lower branches. It should do well, however, in mixture.

Cedar is used extensively, and although of slower growth than any of the other species planted, when once established, does extremely well. It makes an even more artistic show than perhaps any of the other species.

North of Lake Superior and west to the prairies where jack pine predominates, the use of this tree is to be recommended. It is of quick growth, but has the drawback of losing its lower branches quickly, especially when planted close. It should be used in mixture with spruce, balsam or cedar. Norway pine has the same growing characteristics, but like the Jack pine, it will probably do well in mixture. Use of hemlock has been recommended, but it would appear the least satisfactory of all trees mentioned.

Generally it can be stated that the best conifers to plant in any locality are the trees which thrive there under natural conditions.

It requires seven years at least to get sufficient growth to make effective snow breaks.

The factors which effect the cost of planting trees and on which success of the plantations depends are, first: the distance which trees have to be hauled. If it were possible to lift trees only a short distance, say within half a mile, the loss would be greatly reduced. It is obvious, however, that where trees are transported from wagons to cars and then taken to destination, drying out of the roots occurs, and the loss is greatly increased.