

All such questions must be considered. Undoubtedly something should be done and that in the near future; undoubtedly, too, some practical method for such development can be found, if the matter is only given the consideration warranted by its great importance in relation to the agricultural development of very large areas of the Prairie Provinces.

Mr. MARNOCH: The Dominion Government has put down wells on the road allowances to prove the artesian territory. This suggests that perhaps a tree-planting experiment, in order to show its effects in preventing soil drifting—and there must be either beneficial or detrimental effects—could be carried out on road allowances, if the means could be found for instituting the experiment. It could also be carried out on a large scale along territory near this city.

H. L. PATMORE (Brandon): I have studied this matter continually for the past thirty years. In 1889, soil drifting of the very worst description was to be found on the Brandon Experimental Farm. In a few years' time that farm, through the cultivation of trees on the west side, ceased drifting. Mr. Bedford was associated with me in 1905 on a piece of soil that blew out almost every week during the summer season, right down to hard-pan. Now, with the introduction of tree-belts, there is not a bit of drifting soil on that place, and the soil has not drifted since; even the hard-pan has come into cultivation again. Mr. Ross speaks of the advisability of more tree-belts. Last week, in the southwestern portion of this province, I found men who have been there 20 or 30 years—men who have made a success. During the past six months these men have been losing much they have made. I found men to-day willing to take \$25 to \$30 an acre for the land, to enable them to get away. The district where I was last week was absolute prairie 30 years ago; part of it is still absolute prairie. One man who went in there had a great love for trees, and he started to plant them. A near neighbour thought, "If you can get a nice belt of trees I can go one better," and he started to grow more, with the result that to-day a tract of country 50 to 70 miles in extent is full of trees and free from soil drifting. That is a tract of country on which, during the years 1893-4-5, they had no crop whatever. The soil drifted and crops were blown out and dried out each year, but they told me on Saturday that they have never known a crop failure since the trees have grown. On one-half section there are some thirty belts. The effect the trees have had upon these farms in southwestern Manitoba has been that it has given them, although probably not heavy crops some years, yet continuous crops with no failures.

Professor OUTLER: It seems to me we have sufficient information, in the papers that have been given to-day and from observation, with respect to windbreaks, to at once consider definite ways and means under which the whole of these prairies could be systematically planted. We are past the stage where we can expect individual effort to get anywhere. That has been very well exemplified by the paper given by Mr. Ross. I could give many experiences where earnest men have endeavoured to establish windbreaks, and, after a number of seasons' efforts, they have succeeded in doing so only to lose out later because a neighbour, perhaps, summer-fallowed a piece of land on the lee side of the windbreak. It would be a pity if this conference were to break up without, in a definite way, devising some means of getting something started at once. The Governments might consider subsidizing some individual or community effort. I believe this is the moment to act. The soil-drifting problem has been presented yesterday and to-day. We appreciate it, and we appreciate the importance of solving it as soon as possible. From Mr. Fairfield's address, we know that it would be quite impossible, by crops or by any cultural methods, to stop blowing under some of these conditions where the whole fallow sliced off, or, at least, where all the soil that has been tilled has been blown away. It seems to me windbreaks would be the solution, and I would be glad to see some steps taken.