



The only sort of tree planting that creates results as a prairie windbreak is that adopted by such men as Andrew Anderson, of Alsask, Saskatchewan. The plantation is dense and wide.

Then the transpiration of water through the leaves of plants must be carried on or nothing will grow. Indeed, all our efforts are directed towards encouraging the use of water this way. The more water used by the crops as a rule, the better they are.

The foregoing methods of water disposal may be of some benefit, but the last two, the drying out by the sun and the wind are channels of distinct loss and nothing else. On our farms we check this by summerfallowing. Indeed, this is so important that it is the chief business of the farmer on the Prairie, for his crops depend on it and the whole cycle of his farm operations centres round it. Successful cropping depends on conserved moisture, and it is the same with tree growing.

#### *Learning From the Bluffs.*

But it is obvious we cannot go on systematically summerfallowing our plantations as we do our wheat fields. That would constitute a steady drain on our resources, a constant expense that would in time become intolerable, and as tree growing has to be done as cheaply as possible, some other method must be found. And the best place to find it is to go back to the little bluffs that are so

steadily taking possession of the Prairie and see how they manage, for, after all Nature is the great teacher.

There, we find the young trees growing so close together that the leaves and branches afford such a screen the sun's rays cannot find their way down to the soil to dry it out. In the same way the trees are so close together, and present such a dense solid mass to the passing winds, no matter how high they may be, that they are thrown right over and never get inside to dry out the moisture.

That is the whole secret of nature's success in tree growing.

The great controllable channels of moisture losses are the action of the sun and the wind; the sun shining down and the wind passing through. Nature has her own way of combatting these and in our farm forestry, all we do is to follow her in planting our trees close together and in masses enough that the sun and the wind may be shut out as soon as possible. The moisture that falls among the trees is thus preserved for their use and not lost by evaporation.

This is really the whole secret of successful Forestry on the Prairie.

Other considerations of course enter in, and of the most important is economy.