

TREE PLANTING AND NURSERY WORK AT INDIAN HEAD.

BY NORMAN M. ROSS.

The season now closing has been a most favorable one for general nursery and tree planting work. The crop of seedlings grown for distribution, though not quite so large as that raised last year, owing to a very dry spell of weather in August, which practically stopped all growth, is a very good one, the seedlings being particularly strong and vigorous. All the permanent plantations and belts have made wonderful growth, the new wood on the cottonwoods and willows averaging at least 4 feet—the maples not quite so much.

This year about 5 acres of permanent plantation was set out in native white spruce and Scotch pine; the former were raised from seed in our own nurseries and when planted were 4 years old, having been 2 years in the transplanting beds. The young plants were from eight inches to one foot in height and very strong and healthy. Of the Scotch pine 75% were grown at Indian Head and were 4-year transplants, 25% were imported from France as 3-year transplants. It will be interesting to notice which lot of plants come through the winter best. Up to the present date these evergreen plantations have done very well, on the whole not more than 15 to 18% of the young trees having died. As they are very slightly protected it is expected that a considerable number may not survive the winter should the snowfall be light. Last year about 500 Scotch pine from France were set out in mixture with native spruce and tamarac. The winter was not very favorable for young evergreens, as there was practically no snow cover. In early spring, owing to very severe winds and bright sun, many of the young trees were browned up and did not recover. However, 60% came through and have made a very good stocky growth this season. This winter, as the plantation has made considerable headway, much more snow will be held on the ground and very little loss should occur from winter killing.

The native white spruce in the nursery, which were planted in spring of 1904 in mixture with native larch, are now well established, and this season many of the young trees made a growth of over two feet. The tamarac however, is evidently too strong for the spruce and will overgrow them completely in a year or so more. The growth that the tamarac has made is wonderful. When planted in 1904 the seedlings were not more