

THE USE OF ORNAMENTAL TREES AND SHRUBS.*

BY W. T. MACOUN, DOMINION HORTICULTURIST.

The extensive forests of Canada are rapidly disappearing through the inroads made upon them by the axe and by fire, but one may yet see some fine woodlands and some magnificent specimens of the stately and attractive trees with which the Dominion is blessed in great variety. These have their economic value, but they have a sentimental and an ornamental value as well, a value which comes from the part they play in a beautiful landscape, either when growing together as in a forest, or when, as individual specimens, their attractive outlines are fully revealed. All who love trees should see to it that our native species are preserved wherever possible, and that areas of natural woodland near our cities and towns should be guarded well.

The value of the delightful and cooling shade of a tree in a hot summer day is not to be measured in dollars and cents. The contrast between a street having attractive shade trees and one without any is very great. Well planted home grounds, with trees and shrubs judiciously and pleasingly placed, how attractive they are!

There is great satisfaction in a well kept hedge, giving a trim but attractive boundary to the lawn or the garden, or screening unattractive objects beyond; and again, the home-like and softened effect of a vineclad house, how much we admire it!

In Canada the use of ornamental trees and shrubs is not at all general, although the abuse of them has been very great. In the country where the opportunities for beautifying the home grounds are abundant, very little is done, and the farmers' homes, in the great majority of cases, are most unattractive places indeed. Our cities, towns and villages are, in many cases, little better, except in limited areas, the unattractive dwelling houses being unrelieved by shade trees on the streets, or by ornamental trees and shrubs on the private grounds. All the native trees and shrubs have, in many places, disappeared, the natural beauty has gone, and instead there are houses with hard and ugly outlines.

In 1908, the Ottawa Horticultural Society offered to supply ornamental shrubs and vines free to residents on some of the

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