



This Prairie tree planter, Mr. J. Caldwell, of Virden, Manitoba, has built up a real farm asset. Photograph shows a stand of pure Russian poplar, 28 years old, from cuttings. The stand would be the better for a little thinning out, coupled with under planting with spruce.

stroyed every vestige of forest growth that dares to show itself above the grass.

This forest advance has taken place most rapidly of course where the rainfall has been greatest but even in the very driest parts of the country we find the same thing taking place. One notable instance occurs about 10 or 12 miles west of Macleod on a spot where there is now nearly half an acre of native poplar where, 20 years ago there was nothing of the kind. It is most significant that that bluff has a broad road on one side and a steep cut bank on the other, which form a most efficient fire guard.

So much for nature's success in tree growing on the dry Prairie.

Knowing these things gives us plenty of confidence in our ability to grow all the trees we want if we adopt the right methods. Nature should be able to teach us these methods and so we go to our little native bluffs to find how she manages.

First, though, we have to remember that all growth on the Prairie be it wheat, grass or trees, is a matter of moisture. Given plenty of moisture, we can have plenty of growth. And the interesting thing is we have plenty of rain for our crops most years if we could only use all of it. That is our trouble, the storing of

the moisture for the use of the crops. When we talk of storing, naturally we think of losses and how they occur; for if we know where the losses are, we may be able to do something to prevent them.

Where The Rainfall Goes.

There are five ways in which our rainfall is disposed of:

(1) Run off. The running of the rain and melting snow into coulees and being lost that way.

(2) Sinking down into lower reaches of the soil and so feeding springs elsewhere.

(3) Transpiration through the leaves of plants in the function of living.

(4) The sun's heat, and

(5) Drying out by the action of the wind.

Running off we have in plenty on the Prairie as can easily be seen in wet weather or Spring. Floods in our creeks and rivers are the result. We can prevent a great deal of it by plowing deep and leaving the surface of our fields loose so that the rain as it falls may readily enter, to be used later by growing plants.

There is very little, if any, loss on the Prairie from water sinking into the lower soil to appear again as springs. We rarely have rain enough for that.