

much better off they are than the majority of their brethren who have no bush at all, but their desire for trees of a better quality is, after all, reasonable, and in many cases such bluffs are quite capable of being much improved.

The best way to do this is to sow seeds in the garden and transplant them as seedlings at a year old into the vacant places in the bush. Ash will do well in the more open spaces, while the native willow, which is usually of a poor quality, may be replaced by maples. These latter will stand a moderate amount of shade under the willows for a few years, and as they get larger the willows can be gradually removed. Tree willow, Russian poplar or cottonwood cuttings may be planted in the moister places.

Previous preparation of the soil will not be possible in most of these improvement plantings, but as these will usually be found in the moister parts of the country it does not matter so much. The shade and shelter of the bush will be found to offset the lack of it to a great degree as well as that of after cultivation. The young trees should be planted close, about four feet apart, and open spaces of 10 yards or over should be planted to ash, with perhaps every fourth tree maple, to provide the necessary soil cover. Planting in holes or pits will give good results, and the pits should be about 15 inches deep and 18 inches to 2 feet in diameter, but probably the quickest and cheapest way will be to grub up the soil with a mattock where every tree is to be planted in spaces about as wide as for the holes. The trees must, of course, be firmly planted.

SUMMARY.

Briefly summarized, the whole question of successfully establishing plantations in the prairie may be stated thus:—

1. Wide belts are better than narrow ones, better shelter, cheaper to maintain, furnish better material in after years and more of it.
2. Thorough preparation of the land must be made before planting.
3. The trees must be firmly planted.
4. Cultivate as soon as they are planted.
5. Cultivate in summer to conserve moisture. Do not wait for the weeds.
6. Any blue-joint grass or sweet grass appearing the first summer should at once be dug out.
7. Close planting saves labour in the long run.
8. Plantations should never be pruned.
9. Put the work of the plantation first. It does not take long and only about one-third of the work when done at the right time.