



A REAL MENACE IN THE TREELESS WEST.

This picture may puzzle the Eastern reader, but is only too intelligible to the prairie farmer living in districts where soil drifting has become a serious consideration. The photograph was taken last summer by the Western Lecturer of the Canadian Forestry Association near Nobleford, Alberta, on the Alderside Division of the Canadian Pacific Railway. Because of unobstructed gales the fine top soil of many farms was blown across the country and heaped so high in places as to obscure fence posts and to bury the railway tracks. In the area shown here the farmer had placed three successive sets of posts, one on the top of the other, as the drift grew deeper. At one place steam shovels were used to remove the soil from the tracks. The general adoption of tree planting in the form of thick shelter belts will almost certainly obviate this serious menace to western farming.

to two feet a year, and in twenty or twenty-five years will be away taller than the maple, and will still be in the fullness of its glory when two or three generations of maples have grown to maturity, died and been consigned to the woodpile.

White Spruce His Favorite.

I have twenty-six varieties of conifers growing on my farm here, but in my experience covering over thirty years in tree growing in Manitoba. I give the native white spruce first place. It is indeed a marvel. It is the one tree the good Lord invented to clothe desolation with beauty and comfort on the bare, bald prairie. In my experience here I find it makes a great difference from what locality we get our seed trees. In all cases we must try to get our seed or trees from a country with a climate similar to our own. For instance, white spruce grown here from eastern seed, al-

though of the same species, is not hardy. The same holds good with the Rocky Mountain varieties.

In 1907, I procured seed of the Western Yellow Pine (*Pinus Ponderosa*) from Colorado. The trees from this seed were not hardy; but later I secured seed of this species from the bad lands of Dakota and these have been entirely hardy here.

Of the twelve or thirteen varieties of conifers growing on the east slope of the Rockies, all can be made to grow on our prairies if we are careful to procure our seed or trees as far north as possible.

The question of tree-planting and forest conservation is a vital one in Canada already, as the country settles up we will require vastly more supplies such as lumber and other forest products, and the end of these commodities is already in sight.