

making to re-clothe the Prairie with trees all along the edge of the tree line. All we have to do is to follow her methods.

The greatest causes of moisture loss are the shining of the sun and the blowing of the wind and we know that by planting broad belts of trees with the trees close together, we can counteract these.

The drifting of the soil in the last few years has shown us that trees on the farm are no longer merely an advantage; they are a necessity, and the day of systematic Farm Forestry is here.

Just think! It is only 20 years or less since the bare prairies of Saskatchewan and Alberta began to be settled, and in many districts already, the top soil is nearly all blown away.

The top 8 to 12 inches of soil is the fertility of the farms, the source of the wealth and well being of the people on the Prairies.

Providence in His wisdom took thousands, perhaps millions of years to lay down that twelve inches of top soil and here we are, in less than a generation, allowing it to blow away.

And what is one generation on the life of a nation? Another 20 years at the

same rate and there will scarcely be enough good soil left to be worth while protecting. Surely now is the time for us to set our hand in earnest to this matter.

But even without this soil loss, the Prairie, bare for ever, and yet settled with people, is unthinkable. It will have to be planted some time anyway.

Let us plant it while we still have something to protect. Belts of trees across the farms will check the force of the winds, will protect the soil, the stock, growing crops in all stages from the seed to the harvest, and will prevent the loss of moisture by holding the snow on the ground in winter and checking evaporation in summer. Homes will be more comfortable, and the whole aspect of the country will be immensely improved.

Forests are said to be nature's balance wheel. They will prove no exception on the prairie.

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The above article by Mr. Archibald Mitchell, Western Lecturer of the Canadian Forestry Association has been adopted by the Junior Branch of the United Farmers of Alberta for their educational programme.

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