

which inclines the preference of farmers for prairie lands.

It is admitted that such a law could not be carried out without the aid of a forest police force. Farmers would shrink from encountering this force, while the choice of location was still open to them; and when it was not, collisions, possibly disastrous, between farmers and forest police would occur. Valuable as our forests are, agricultural lands when denuded of the forest, are worth more than when clothed with it; not only it is desirable to preserve our timber, it is no less desirable to bring our rich forest lands under cultivation. What is wanted is a reasonable compromise between the two interested, if absolute reconciliation be impossible. And we fear the forestry congress has scarcely hit upon a practical compromise.

Tree-planting interests very large sections of country, the new north-west and the old settlements. The planting of forests *en bloc* is not the most desirable thing or the most likely to take place. There are many gaps in old settlements that would be the better for being filled: road-sides, spaces around the farmstead, bits of inferior land and other spots where shelter from the sun is desirable. On the naked prairie there are still more spots for planting, without attempting to create forests. The Western States have become alive to the necessity of planting and steps been taken to ensure it, including both premiums and penalties. In the north-west, where land is abundant and trees rare, there is no reason why plantations of several acres in extent should not be made. The selection of trees must first of all have reference to the climate, since a large tree, in its natural home, dwindles to a shrub farther north. The requirements of the section of country where the trees grow must be considered. If a rapid growth be of more importance than quality of wood, as it may be where shade is required, inferior trees which soon mature, must be preferred. But where it is possible to make a selection, this operation should be done with care. As a matter of course, the best timbered trees must recommend themselves, unless arbitrary selection or an indolent want of care about what is accepted, gain away.

Our most valuable trees are black walnut, butternut and hickory. Limitations of climate must of course be taken into account; but most trees can be raised much further north than where they grow naturally. The English walnut, as we now call it, is a native of Arabia; and it is now found that the Canadian walnut, to which no writer has assigned a further natural growth than Cobourg, can be successfully grown in Quebec. Butternut grows naturally at least a hundred miles further north. Both these trees would, it is believed, succeed in the North West. But there is no excuse for Ontario farmers not growing them along their fences; and they might with equal preference grow hickory. Besides the wood of these trees, the nuts are valuable and would become more so if more generally sown.

In our streets, we want more variety among the shade trees. The horse-chestnut and the maple, though good in their way, can here preffer no claim to monopoly. That variety

of linden tree which is cultivated in Prussia, notably Berlin, has more perhaps than any Canadian tree to recommend it as a shade tree; and in Halifax, N. S., the fashion of growing it in the streets has been, we think very wisely set. In private grounds also, we want variety, and suffer much from not getting it. The tulip tree, which is seldom seen, and the leaf of which Ruskin excludes from the list of the beautiful, is nevertheless a fine tree with a fine flower, and it grows naturally sometimes—it is seldom met with in great numbers any where in Canada—a hundred miles north of Toronto. At least three of the southern magnolias will grow well, in favorable situations, in Toronto. While selecting the best trees for general growth, in the places where they will be of most use, let us not neglect variety.

THE HARVEST.

After all, the English harvest is better than the average of the last few years, the best in three years. The home yield will be between ten and eleven millions of quarters, while the consumption is twenty-five million quarters, of eight bushels each. The acreage under wheat in France is over five times, in Russia ten, in Italy four, in Spain over three, in Austro-Hungary three, in Germany one and a half, in Turkey and Bulgaria twice as great as in England; but in none of these countries is the English average per acre—latterly fallen to twenty-eight bushels—attained. The estimates of the United States wheat crop vary from 550,000,000 to 570,000,000 bushels. The English crop has decreased from 4,000,000 to 3,000,000 acres; and as the average cannot exceed 11,000,000 quarters, unless the area now annually planted with this crop be increased, and as this cannot suddenly occur to any great extent, the English deficiency which may be counted on, 14,000,000 quarters, is a known quantity.

In the supply there is not the same element of certainty, though that has perhaps a tendency to be an increasing quantity in view of the United States production and that of our own North-West. The competition is coming to be more and more among the sellers of wheat, while the buyer is surer of a supply at a moderate or decreasing price. The Canadian surplus, which may be expected rapidly to increase in the future, is not sufficient to make much impression on the world's market price. In future, this may cease to be true; for we are one day destined to be one of the great wheat-growing countries of the world.

—Like Winnipeg, the principal towns in Manitoba can boast of a fair share of trade. People in every department of business are very busy. This is especially true of Brandon. It has, probably, made more progress in the one year of its existence than any other place in Canada. The town is beautifully located on the sloping bank of the Assiniboine River. In a sanitary point of view, it ought to be one of the healthiest places in the province. There can be no difficulty in having a perfect system of drainage. Its residents, too, seem determined

to make the most of the situation. A few weeks ago they voted \$50,000 for street improvements; and this sum is to be expended as rapidly as possible. Some months since, a couple of our chartered banks located there, and already there are about twenty stores of various kinds, which supply goods to settlers sometimes two hundred miles distant. Of course it is not expected that people will long travel so far to get their hardware, groceries, etc.; other towns will spring up westward. Northward, already, are Rapid City and Minnedosa, neither more than thirty miles distant; both will secure a fair share of trade in that direction.

—In point of growth, while Portage La Prairie may not have made quite such rapid strides as Brandon, it has a remarkably substantial and finished appearance considering its age. It resembles an Ontario town in many respects. Miles of graded streets and broad sidewalks may be driven or walked over. It does not seem out of place to call it the garden city of the province. Already it appears to have accumulated some surplus capital, no less than three joint stock companies having been organized there by local men. The Milling Company will have its large elevator and flouring mill completed as soon as the growing crop is ready for grinding. The Biscuit Manufacturing Company has its building completed and the machinery is now being placed; no doubt it will be ready quite as soon as the milling company can supply it with flour for baking. The Knitting company has secured a site and is collecting the material for building. Buildings for the felt paper mill are ready for the machinery. Brickmakers expect a large demand for their product. There are no less than four brick yards, and in at least one of them steam-power is used for grinding the clay. While all these signs of substantial progress exist, one cannot but think that building lots are held at too high prices. Last spring's prices probably discounted the rates that may reasonably be expected for years to come. Lots a little east of the town, say half a mile, located in a low, wet marsh, were sold by speculators at prices varying from \$20 to \$50 a foot frontage. These will require several feet of earth to bring them up to the prairie level, which is there very flat and difficult to drain. If the purchasers were sane men, it is but fair to assume that they had not seen the property before buying.

—When the Pacific Railway is running regular trains from Thunder Bay, Emerson will practically cease, at least in the summer season, to be the gateway of the Province. The St. Paul, Minneapolis and Manitoba Railway, when completed from Fargo northward, on the west side of Red River, will also carry its freights past that town, connecting with the C. P. R., Winnipeg and Pembina Mountain branch road. In view of this prospect, the residents are making great efforts to get a line built north-west from there, a distance of eighteen miles, to connect with the Pembina Mountain branch also, with a view of drawing trade from the far west to the boundary line. At Emerson a good healthy business is done by the principal shops. In addition to