

grass has taken possession of it, or "Why is it my house plants don't grow?" "What varieties of apples and crabs would you advise for this country?" and "Why is it the evergreens I transplanted from the hills did not grow?" or "How would you set about planting a shelter belt across the farm?" Some are not easy to answer at first, but usually a few questions are enough to get at the root of the trouble, and we have always managed to find some solution that seemed to fit the matter in hand. It is interesting, too, how one's theories (the knowledge of experience) are confirmed time and again by someone who has reached the same result by following the same processes we have been describing. Such testimony is very valuable, and never fails to impress. It is at the same time very encouraging to the speaker.

Is the Dry Prairie Fatal?

A very striking instance of this occurred at Lethbridge, where Mr. N. J. Anderson, of Barnwell, confirmed all we had said regarding the possibility of growing trees on the Dry Prairie. Some people in the irrigated sections especially are very sceptical as to dry land tree growing, more particularly in the last three or four years, when everything has been so dry, and it was refreshing, to say the least, when Mr. Anderson was able to endorse everything we had been saying. Trees do so well with irrigation, planted even singly, and with very little cultivation afterwards, that the tendency is to expect the dry land trees to succeed in the same way, and with little or no attention afterwards, a mistake which is fatal every time.

Here's a Real Success!

A visit to Mr. Anderson's place on our way to Taber amply bore out everything he had said. His trees were obtained from the Government, the same as anybody else could get, and they were planted in 1917, just at the beginning of the dry years, and yet he had a full stand, nearly every tree growing, many of them 14 feet high now, a splendid example of what can be done in a very short time by carrying out instructions and using a little energy and common sense. On enquiry, it was found he had made a perfect summer fallow preparation,

plowed the land deep about the end of May, the year previous to planting, and kept it well tilled all summer. There were no weeds on it. He cultivated to conserve moisture, and consequently was not bothered with weeds getting much of a start. The trees were planted carefully, the soil trodden well down about the roots and cultivation was carried on frequently during the dry summer of '17, the same system of not waiting for the weeds being carried out. The years '18 and '19 were dry, but Mr. Anderson believed in the irrigation of the Cultivator, and persevered, keeping the ground stirred all summer, and the result is those trees have grown to all appearance as well as if the usual rainfall had been taking place the last three years. Fourteen feet high is as good as can be expected in any three years with normal rainfall without irrigation, and is enough to satisfy anybody. The whole plantation is a standing proof of what can be done in tree growing, even in dry years, when correct methods are carried out.

Aiding Town Schemes

Every town or village has its own local little tree problem; sometimes the wrong trees are being used, sometimes they are being injured by a too frequent use of the sprinkler, actually being injured by kindness, and sometimes insect or fungus attacks are doing damage. At every place we try to get through the town before the first meeting, taking in the local tree troubles and successes and securing specimens for the meetings in the car, so that we can speak intelligently on whatever may turn up, and advise accordingly.

We have seen a great deal of damage from soil drift in our travels, and whenever that is mentioned it is not difficult getting people's attention.

Two Crops Blown Out

Mr. Anderson's plantation is a striking example of the advantages of tree belts in checking soil drift. His trees are in three belts, about 40 rods apart, running north and south. Immediately west of the outer one there is a crop of flax which is the result of the third seeding this year, the two previous crops being blown away completely.