



Mr. Stevenson's teaching of Prairie tree planting is usually accomplished by successful examples. The photograph shows what he has been able to do with native white spruce, Scotch pine and jack pine under Prairie conditions. These trees are eight years from their seedling stage

Evergreen Growing on the Prairie

By M. J. Stevenson, Morris, Manitoba

(A practical farmer who has made a striking success of tree planting)

IT has always been a mystery to me why more prairie farmers do not plant trees. I am sure there can be no comparison between a well treed prairie home and one situated out in the open and unprotected. Take a home out on the bleak prairie in winter, bombarded by every storm that blows, it is to say the least the picture of desolation.

Time and again we have seen the bleak, bare farmstead transformed into a thing of beauty by the judicious planting of trees. And yet a great many farmers in the western provinces are without a tree or shrub of any kind. Time was (away back in the early eighties) when tree planting on the prairies was a good deal of an experiment. But this stage has long since been passed, as beautiful planted groves in almost every district shows. While it is always best at first to plant some hardy, quick-growing, deciduous trees on the bare prairie;

yet there is nothing like the evergreens either summer or winter.

Surround a piece of land with some of the hardy, quick-growing deciduous varieties, preferably willows, and when these have become somewhat of a shelter, then plant your evergreens in the centre.

One objection to the planting of conifers on the prairie is they have always been regarded as very slow growing. This is a mistake. We must remember their system of growth is the very opposite of the deciduous varieties. Take the Manitoba Maple for instance. It makes most of its rapid growth during the first ten years, growing more slowly year by year till it is twenty-five or thirty when in this climate, and on the upland prairie it comes practically to a standstill. Not so with the native white spruce. After it gets its root system established, which takes from two to four years after transplanting, it will grow from one foot