

commercial organizations, schools, literary societies, etc. Wherever possible, these will be taken in series, so as to effect a saving in time and traveling expenses. Members who know of opportunities for delivering such lectures should communicate with the secretary as early as possible, so that details may be arranged. It is hoped by this means

during the coming autumn and winter to greatly increase the interest in the work of the Association and to add largely to its membership.

An office has been secured at 11 Queen's Park, Toronto, and to this office all correspondence should be addressed.

Growing Trees for Fuel.

By NORMAN M. ROSS, CHIEF OF TREE PLANTING DIVISION, FORESTRY BRANCH.

The question of a home-grown supply of fuel is one worthy of serious consideration on the part of every farmer living more than a few miles from natural timber. The planting of trees for this purpose, however, has not heretofore received any general attention. There have been reasons for this. In the first place, the average farmer, in developing a new home, has not much inclination to devote any time and labor to undertakings not calculated to bring in immediate returns; secondly, the general idea prevails that it takes too long for a tree to grow to make it worth while; again, it has not always been possible to secure cheap and suitable nursery stock for general planting, and finally, the farmer has had no available data to fall back upon to warrant his expending much money along this line of work.

At the present these conditions are somewhat different. Though many settlers may not be in a position to set out plantations there are many more in the older districts who can, and who certainly should, direct some of their energies in this direction. We are now in a position to state definitely that fair fuel can be grown on a prairie farm in from six to eight years, not, of course, of best quality, but sufficiently good for summer cooking. Each year after this adds to the quality of the wood grown. There is now no difficulty in securing suitable nursery stock at a moderate cost. Though even yet we have not much available data regarding the growth of cultivated varieties in close plantations, we shall have a sufficient number of examples of comparatively old planting to prove conclusively that fuel may be grown within a very few

THE BEST VARIETIES.

The question naturally arises: what varieties are likely to be the most profitable for the farmer to plant? This is a point which can be definitely decided only after several years of testing. We can at present merely base our suggestions upon observation and not upon accurate measurements.

The following are points to be considered:—

1. The variety must be a rapid grower so as to give returns at an early date, and it must also produce wood of a fair fuel value.
2. The varieties must be easily propagated in order that planting stock may be fairly cheap.
3. The varieties should make a second growth readily from the root when the tops are cut down.
4. The plantation must be established at the least cost consistent with the results desired.

Now, as to varieties we would suggest the cottonwood and willow as best for Manitoba, Saskatchewan and North and South Alberta. In the central districts of Alberta the Russian poplar may have to take the place of the cottonwood. Of the willows the acute-leafed variety (*salix acutifolia*) would seem one of the best. Of course we must admit that poplar and willow are not likely to produce as good a quality of fuel as maple, ash or elm; but it must be realized that they will produce a far larger volume of wood on a given area, which will be large enough for fuel in a shorter time.

The common wood fuel of the country is poplar wood. The cottonwood, Russian poplar and willow will produce