

In fact the scarcity seems almost more acute at present than in the past. There seems to be the same dislike among young women here, as in other cities, to accept positions in families as servants. They will accept positions in offices, stores and factories at smaller pay when board is considered, in preference to undertaking kitchen or general house work, notwithstanding that the office, store or factory is often less healthful employment than household work. Young men are being crowded out of positions by the tendency among young women to seek employment other than that of a domestic nature, while tempting wages and immediate employment is readily obtainable by any clever young woman who is willing to undertake domestic service. Competent girls who will act as servants in private families receive as high as \$16 a month and board, or as much as a man can get in the east. Dining room girls get \$18 a month, cooks \$20 to \$25, kitchen girls \$12 to \$15, laundresses \$15 to \$20, chambermaids \$12 to \$15, servants in private families \$8 to \$10. In all cases these wages include board. There is certainly room for immigration work in the direction of bringing in good domestic help.

DAILY MAIL WANTED.

One of the objections made by the Dominion Government to the granting of a daily mail service on the Deloraine branch railway in Manitoba was, that the daily train service might not be continued. This seems rather an unlikely contingency. The daily train service has now been in effect for some time, and the new winter time table of the railway company shows that the daily train is to be continued. It would be a decided step backward to reduce the number of trains on this important branch road. Besides this, the volume of trade and travel over this line is expanding all the time, and with this increasing traffic there would seem to be little probability of a reduction in the number of trains on the line. The number of towns along the Deloraine branch and their importance as business centres is such, that the people have good reason to demand a daily mail. With a daily passenger train service over the line, there seems to be no just reason for refusing the demand.

Tree Planting in Manitoba.

Written for The Commercial.

Many years of life upon the prairies of Manitoba have deepened an early conviction that every man who seeks to make a home there should pay much attention to the growing of trees about his home buildings. It is

a matter of surprise to observers of the average prairie farmer to see how neglectful he has been of this first great work. There is many a house with its outbuildings that are as unprotected as they were ten or fifteen years ago, when the first stroke was made to turn the prairie into a home. The buildings are weatherbeaten, the surroundings are not homelike and there is nothing about the premises to invite the eye or give one a sense of pleasure. On the other hand, where the farmer has planted trees that are now shelter belts they in many cases have grown to be more valuable to the farm than all the buildings he has been able to put upon it. It is a comparatively easy matter for a man without much capital to soon add to the value of his land. A value greater than could be added to it by many hundred dollars invested in lumber and labor bills.

There is another matter of great importance and that is the failure of many who have attempted to grow trees. There is every evidence that they desired to have their protection and value. They have spent much labor and considerable money, but to result in what may be called a "dismal failure." One of the most unpleasant sights upon the prairies is the wrecks of groves, as pathetic as shipwrecks at sea. They advertise their failure, more plainly than a half finished building left to rot. They discourage from attempting anything more in that line. They leave the impression upon a stranger that the growing of trees upon our prairies is both difficult and doubtful. But all these conclusions are wrong; trees can be grown with as great assurance of success as wheat can.

In a brief way I will now outline some of the things that I have found to be helpful and necessary to a good grove in Manitoba. In the first place thoroughly cultivate the land, break the sod, grow one or two crops then plow it deeply in the fall, say six inches. In the following spring mark the land at such distances as one may want trees. I like to have the rows at least six feet apart and let the young trees be put at least three feet apart in the row. Hood crops can be grown between the rows for a year or two or until the ground gets too much shaded by the trees. As to varieties of trees, the willow is the first tree that should be planted on the outside of the grove. The gray has done well with us. I think it would be well to give some of the Russian willows a trial. Voronish and cutleaved are rapid growers, and with us have so far proved hardy. Plant willows in two rows about the plantation. Let the rows be six feet apart and the trees eighteen inches apart in the row, planting cuttings of course. The willows are of great value in catching the snow in the winter and preventing the drifts from breaking down the trees that may be planted within. Let there be a space of two rods or more kept under cultivation or seeded down inside the willow rows for the drift to form on, so gathering the snow and preventing the drifts from breaking the limbs of the young trees. There are at the present time but very few that might be called standard trees for the prairies. The following are a few of the most desirable: Ash, elm, box elder, cottonwood and Russian poplar. In planting mix the varieties; it will add to the appearance of the grove by so doing, and

it has also been found that a more vigorous growth is obtained. Evergreens. It is probably a fact that during the past season more evergreens have been planted than during any single season in our history. In order to meet with certain success there are only a few rules to be observed; in fact only one that is of vital importance, and every time we write or talk about evergreens we should repeat it, hence I insert it here. The roots of evergreens will not bear exposure to wind or sun, but should at all times be covered, from the moment they are lifted from the earth until they are again planted out. This is done by covering the roots with mud or wet moss or both. Properly handled and packed they can be moved a long distance with absolute safety and as large a per cent made to grow as can be done with the cottonwood and willow tree. The kinds to plant are rather limited with us here. The following varieties can, however, be said to be fully tested with us and found to be perfectly hardy at Nelson: Scotch pine, balsam fir, white spruce, native spruce, and arbor vitae. Every variety on the above list we have growing on our own grounds, ranging from two to thirty feet high. I desire to make special mention of our native spruce. Like the other spruces its growth the first few years after transplanting is slow, but its growth is rapid after becoming established. It does not seem to be affected by extremes of heat and cold. Plant trees two to three feet high, tramp the earth firmly around the roots. Allow no grass to grow within three feet. Give them good cultivation and plenty of room to grow in and they will in a few years develop into trees that for rich color, stately form and beauty, are in my opinion not surpassed by any tree that grows. By all means select cloudy and moist days for planting, afterwards care for them much and protect and you can save twenty-five to a hundred per cent. It is a slow and skillful operation growing evergreens from seed, and to the unlearned would be an unprofitable experience. I now wish your attention concerning one of the most important things in this matter of tree growing and it is a thing that will be most likely to be neglected and that is thorough cultivation. Start with clean land; never let the weeds go to seed, and if the cultivation be thorough then there is always preserved that looseness of the top soil that will prevent evaporation of subsoil moisture. This is one of the greatest factors in success. I don't pretend to say how many times in a season the land should be cultivated. It is not a matter of times but the amount of cultivation necessary to keep the weeds down and keep the top surface loose. It will be a matter of surprise how little labor it takes to keep the land clean if you start with clean land and keep after the weeds. They must have a starting point in some seeds and if we do not let the weeds mature seeds the succeeding weeds are very scarce. And, finally, let us remember when planting a tree that investment grows from the start and that as tree growers we want to know our friends among the trees are like some folk, failures from the start to the finish. And there are others that have success in them and they are the ones we want to tie to. We like a tree that is both hardy and graceful, but would rather have a homely tree than no tree at all, and finally I would say that to some are given various