As regards the best kind of timber to plant on the prairies, the adaptability of certain varieties to certain soils must be recognized. Russian poplar and Manitoba maple succeed fairly well on high sandy soil, but cottonwood, elm and ash delight in a deep moist loam.

For early wind-break or shelter from the wind, the most rapid growers are the cottonwood, Russian willow, Russian poplar, and maple. These varieties should be the pioneer trees in starting a wind-break.

It is also a matter of no small importance to us to know how best to arrange our trees so as to have them both ornamental and useful. If we would grow tall, straight trees, we must have them planted quite near together; if too far apart they will grow short trunks with spreading tops, which are not desirable.

Experience teaches that the best results are obtained by planting four feet apart each way, or 2,720 trees to an acre. There is another benefit derived from close planting, for if well cultivated, in three or four years they willbe able to take care of them-The mistake most commonly made by our farmers in starting a wind-break is the tendency to plant the trees too close around the buildings-in fact, in their dooryards, if possible. One of the chief difficulties met with in laying out shelter-belts for those taking advantage of the Government tree-planting scheme is this desire on the part of intending planters to have the trees close to their buildings. They have to be shown that with close planting up to buildings, the snow will be stopped and piled up just where they do not want it. Their dooryards and barnyards will become filled with snow; in other words, they will have no yards visible, and would be quite likely to find themselves wishing they had not planted trees. No trees should be planted within 50 or 60 yards, at the very least, on north and west of buildings; that is, if planting with a view to a windbreak, and to save the trees in the shelter-belt from being broken down with snow banks, it is advisable to have a snow-break of one or two rows of willows on north and west of wind-break, but at a distance of 40 or 50 yards from the latter. This space always to be left clear of trees, and to hold the snow banks in

The question of prunning trees is one which appears to trouble the average tree-planter a good deal. There is an overweening desire with a great many people when they get their knife sharpened that they must prune all their trees, because it is the style. This is done on the principle that it improves a horse to have his tail cut off. They assume that nature is totally depraved, and never can right herself without their intervention. If planted close, as we advise, the trees will spire up tall and timber-like, and will prune themselves better than do nine-tenths of the intermeddlers.

Another question with a good many people is, which is the proper time to plant trees-spring or fall? The objection to fall planting in this province is, the falls are so short the earth gets cold early. tree cannot form rootlets in sufficient quantity to retain its vitality during the winter. This seems to be rather queer, as a good many think that the tree does not need any sustenance during the winter, but it is nevertheless a fact that it needs a great deal of it for the reason that every bit of sap evaporated by hard freezing weather must be counterbalanced and furnished by the roots to prevent the tree from getting winterkilled. The tree while in dormant condition is by no means lifeless, and the hard winter's frost is a heavy witality This is reason enough why we should not plant any sort of trees in the fall, not in Manitoba:

I might enlarge this paper profitably with a chapter on the preservation of our natural forests. I might also show some of the blessings resulting from extensive forest culture in the favorable climatic changes sure to follow, better sanitary conditions and the promotion of all the material interests of the province, but short and concise is the word, and I will close by saying there is a rich mine of undeveloped wealth in our treeless regions which can only be developed by a comprehensive, broad system of tree planting.

Forestry in Manitoba.

Speaking of the advantage which is being taken of the free tree grants by Manitoba farmers, Mr. W. P. Stephenson, Provincial Inspector for the Forestry Department, reports the number of applicants steadily increasing. The trees which were planted two or more years ago are now bearing practical testimony to the feasibility of having a good wind-break on the prairie. "Why," said Mr. Stephenson, "when 'Sam Jones' sees the remarkable growth of his neighbor's trees, he too must have some." During his trips this season he saw a cottonwood planted two years ago last spring that measured eight feet high.

Upon being asked as to whether farmers who had planted trees were all taking care of them as they should, he replied, "Yes; only two places have I visited this year where I really thought no more trees should be supplied, and these were men from whom much better should be expected. In one instance weeds had grown up amongst the trees until they could scarcely be seen."

This fall about a million and a half of trees have been heeled in at the Brandon Farm to be

sent out next spring. The Forestry Department has secured 160 acres at Indian Head, which in future will be used as the base of forestry operations in the West.

Gardening in Alberta.

BY "ALAR."

CATALOGUES AND SEEDS.

The woman, like many another settler in the Northwest, came from the southland, so she was not familiar with Canadian seed-houses, and her first dealings with one were not altogether satisfactory. The peas proved sporty, the asparagus did not grow, etc., etc. Therefore, she made up her mind to make a collection of seed catalogues another winter and study them thoroughly; and right here let me remark that the seed catalogues are the gardeners' dictionary. The first year the man and woman were in Alberta they had had only farm papers from the old home, and they soon found they were little use in this new land and under such different conditions, so they began looking around for farm papers whose scope took in Alberta. By the way, never an agent asked them to subscribe for the "Farmer's Advocate" even, but the woman had to look it up

Then she watched the advertising columns of all the papers she saw, for seed firms. Even after the catalogues were obtained, it was hard to tell which to patronize, but one firm was rejected because she noticed, upon comparing its catalogue for two years, that many of its highly-praised novelties of the first year were not catalogued at all the next year, or else appeared under a new name in the novelty list. She was afraid to trust the honesty of such a firm. At last, in desperation, she went several miles to visit an English gardener who had had several years' experience here, and asked him, among other things, what firm he had found most relible. But here I must pause, not giving his answer, only suggesting, go thou and do likewise. Then began the studying of the catalogues to decide what varieties of seeds to plant. She had already learned some things by experience. For instance that in our short, cool summers only early, rapidgrowing varieties amount to much or are sure to pay, and she was not apt to follow the mistakes of a neighbor from Iowa, who planted seeds she brought with her and had Marrowfat peas in bloom when the ground froze. While she was willing to depend on the kinds she had proved good for main crop, she wanted to experiment a little, for how could she know otherwise but some other kinds might do better. She had planned for short rows side by side another year so that she might compare varieties. She also got considerable help from the last year's report of the Experimental Farm at Indian Head, for she knew that whatever varieties did not ripen there would prove useless here, so they were scratched from her list, as well as others that ripened too late for our generally expected frost in late August.

This paper is only intended to be suggestive, but possibly some of the newcomers, who have not much time to study up the subject, would like an idea of the list one woman sent to a reliable seedsman, confident that a good garden would result.

Because she was thrifty, and was only going to raise a small garden, she was careful to only send for the amount of seed she could use of some varieties, for she knew they would only keep a short time.

Whense half her carrots, from seed kept over the year before, did not grow, she did not blame the seed firm, but recalled too late that carrot seed loses its vitality after the first year, and thereafter she would not order carrot or parsnip seed by the pound, or even ounce, unless she intended raising them for the cattle or enlarging her family. She found the Half-long Scarlet Luc a fine table carrot and a great improvement on the Oxheart, which had been the principal one on the market when they had bought their vegetables. She wanted two varieties of blood-red turnip beets-one early and one late-for the early ones are not so good for winter use, and both should be planted early here. Rose-ribbed Paris celery was her choice, but she had a paper of seed from last year, that would last her indefinitely, and as celery and beets are among the longest lived seeds, from eight to ten years, she could depend upon it still.

When she came to cabbage she felt lost, for she had never been a success with it, except in the eating line, and had not done much of that in Alberta, having found it five cents per pound—too high for her pockethook—a price probably caused by the fact that most people's cabbage was like hers and her neighbor's, beginning to head when the ground froze. She decided that the earliest Sure-head cabbage she could find would be the best for trial, and the "Best of All Capit

flower'' couldn't be far astray, for though she hadn't raised it, she had heard that a man a few miles away had some that was elegant, and she recalled her mother's cauliflower pickles with relish in this land where pickles only grow with a trade-mark.

A pound each of Scott's Excelsior, McLean's Little Gem and Champion of England peas were listed, for if she did not plant all the seed, they would keep till another year. A package of Yellow Globe Danvers onions and at least two quarts of Yellow Dutch sets, for the latter make seasoning for soups earlier, and are apt to make larger bulbs for fall use. When it came to parsnip, lettuce and radish seed she had no choice, except in colors—light green curled, and scarlet for the last two, merely to please the eye, you

The year before she had planted only Purpletop Swede turnips, and though they did well late, she had felt rather behindhand in August, when her neighbors were eating their "Early Stones" and "Golden Balls," so she added Early Stone to her list, but did not scratch the Purple-top off. She would only plant a short row of the former for early use, for she remembered some "Golden Balls" they had bought in October, and what bitter spots of decay they were forming in unexpected places. A paper each of asparagus and rhubarb finished her list of vegetables, with the exception of a few novelties for trial, but they would make another story, as would also the flower seeds, which the woman couldn't garden without.

Poultry.

Scratchings.

The hen, like the farmer, feels better over a full crop.

If Solomon had written: "Take an egg now and then for thy stomach's sake," he would have shown better wisdom and saved a lot of fool talk.

Be sure and thoroughly limewash the chicken house. It adds to the brightness, kills lice, and is a disinfectant.

Effect the change from free range to close confinement gradually. Any violent change may throw the birds off laying for some little time.

Look out for next year's breeders. Don't kill off the best of your pullets, and later lament the fact that you have nothing but culls for next year's breeding. A few good hens should also be kept, and a couple of the best and earliest cockerels.

It would pay you to take a walk through the poultry-house some evening with a lantern. Keep your ears and eyes open. A wheezing or rattling in the throat indicates a cold; stop it, before you have a yard of roupy fowl. The light may disclose a few red-mites, either on the perches or birds' legs. Go for 'em; where there is a few there may be millions.

The Incubator on the Farm.

It is a little early yet to begin writing of incubators, perhaps, but it is not too early for you to begin to think about them.

We recommend no particular make, but advise those thinking incubatorwards to write for catalogues and prices from the manufacturers of them, study them carefully, and make your own selection

A good incubator will pay for itself the same year. You doubt it? Well, take a 100-egg machine, fill it with eggs; at the same time set two or three hens. On the seventh day, test out the infertile eggs from the incubator, and replace with the fertile eggs from the hens, giving the hens fresh eggs. You should have at least eighty lively chicks, if not more, from your incubator, worth at least ten cents apiece. There is nothing to prevent you from setting the incubator six or seven times during the spring and summer, so if you get 75 chicks from only four hatches, the machine is paid for, oil paid for, and a little profit besides; besides which, the machine is still in existence, and your own.

In selecting an incubator, don't think the most expensive is necessarily the best and have nothing to do with the "cheap" ones. A good article is worth a good price, will do good work, and give you good returns for capital invested and labor employed.

Wives, help your husbands and sons by sending in the names of new subscribers to the Farmer's Advocate, and thus obtaining some of our premium books on up-to-date farming.

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DECEMBER 5, 190

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