

One of the most rapid growing trees of the hard wood varieties is the ash leaved maple, or box elder (*Negundo aceroides*), sometimes called the Manitoba maple. I obtained seed of these in the autumn of 1881, and planted them so soon as gathered in October. The trees on which the seeds are growing should be carefully watched from day to day to ascertain when they are plump and begin to fall, at which time they should be at once collected and planted one and a half or two inches deep. In the spring of 1882 these seeds came up as thick as peas in a row, and so soon as they had the seed leaves and one other expanded, they were taken up and set in a row six inches apart. The growth does not appear to have been checked by this operation, as they are now some of them eight feet high at the end of the second year's growth, and are one and a half inches through. This variety is at present being set out as the future shade tree of Manitoba. In Winnipeg, Portage la Prairie and Brandon, streets are being lined with them, and in spite of the past dry season they are doing remarkably well. Very few are dead which were planted this spring, showing that they bear transplanting very well. These trees grow very profusely along all the streams of Manitoba and the North-west, and may be seen there entwined with wild hops and grape vines. The wood of this tree is valuable for fuel, and sugar is made from its sap. A few acres would be a great acquisition to any farmer, either in Canada or the North-west, for fuel, shelter or sugar.

Black walnut (*Juglans nigra*) two years old from the seed are two and one-half feet high, and appear to be quite hardy here, though, of course, this cannot yet be determined with certainty, as they were well covered by snow last winter.

The elm (*Ulmus Americana*) grows

nearly twice as fast as the sugar or the soft maple, it is not so subject to borers, and is a more graceful street tree. In the American towns the elm has the preference over all others, and in my opinion justly so, as it has many estimable qualities.

The white native birch (*Betula papyracea*) also makes a very pretty street tree, but for some reason is seldom planted; growing side by side with the elm on my place there is very little difference in size or height between the two. The birch has a thicker, closer head than the elm, and its leaves remain green longer in the autumn than the latter tree.

So far all attempts to grow the sweet chestnut (*Castanea Americana*) here have failed. The foliage and flowers are both very ornamental, and the tree is well known for its fruit. It should be grown by all lovers of trees further west.

From the small experience I have had in growing trees, I find there would be no trick in clothing this country, if required, with a dense forest during the life time of any one who had reached his twenty-fifth year, provided he attained the age of three score years and ten. If a proper selection of trees were made, and the ground put in good condition for planting, I believe that in five years from the sowing good saplings could be had for sale to parties who did not wish to take the trouble, or had not time to grow them from seed; ten years would give timber suitable for fence posts; fifteen years for fuel or railway ties, sugar making, and a variety of other uses; and a sufficient supply of nuts and seeds could be grown to enable the cultivator to enter into a tree seed business, for which there will be a large and increasing demand before many years are over. It would be well for the Ontario Government to start a tree