

From Prairie to Woodland--A 20-Year Miracle

Here's a story easily told by photography. Here is shown the site of the Exhibition Grounds at Brandon, Manitoba, twenty years ago, just the bleak prairie and the inevitable barbed wire fence and telegraph poles.



And today, a mere twenty years of time since the first picture was taken, we travel through the Brandon Exhibition Grounds transformed into a shady and delightful woodland, with the harsh lines of the open field obliterated and everywhere a suggestion of restful beauty. The trees are mainly Manitoba Maples, and various conifers.



Is this a corner of England or a recreation park on Canada's 'bald prairie'? It is indeed the rich reward of tree planting at Brandon's Exhibition grounds. Shrubs and Conifers have been used with excellent effect. Such a product is 'for the having' by any other organized community in Canada's Great West.

It will be manifest to our readers that such an achievement in tree planting and general beautification was no accident of Nature. Men of idealism and foresight such as Mr. H. L. Patmore and Dr. F. A. Beckmore, who were directors of the exhibition in the early days, Colonel F. J. Clark, the first manager of the exhibition board, Superintendent Ben Smith who has been in direct charge of the grounds for the past ten or twelve years, and Mr. R. M. Matheson, now president of the exhibition board, have all made large and unselfish contributions to the success of the work. Mr. William Dowling, Mr. Peter Payne are vice-presidents of the exhibition board and Mr. W. I. Smale is the Secretary and Manager.

