

No thinning should be done before 20 or 30 years, for the opening up of the crown of branches will allow the sun and wind to get in and dry out the ground if it is done too soon.

At that age the leafy canopy will be 30 or 40 feet high and will still afford sufficient shade for the plantation to maintain itself.

Pruning will be attended to by nature herself. The lower branches will die and drop off for want of light, and the trees will grow smooth and clean without the owner ever having to touch them with a knife.

*Preparation of the Land Before Planting*

Before trees are planted on the Prairie, the land must be prepared the year before. Deep plowing in May or June when there is moisture still in the ground to preserve, followed by careful cultivation during the summer, makes an excellent preparation.

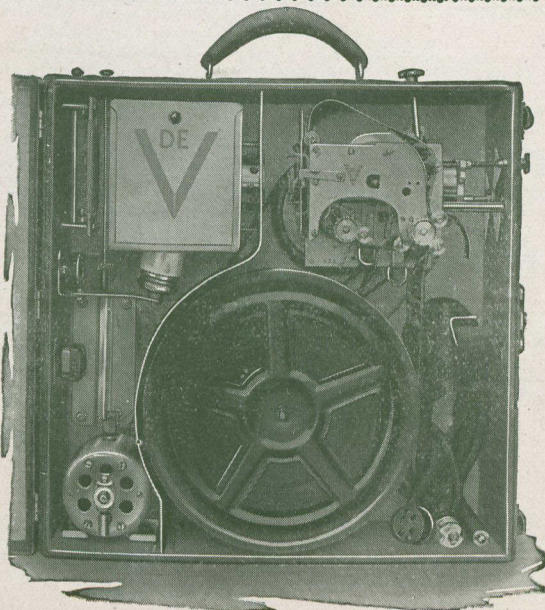
Sod should be broken and worked up two years before planting to trees. We

have seen that the elimination of moisture waste is of the utmost importance in Prairie Forestry and as grass is a great moisture user, every small shoot of grass that is seen the first year or two in the plantation should be at once dug up and destroyed. This is very important, and especially so on sod land, for sometimes there are little spears of grass roots that are not rotted and they may soon spread and take possession of the plantation, when the trees of course will suffer, and may even in time, die.

If a plantation or any part of it does get over-run with grass, a good heavy mulching of straw or manure should be applied about the month of June. This will rot out the grass and help to conserve the moisture at the same time.

These, then, are the principles of Forestry as applied to Prairie planting. It is all a matter of moisture. We get sufficient to grow trees if we can only save it.

Nature says so by the success she is



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