

wooded; and the farmer who cultivates a few acres of trees in the form of wind-breaks and shelter belts will be in harmony with nature and enhance the picturesque beauty of the landscape, the value of which will increase with age. In Northwestern Manitoba since these bluffs increased and grew up there have been no dry seasons to amount to anything, the fields are sheltered and the influence of a hot wind, blizzard or dust storm is nothing compared with what these are on the treeless prairies.

The experimental farm at Indian Head is an object lesson for the farmers of the great prairies to copy, and now that mixed farming is preferred, everyone knows the benefit of shade and shelter for stock, and as such a valuable heritage has passed into the hands of the people, without conditions of tree planting, and as there is no clearing to do, the farmer should be more anxious to take advantage of the free distribution of trees by the government and improve the beauty and increase the value of the surroundings. The C. P. R. is also giving valuable prizes for best wind-breaks and shelter belts for lands purchased from the company, and providing one half of the trees free of cost. These wind-breaks and shelter belts might be referred to as representing the wisdom and genius of the great prairies.

WHY PLANT A TREE?

Why plant a tree? Because the birds
That 'trance the listening air,
May nest among the rippling leaves
And sing your praises there.

Why plant a tree? Because the beasts,
As seasons come and go.
May shelter underneath the boughs
And there mute thanks bestow.

Why plant a tree? Because you may,
As aging years invade,
Eat of its fruit, admire its form,
Or rest beneath its shade.

Why plant a tree? Because your son,
And his son's son again,
For this alone in future years
May rise and bless your name.

OTTAWA RIVER CONSERVATION.

This is the first fall that the two conservation dams of the Upper Ottawa have been working to their full capacity and consequently there will be a great deal of interest particularly among power owners concerning the effect these dams will have on the volume of water available at the

Chaudiere. So far it would seem that these dams are very effective in holding back the water for the low water seasons. This has been a very dry season and consequently the amount of water coming down to the Chaudiere would be expected to be very much reduced. However, it has held up remarkably well. At the very low water period a few years ago there were only 7,000 cubic feet of water per second flowing at the Chaudiere, while now the flow is about 24,000 cubic feet, or over three times as much. The two dams, at Kippewa and at Timiskaming, are both in operation this year. They hold back the water in the wet seasons and let it out in the dry seasons in order to keep the level of the river more nearly uniform all year. Then they begin about November to store up water again from the fall rains and let it out during the winter. The Government is now building a third dam at Lake Quinze, which is farther up and will increase the storage capacity considerably. To give an idea of the vast amount of water these dams conserve, it is equal to a body of water with an area of 4,000 square miles and a depth of one foot. Besides making the water higher in the low water periods it will to a certain extent relieve the floods of the spring by holding back the water. The work has been conducted by the Dominion Government and will cost about \$1,000,000.—*Canadian Engineer.*

TREE SEED NOTES.

The crop of seeds harvested this season will be about the same as in past years. Some kinds of trees are again producing a good crop of seeds, while others are a failure.

The *Acer saccharinum*, sugar maple, has not produced any seed whatever this year, the entire crop having been blasted before maturing. *Larix Americana* is also a failure. A good crop of cones set last spring but the collectors found upon gathering them that the contents were of poor quality. The seeds did not test over five per cent. of good germinating quality.

Abies balsamea seed is also a total failure, none of the collectors being able to obtain a single pound of this seed.

American collectors report an abundance of 1913 crop of *Pinus strobus*, white pine, and they state that it is of the highest germinating quality. Here is a chance for nurserymen and foresters to replenish their stock of this fine lumber tree. Collectors also report a good crop of *Pseudotsuga Douglassi*, green variety, and state that the quality is very fine. *Pinus Banksiana* is also producing a good crop. *Pinus Palustris* is now being extracted from the cones and there seems to be a good supply.—*National Nurseryman.*