

But when we pass into the great prairie land we cannot indulge even in a hope of fruit growing until the forestry question is settled. And yet I believe there is there, notwithstanding the severity of the winter climate, a certainty of successfully growing some of the early, hardy, large fruits, for the fact of wild specimens of the grape, plum and cherry being found in many sections indicates that by improving these a better selection can be produced, and by the ameliorating influence of forestry others can be introduced with profit. Along the Assiniboine and Red Rivers in Manitoba there are at least three kinds of plums, red, blue and green, the latter resembling the Green Gage both in tree as well as shape of fruit. It will be most interesting to follow the history of that country up to the time when the effects upon fruit trees will be noticeable by the protection and other influences of an extensive planting of such forest trees as will grow easily and rapidly. As that country becomes populated and the lands cultivated, tree growth will be found indispensable in preserving moisture. At present the thick matting of prairie grass suffices, but after a few years of grain cropping it will be found necessary to use manure for the purpose of preserving the present fertility of the soil, and it is just here that large and frequent belts of forest trees will be found of incalculable service to that country. The intelligent and energetic people of that country will not be slow to take up this matter in earnest, and throughout Ontario we must benefit by such example, for we have large areas divested years ago of forest that are becoming less fertile yearly. Forestry will, in my humble judgment, do more for that country than any other influence, or industry, for its influences for good are almost legion. The casual traveller even thinks of it in the monotony of the prairie so thinly dotted with the pioneer settlers. But no one can help feeling impressed with the coming greatness of that country when population pours in. Already—

We hear the tread of pioneers,
Of nations yet to be,
The first low wash of waves, where soon
Shall roll a human sea."

Shelter belts of abele, poplar, soft maple, arbor vitæ and many other trees would be suitable for orchard purposes. In planting there I would have the orchard upon the north of the shelter belt, upon the same principle as that practiced in the State of Maine. In the early history of that State it is said that the Pilgrim Fathers and their descendants were accustomed to plant large orchards in small clearings in the forest on southerly slopes. These orchards flourished and bore fruit abundantly. But as the forest was cleared off the orchards died, and now, instead of planting upon southerly slopes, the successful orchardists select northerly slopes. This coincides with our own experience, namely, that it is not so much the severity of midwinter that kills our trees as the alternate freezing and thawing in spring. By providing a shelter from the rays of the sun the orchards of Maine are noted to-day even for Baldwins as well as other varieties not more hardy and which would not succeed upon southerly slopes. Judging therefore by this experience it seems more reasonable to plant orchards upon the north side of shelter belts. The reasonable conclusion to be drawn from such a method is that the heat of the sun in early spring induces the upward flow of sap, night frosts burst the sap vessels and the tree dies.

Passing through the Rocky Mountains I had no opportunity to examine tree or shrub growth further than what the eye could discern in passing. Indeed the time is so occupied in admiring the grandeur of the scenery that one cannot afford time to contemplate the practical in the way of horticultural specialties. Between the massive forest covered mountains, the headlong rushing rivers and innumerable mountain streams and falls, the scene is even too grand to permit of description by the writer's pen or the painter's brush,

With the odors of the forests,
With the damp and dew of meadows,
With the curling smoke of wigwams,
With the rushing of great rivers,
And their wild reverberations,
As of thunder in the mountains.