

TREES AND SHRUBS

THEIR SELECTION, PLANTING, AND CARE.

On the Value of Trees.



OF all the factors in the natural world around us that contribute to our comfort and enjoyment out-of-doors none are quite so important as our trees. They are at once useful and beautiful. We seek their protection as if by instinct when exposed to sun, or wind, or rain. We delight in their companionship and appreciate their moods. Whether in youth we climb in their branches or romp about in their pleasant shade, or in later years we sit in quiet reverie beneath their glorious canopy, we cannot but say with Professor Waugh: "Let God be praised for trees."

In Canada, unfortunately, we have not yet learned the lesson that older countries have learned and have put into practice; that is, the importance of conserving the remaining forests and of producing new plantations. For a long time, and in parts of Canada even yet, the pioneer citizen has regarded the trees as his natural enemies—something to be destroyed or to be disposed of as quickly as possible. Through the organized efforts, however, of our Dominion and Provincial Departments of Forestry, people generally are slowly coming to realize the tremendous importance of our natural forest resources, and of increasing rather than as heretofore diminishing our supply of merchantable timber. There are large areas in British Columbia as well as in other Provinces, that can never be more profitably utilized than in the growing of trees. Speaking of the vast importance of our forests as the source of the wood-supply of the world, Professor Ferris says: "Outside of food products no material is so universally used, and indispensable in human economy as wood. Our civilization is built on wood. From the cradle to the coffin in some shape or other it surrounds us as a convenience or a necessity." From the standpoint, therefore, of mere utility and future necessity it is important that the boys and girls of our schools, as well as owners of land, civic and other corporations, should give more attention to this matter of tree-planting.

But there are other reasons why we should all learn the art and form the habit of planting trees. Trees add much to the beauty of any landscape. They are beautiful both individually and collectively. One writer says: "Next to the human form the most beautiful unit in nature is a tree." Imagine pleasure-grounds and parks without trees! How disappointing is a lake or river destitute of trees! Look at a street or roadway with nothing but earth and gravel and concrete, bordered perhaps by rows of telephone and trolley poles, and then look at one with its trimmed boulevards