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## Remarkable Development of Tree Planting on Prairie

Thousands of Western Settlers Enhance the Value of their Farms by Shelter Belts—Fruit Growing Made Possible by Presence of Trees.

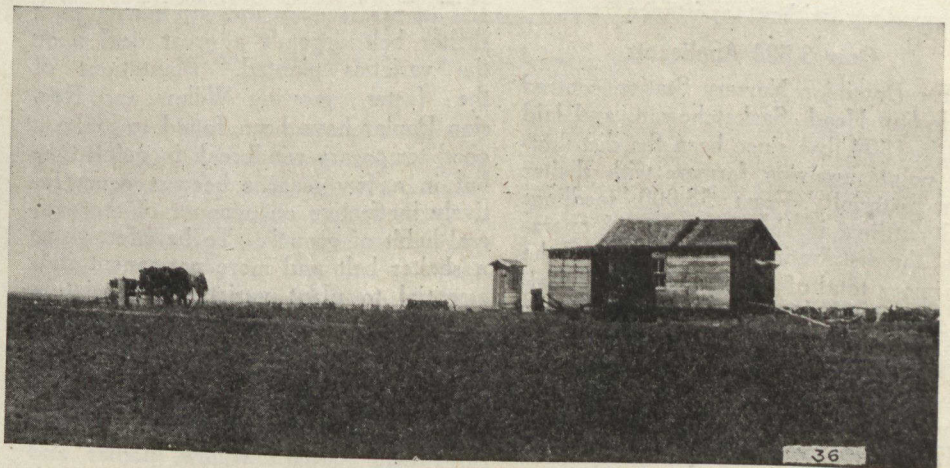
The subject of tree planting in the three western provinces is often a matter of comment, but it is doubtful if many people yet realize or have a clear idea to what extent the work has grown or of the still greater demand for trees and for information concerning their growth.

Tree planting on an extensive scale has long been considered an important factor in the development and permanent settlement of the prairie west. Looking back to the period of early settlement when trees were conspicuous by their absence, it was logical that a strong desire would be created sooner or later to experiment with varieties of trees and shrubs that could be planted and grown successfully. The prairie country has climatic conditions peculiar to the area, varying more or less every year. Districts comparatively a few miles apart differ to a marked degree in types of soil and climatic features.

### Early Disappointments

The majority of settlers acquainted no doubt with the natural growth of trees in other parts of the country and abroad lacked knowledge of these factors. As a consequence many varieties of trees and tree seeds were introduced with the idea that it was simply a matter of planting them and the rich humus of the prairie would do the rest. Obviously there were many discouragements and disappointments and the idea gained ground that trees could not be grown successfully. Thus the popular desire to plant something to break the monotony of the landscape and provide protection for the farm home, and the problem of accomplishing this end in the face of only a meagre knowledge of the natural conditions affecting tree growth.

Progress however has been made in this direction in the past 16 years through the enterprise of individuals and the co-operative efforts of the Dominion Government. The work is still at its begin-



A typical prairie farm, first season. Rich soil but no shelter



Twenty years after locating on the bald prairie. A comfortable home. Trees supplied by Dominion Government Nursery at Indian Head

ning in comparison to the vast territory classified as treeless prairie. With Western public opinion now generally convinced and awakened to the importance and necessity of this phase in the country's development, much progress in the future may be anticipated.

As with other problems allied with the basic industry of agriculture in the west this was essentially a work for Govern-

ment administration. Very little progress would have been made up to the present time if measures conducive to permanent settlement had been left entirely to individual effort. This is particularly true in the matter of tree planting. Hundreds of settlers have stated that they could not have established belts of trees around their buildings, and with limited means would probably have done very little to-