

X.—*Results of Experiments in Tree-planting on the Northwest Plains.*

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Six years ago the testing of trees and shrubs suitable for planting on the Northwest plains was begun at the experimental farms at Brandon, Manitoba, and at Indian Head, N.W.T. In no other part of the Dominion do the inhabitants manifest so much interest in tree-planting, and in order that the fullest information might be available to guide the settlers in their efforts in tree-growing, a large number of varieties from the eastern provinces and from Europe were included in the tests. It was expected that many of these would prove tender, and the expectations in this particular have been fully realized. The tests in most cases have been very thorough, and by disseminating information regarding these failures much good has been done in deterring lovers of trees from wasting their money in useless attempts to grow tender things.

In 1889, 12,000 forest trees and shrubs were sent from the central experimental farm at Ottawa to each of the branch farms in the west. These consisted of 118 varieties, of which about 60 per cent died before the following spring. In 1890 another consignment of about 21,000 was sent, of which a considerable number proved tender. Further supplies have been forwarded each year since, and by persevering effort the failures in the shelter-belts and plantations have gradually been made good by replanting with hardier sorts.

A very large number of native trees have been grown both on the branch farms and at the central farm from seed, especially of the box-elder (*Negundo aceroides*), elm (*Ulmus Americana*), ash (*Fraxinus viridis*), and oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*), and these are succeeding admirably. Several varieties of Russian poplars and willows have also done remarkably well, particularly *P. bereolensis*, *P. certinensis* and the Voronesh willow. These have proven quite as hardy as any of the natives and more rapid in their growth, and as they root readily from cuttings they have been much multiplied in that way, not only on the experimental farms but also among the settlers in different parts of the country. The success which has attended the growth of trees on the experimental farms has awakened increased interest in this subject and created a demand for trees which is increasing every year. As the result of the work of from five to six years there are now growing on the branch farm at Indian Head about 120,000 trees and shrubs, and about 75,000 on the branch farm at Brandon. These are planted so as to form avenues, clumps, shelter-belts and hedges. A belt 100 feet wide, with trees five feet apart each way, has been planted on the farm at Brandon along the west boundary for about a mile, and on the Indian Head farm a belt of similar width along both the west and north boundaries for about one and three-quarter miles.

Early in 1890 it was announced in several of the Northwest newspapers that packages