



An Avenue of Green Ash, fifteen years from the seed, on the ranch of Dixon Bros., Maple Creek, Sask.

## *The War and the Small Birds*

(From "*Revue des Eaux et Forêts*")

It is with great pleasure that I have received from various regions of France news about the number of small birds. Especially in the east, in the west and in the southeast the birds are more numerous than in preceding years. The quail, so rare two years ago, has returned to some extent everywhere; they were pointed out to me in the neighborhood of Belfort, where they had not been seen for a long time. Partridges, thrushes, blackbirds are numerous; the starlings have become much more numerous. The fine swallows which defend us from mosquitoes are numerous, perhaps because they have not been able or did not wish to settle in the many

villages which have been destroyed in the north or the northeast.

However, most of the small birds have become familiar with war, as many species, like the pipit and the lark, are not afraid to settle on the firing line beside the batteries or the first line trenches, as the Count of Tristan pointed out to me at Nieuport. The greenfinches and the linnets, not having found bushes for their nests, have settled on the ground.

The war will thus have an appreciable influence on the increase of the small birds which eat insects and grain. This favorable situation is due:

(1) To the absence of hunters.