

How A Prairie Town Built Itself A Park

THE treeless prairie towns and villages suffer a handicap in the establishment of parks through the lack of any wooded areas where a start might be made. While the value of parks is generally recognized and land is frequently available the first cost of the improvements and the annual cost of maintenance, generally unknown quantities, stand in the way of the ambitions of the community.

The experience of the Town of Davidson related below will show one method how, at a relatively small outlay, a small central park can be established and maintained.

According to Mr. H. G. Arnold, Chairman of the Parks and Streets Committee, a new park of nearly one and one-half acres in area was laid out last year adjoining the site of the town hall. The land was bought up at a tax sale, and the cost of the same, outside of the value of the land, has been about \$650 made up as follows.

Fencing two strands of smooth wire	\$ 36 00
Ploughing, etc.	20 00
Cinder walks	18 00

500 six to seven foot trees	175 00
400 shrubs, 4 feet	160 00
80 pounds lawn grass	33 00
One pound Caragana Seed...	6 00
Upkeep for one year	200 00
	\$648 00

The trees planted were chiefly Manitoba Maples, Elms and Ash, and the shrubs used were Lilacs, Spireas, Honeysuckle (*Lonicera*), Alders, Russian Olive, *Amorpha* and Flowering Currant.

The cost of the work has been borne by the parks fund and the town together, the parks fund being derived from the proceeds of an annual concert.

This unique method of providing for the annual upkeep has again proven a success as at a Burns' night concert recently held, the sum of \$220.50 was cleared. As Mr. Arnold says: "This year the ratepayer has already paid for the upkeep by patronizing the concert and he had a good time as well; also largely helped by the country people who take as much interest in it as we do if one puts the matter up to them in a proper manner."

FARMERS USE 46% OF NATION'S WOOD PRODUCTION

"AGRICULTURE is the greatest wood using industry of the United States," said Colonel W. B. Greeley, Chief of the United States Forest Service. "Forty-six per cent. of all the wood which the country consumes annually is used on its farms. The yearly lumber bill for farm structures and improvements aggregates six and three-quarters billion board feet! Farm requirements for boxes, barrels, and other articles manufactured from wood call for nearly four billion board feet additional each year. Add to these requirements the eighty million cords of fuel wood consumed annually by farmers and over a billion cubic feet of fencing material and it is easily seen that farmers have a greater interest in an assured supply of timber at reasonable prices than any other class of American citizens.

"The farmer is the most independent of anyone in the nation when it comes to food. He might be equally independent in the matter of timber. He owns, in the aggregate, more feet land than the lumbermen and all other private owners combined. Farm woodlands, reach the enormous total of one hundred and ninety-one million acres and comprise two-fifths of the forest area of the United States. East of the Mississippi River they cover one hundred and fifty-three million acres, or forty-five per cent of all the forests. A rough estimate places the timber standing in the farm woodlots of the Eastern States at three hundred and forty billion feet, or forty per cent. of the timber in this region. And this quantity includes over half of our remaining hardwoods."