

profitably fed to a finish in the open, even in our coldest winter weather.

I am quite aware that this statement may be questioned by persons lacking actual experience, but definite proof of its truth is fortunately available from many different sources. Reference may be made to the work in this line, carried on at the Brandon Experimental Farm, especially dur-

much extra work, but allowing the yards to dry out much more quickly in the spring.

17½ Tons Corn per Acre.

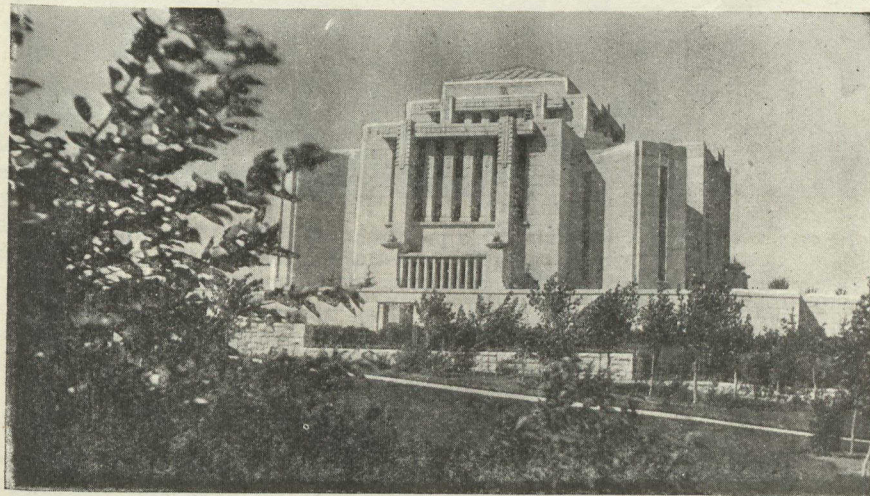
When endeavouring to acclimatize field corn in Western Saskatchewan and Alberta, where, owing to high altitudes, cool nights and battering

corn field for shelter purposes, as the sunflower grows more rapidly than the corn, is less affected by winds and achieves, if of the right variety, a somewhat greater height. Four rows of sunflowers were planted to every twelve rows of corn; the prevailing winds being North and North West, the rows ran east and west. The result was very interesting, the rows of corn immediately south of the sunflowers being practically equal to them in height, with each succeeding row markedly shorter until the next sunflower shelter was reached, when the same condition was again observable. In fact, the whole corn crop presented a succession of southerly slopes, divided by the strips of sunflowers.

#### Using Sunflowers.

The sunflowers went into the silo with the corn, and were found to be excellent forage. As it was plainly evident that in order to get the full shelter benefit of the sunflowers, they should be more evenly distributed with the corn, they were the following year, planted in alternate strips of four rows each, this arrangement proving eminently satisfactory. It was I think in 1916 that the first sunflowers were put into the silo, which, erected in 1915, was one of the first in Southern Alberta.

It will be observed that without specially mentioning the fact we have got away from the buildings and into the open fields. There also, the shelter belt is a most important factor, not only in protecting growing crops from unkind winds, as already indicated, but in preventing the fatal soil drifting, which, of recent years,



The million dollar Tabernacle of the Mormons at Cardston, Alberta. The planting arrangement of the grounds was laid out by Mr. Archibald Mitchell, Western Lecturer of the Canadian Forestry Association.

ing the Superintendency of Mr. James Murray, now District Representative at Medicine Hat for the Alberta Department of Agriculture; to the experience covering many years, of Messrs. R. J. Phin of Moosemin, Saskatchewan, W. F. Puffer of Lacombe, Alberta, Colonel Harry Mullins of Winnipeg, Mr. Grayson of Newdale, Manitoba, and many others too numerous to mention.

#### The Prairie Garden.

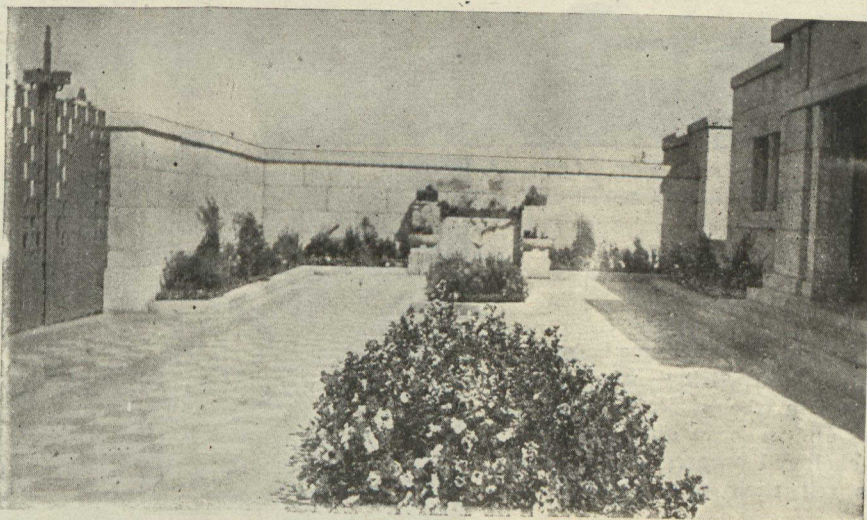
Leaving the barnyard, we come to the garden, and it is surely needless to say that on the bald-headed prairie a good wind-break is essential to the well-being of the garden.

Given shelter from the wind, and reasonable care, the gardens of the prairie provinces are as good as can be found anywhere. All the standard vegetables and small fruits flourish in abundance, while as for flowers, the old friendly favorites of one's childhood and the most modern varieties, as these are introduced, respond readily to the rich soil, the warm sun and the placid atmosphere of the oasis beside the shelter belt.

When properly laid out, trees also effectively prevent those vast accumulations of snow which, during the winter storms often surround and even more or less completely cover

farm buildings, thus not only saving winds, it was for long difficult to obtain home-grown seed, the writer on one occasion fortunately planted a small field lying south of an excellent shelter belt of Manitoba Maple and Russian Willow. This corn did wonderfully well, producing 17½ tons to the acre, as against an average of somewhat less than 8 tons, when grown in the open.

Subsequent similar experiences led to my planting sunflowers in the



This is the "Court of the Gentiles" in the million-dollar Mormon Tabernacle at Cardston, Alberta. Note the happy effect of flower beds and shrubbery.