

perfectly adapted to the environment of soil and climate and which grow with marvellous rapidity.

With a prescience that deserves the highest credit, our Governments of all parties have vied with each other in offering the most tempting bounties to those dwellers on the treeless plains who will fall in line with the grand idea of populating them with those living monuments of beauty, those bulwarks against the cold blasts of winter and the hot breath of midsummer, climatic features of the open prairie which have been used so successfully in the past to intimidate the prospective settler.

Trees are to be obtained on such terms to-day and the necessary instructions as to the handling of them are so readily available that no excuse on the score of expense or want of horticultural knowledge can be urged against the idea of a universal arbor day—not on one day of the year but on as many days as the time can be spared to this delightful and profitable occupation of repopulating the prairie.

There can be little doubt that at one time a large portion of what is now an unbroken sea of grass or grain crop as far as the eye can reach was here and there heavily timbered, but has been denuded of trees perhaps many centuries ago by recurring prairie fires, started no doubt by the aboriginal Indians. Indeed the most conclusive evidence as to this is to be found at many points and certainly to the fact that it does not follow that if

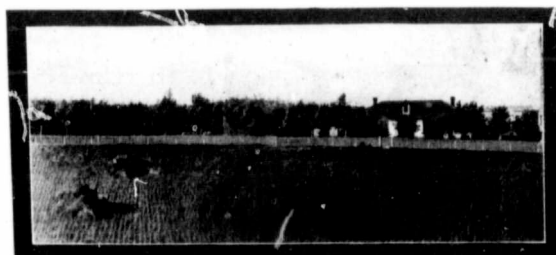
than the growing of certain hardy and extremely beautiful trees around a homestead, but like everything else there are certain conditions to complete success that must be complied with.

In some neighborhoods the rainfall is not abundant and so the old time method of dibbling a hole, sticking in the sapling and leaving it to take its chance will not do. Then it must be remembered that from the first the trees have to withstand a great deal of exposure to storms and extremes of temperature. Further, the soil of the prairie as we now find it after ages of exposure to the elements is so compact and hard that it needs to be specially prepared for the reception of young trees even of the most robust varieties.

There is a vast difference between the texture of the soil on the open prairie and that of the forest. In the first case there is a covering of tough compact sod

Following Nature's method, therefore, if we are to expect a uniform success in even the smallest experiments around the

the disc harrows. After the second plowing, the soil should receive frequent cultivation. Later in the fall a third plowing should



A source of pride to anyone. A transformation scene from the bare sod of a few years ago.

prairie home, we've got to "loosen up."

With regard to soil preparation for the reception of trees, Mr. Norman Ross (Chief of the Tree Planting Division) says in his exhaustive work on the subject: "In most cases trees will be found to do best on land that has been

be given, working up the ground eight or ten inches deep. On the following spring no further plowing will be necessary except when the trees are being planted, and then a plow should be used to open up a deep furrow in which the young trees are to be set."

Perhaps the very best preparation of the soil for trees is, in the season preceding planting to grow potatoes or some other hoed crop requiring deep and constant cultivation, and in the fall, after the crop is removed, again plow the land as deep as possible."

The variety of trees and the disposition of them is of course to a large extent a matter of taste in the hands of the farmer but he will first of all have to find out and make a list of those varieties which experience has found will suc-

ceed or are not likely to do well in the particular character of soil on his farm. Again we might quote from the authority already referred to, but as the matter covers so much ground and has been so thoroughly gone into by Mr. Ross, we strongly recommend those we can interest in this great forward movement to obtain a copy of this (Bulletin No. 1) from the Forestry Branch, Department of the Interior. It covers practically all conditions common to the three provinces of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

Let the open season of 1914 be a time of preparation at every suitable opportunity for planting as soon as the frost leaves the soil in 1915. Get your information down pat and see some reliable nurseryman's stock in course of the summer. Wayside seedlings are scarcely worth collecting and are not uniformly successful when transplanted.



A young shelter belt on farm of J. J. Ring, Crystal City. Not yet in its "teens" but doing duty worthy of a veteran forest.

while the soil beneath it is so hard as to be almost impenetrable for the roots of plants. In the forest, however, there will invariably be found several inches

under crop for at least a year previous to planting. But as many have no land under cultivation where they wish to plant, they can by a very thorough cultivation of the soil during one season in an ordinary year bring it into fit state for setting out the young trees. In a very dry year one season may not prove long enough to sufficiently rot the sod, and in such cases it will be more satisfactory to defer planting until the land is in a suitable condition, as upon this practically depends the future success of the plantation."

"To prepare sod land for planting" (still quoting from Mr. Ross's bulletin), it should be broken about two inches deep as soon as the frost leaves the ground in spring. When the sod is fairly well rotted, it should be backset about two or three inches deeper and thoroughly worked up with



Where all—man and beast alike—are welcome to the cool shade.

trees are not in sight anywhere it is because they cannot be grown.

Few things in home building are more easy and inexpensive

of loose, decaying vegetable matter and a subsoil comparatively open and porous owing to the action of the tree roots.