

Tree Planting Competitions.

Railway companies come in for no little criticism because of the damage it is alleged they do to forests, and it is, therefore, only fair to chronicle what they are doing on the other side of the scale.

The Canadian Pacific Railway has just announced a competition in the growing of shelter-belts on farms purchased from the railway in Alberta south of Township 28. To encourage farmers to take up this competition the company are offering cash prizes aggregating \$2,400. There is one sweepstake prize of \$600,—two grand prizes of \$300 each two of \$100 each, and 20 prizes of \$50 each. As a further inducement the Company is giving the contestants half the trees required free of charge, and has arranged the following prices for the other half:—one thousand trees or over, \$15 per thousand; under one thousand, \$5 per hundred. The following varieties are furnished:—Russian poplar, cottonwood, green ash, Manitoba maple, laurel-leaf, willow and caragana. Besides prizes and trees, the company's Forest Department stands ready to supply any information in regard to trees and planting.

Prizes are to be awarded in the autumn of 1914. Settlers who gain prizes then will be allowed to go on and compete for special prizes which may be awarded in the next three years. Wind-breaks in this competition must be planted in the Spring of 1913. The chief points to be considered when judging are as follows: preparation of the soil, 30 points; cultivation and care of trees, 30 points; bush-fruits, shrubs and flowers, 10 points; growth and appearance of trees at time of judging, 30 points; total, 100 points.

Having started out on this campaign the Canadian Pacific Railway is

explaining why it is doing so. The circular announcing the competition is accompanied by a neat circular entitled 'Increase the Value of Your Farm: Why Every Western Canadian Farmer Should Plant Wind-breaks.' The eight pages of this circular are filled with reasons why wind-breaks increase the value of Alberta farms, and with directions for attaining the best success in planting.

Time was when people believed trees could not be successfully cultivated west of Manitoba. Now, with twenty million trees sent out from the Dominion Government Forestry Branch nurseries at Indian Head, and with the C.P.R. pushing on the good work, the appearance and comfort of thousands of prairie farms will soon be changed for the better by the shelter-belts of millions of healthy trees.

MERIT SYSTEM IN FOREST SERVICE.

Conservation.

On December 6, a delegation representing the Canadian Forestry Association urged upon Premier Borden and the Minister of the Interior, that all appointments to the outside Dominion Forest Service be based on capability and experience ascertained by examination conducted by the Civil Service Commission. These representations are the result of recommendations made at the last meeting of the Association held at Victoria, B.C.

The winter is the best time to study evergreen trees. Find how many of the following are near your school: white pine, red pine, scrub or Labrador pine, fir, white spruce and red spruce, hemlock, white cedar.—*Educational Review.*