

A Prairie University Invests in Beauty

By Archibald Mitchell.

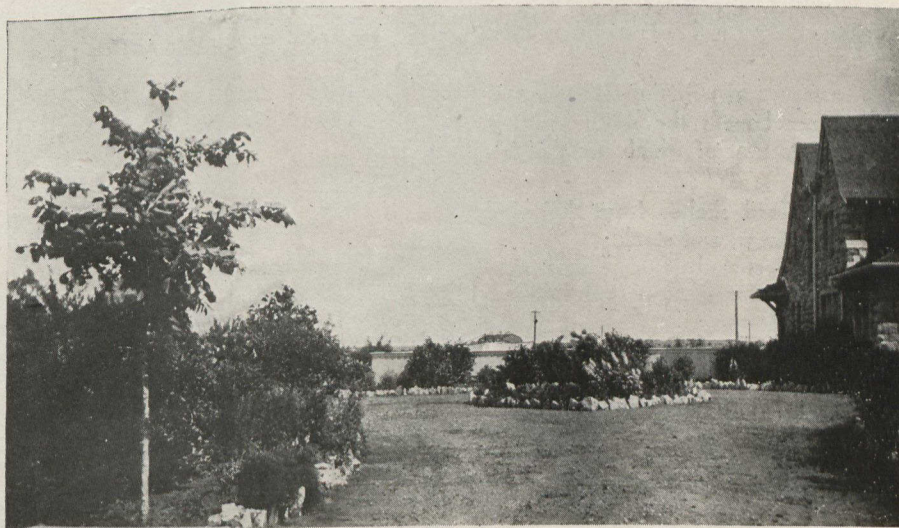
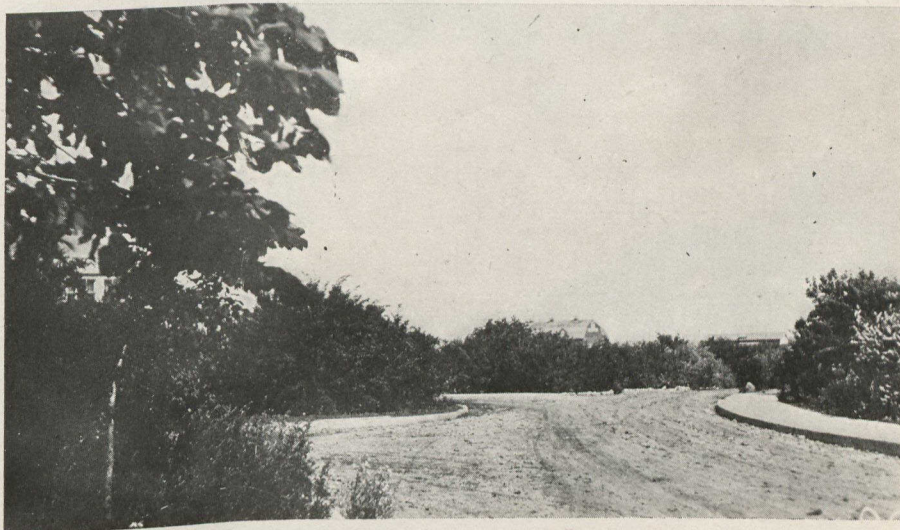
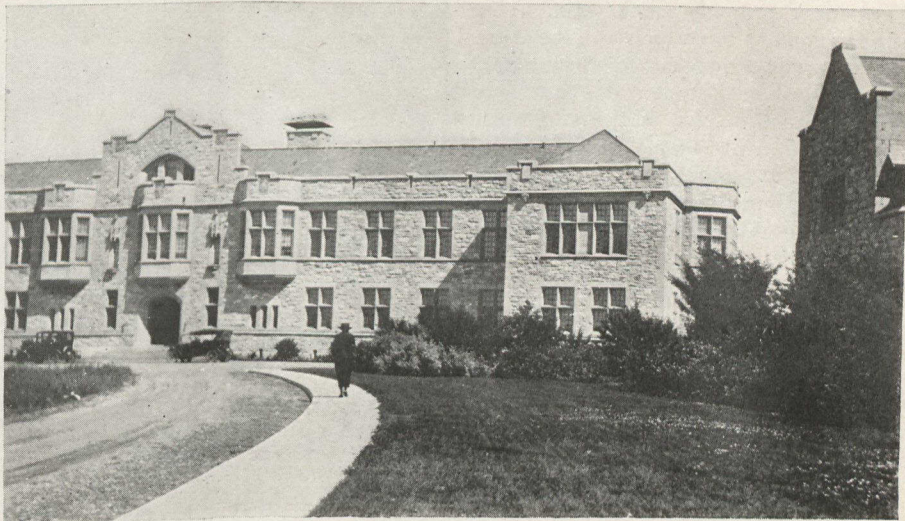
One of the most striking methods of inculcating a love of the beautiful in the people of the prairies is the grounds of the University of Saskatchewan at Saskatoon. There the fine, substantial, chaste-looking buildings are set in groups of splendid shrubbery through which the drives and walks wind between the different buildings, linking them up directly and yet observing those beautiful curving lines of landscape so rarely seen in such institutions.

Agriculture is the basic industry of Saskatchewan, and its recognition as such has been thoroughly emphasized in the teaching of the University, for the science of Agriculture is the principal course there and nothing is spared to make it so.

Young farmers and farmeresses to the number of 1,200 attend these classes during the year and if there is anything in the theory that environment counts for much in the moulding of character, then here, in the midst of the trees and shrubs, flowers and lawns of the grounds of the University is the place where the future leaders of the Province will unconsciously as well as consciously, absorb that love for the beautiful in home surroundings that is so valuable, and in which the west is so woefully deficient.

Returning to their homes these young people cannot fail to carry with them a realization of the possibilities in home improvement there, the planting of trees and shrubs and of the true principles to be observed in carrying out these improvements. It means a great deal to the future home makers of the province.

As a small instance of how short sighted in such matters people can be, we had the pleasure of visiting several other similar institutions lately. Splendid places with wide sweeping lawns and trees and shrubs too, but there were foot-paths here and there across these fine lawns leading from one hall to another; foot-paths made by the hurrying feet of students rushing from class-room to class-room, or from class to residence, an eyesore to the visitor and a bugbear to those in charge. It is a far cry to the days when the monks of old decorously paced the rectangular courts and avenues of the old Universities. They had plenty of time then to go around the corners, and they did it with all the dignity appropriate to the place and occasion. Now-a-days, we are in a different world, and besides classes there are fraternity meetings, literary meetings, athletic meetings, etc., of all sorts to be attended and young people have not the time to pace around the corners of dignity. They want to get there, and so the lawns were criss-crossed with footpaths. At Saskatoon



Set out on absolutely flat prairie, with few natural advantages the University of Saskatchewan at Saskatoon has followed the praiseworthy policy of adorning its walks and grounds by the generous planting of trees and shrubs. The buildings of the University in themselves are beautiful but without the aid of trees would have seemed uninviting enough. Note from the above photographs the enriching and humanizing effect that trees invariably give to prairie buildings and grounds.