

island, which is not only sheltered from the wind, but which, from the growth of grasses and small plants, has a more or less irregular deposit of from two to four inches of humus. Commencing from the centre, the land was ploughed in a circle, and the trees were planted in this for a, some of the deciduous trees being planted first, commencing with the willows, and the coniferous trees mixed with the remainder of the deciduous sorts being placed towards the outside. This plantation will have the advantage of shelter from the wind and also of the small proportion of mould, but other plantations have been made in more exposed situations and in pure sandy soil, so that the test will be as varied as possible. To a large proportion of the trees in the several plantations a mixture of artificial fertilizers has been applied, leaving a portion of each plantation untreated, so as to ascertain how the growth will be affected by such application. An analysis is also being made of the mould which was found already in existence. The last word received by Dr. Saunders from the Superintendent was that the trees were so far getting on quite satisfactorily.

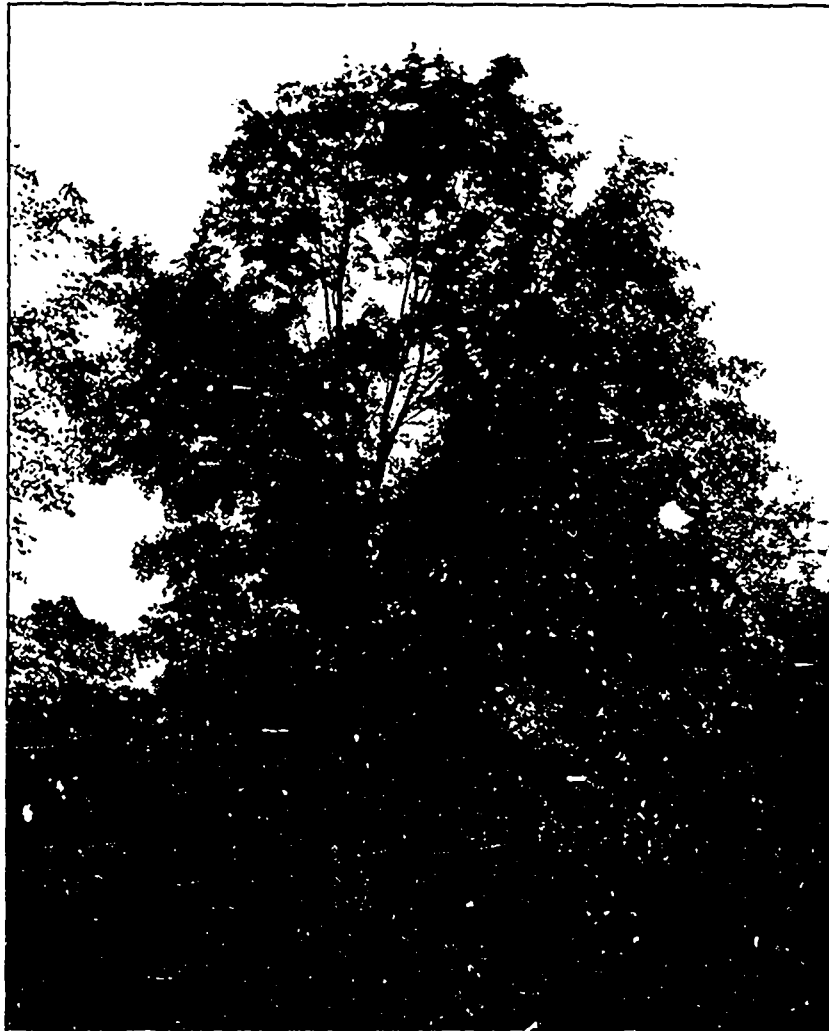
This experiment is one that will be watched with interest for its own sake and also for the sake of the bearing it will have on efforts to deal with tree planting on shifting sands generally in Canada. The field chosen for this experiment presents greater difficulties than perhaps any other, and if they can be overcome in this instance, then assuredly they can easily be conquered elsewhere. It is gratifying to know that Dr. Saunders is making this test so wide, and the Department of Marine may be congratulated on having placed the management of it in the hands of a gentleman who has had the foresight and experience to grasp the broad significance of the solution of the problem in this particular case.

The Soft Maple.

What is called generally the Soft Maple includes two distinct species: the Red or Swamp Maple (*Acer rubrum*) and the White or Silver Maple (*Acer dasycarpum*).

The wood of these trees is white and, compared with the hard maple, is soft and brittle, but is employed where a light and not very strong wood is required. No distinction is made between them commercially. These, with the Hard Maple, are the species which reach such a size in Eastern Canada as to be properly described as trees.

Acer rubrum (rubrum-red) derives its specific name from the red flower buds which appear before the leaves in April or early May. The twigs are also of a reddish tint. The popular name of swamp maple is given it on account of its preference for wet locations. It is found in Canada from the Atlantic to the western boundary of Ontario. The leaves of this tree are distinguished from those of the hard maple by acute sinuses and serrated edges. They vary in shape, the three-lobed shape being the distinctive one, although five lobes are quite common. This and the Silver Maple are the trees which put on the most gorgeous tints in autumn in our lowlands and along our river banks. Flaming into brilliant scarlet or crimson, glowing with a beautiful



THE "SOFT" MAPLE *Acer dasycarpum*.

While not so valuable as the hard or sugar Maple, this species is nevertheless a most useful tree, and one which flourishes further north than the other.

golden light, and displaying all the varied tints between, with the background of more sombre colors and under the hazy light of the dying summer, they form such a picture of brilliantly harmonized coloring as Nature alone can paint, and give to the Canadian woods a beauty which can hardly be surpassed, even by the lavish color displays of tropical scenery, and which lends a charm to the passing of the summer whose influence none but the most insensible mind can fail to feel. *Acer dasycarpum* is the earliest flowering species, the