

tures. You can get young people to plant trees because they will like trees and want to plant them.

Interest the Mothers

Frankly, I have grave doubts that you can do much in stirring up the fathers with anything you can say as to the value of trees and shrubs from an aesthetic standpoint. I have considerable faith in its appeal to the mothers, however, and perhaps, through them we can do something with the alleged heads of the families. Perhaps the most valuable contribution I could make in the whole discussion is to suggest at this place, that stations now distributing trees

Love for Old Home

Of all the factors and of all the ideas connected with the wish to keep our young people on the land or interested in the land, there is nothing that can be as important, aside from the love of father, mother, brothers and sisters as is the love for the old home itself, and the maintenance of this love depends, to a large extent, on the mental pictures carried away when the youth leaves home. I ask you earnestly, if the large majority of prairie homes at present can furnish the best type of pictures in the minds of our young people? I shall assume that you agree with me in this, that from the

deal of the resultant moisture is lost through evaporation. The function of trees as a wind-break and the consequent effect on evaporation is obvious. What is not so generally recognized is the fact that these clumps and rows of trees are a factor in retaining the snow upon the ground. Large forests apparently in drier countries are not now recognized as necessarily conservers of snow-fall. Forestry experts claim, on the other hand, that the great function of trees is to hold the snow on the intermittent bare spaces. It is therefore, plain that the planting of clumps and rows of trees, not too far apart will have just this very effect.

The Will To Do

Having now appealed for consideration of this subject from the aesthetic and the economic standpoint, let me point out that the one thing lacking is the will to do. Everyone of us knows some farmer who has staged an object lesson that is almost a reproach to us, when it comes to the matter of tree planting. Why not study his methods and try to catch some of his spirit? It may seem far fetched to say it, but every tree that is successfully planted makes it easier to succeed with the next tree, and if this work is carried on to an appreciable extent we will find a difference in our precipitation and in the retention of our available moisture. Let me repeat that if we have the will the means are at our disposal.

And now to you irrigationists, I have to say that all this appeals to you also for reasons annexed, but also let me remind you that you have not an excuse in the recognized difficulties a dry-farmer has to contend with. You can, if you will, make irrigated Alberta the prettiest and most desirable part of Alberta. You have the fertility and where water is available, you have no excuse left. If you will pardon a personal reminiscence I would like to tell you of my first experience with the effect of irrigation on tree growth. I and my little family had travelled from Chicago westward, through Wyoming with its cattle raising, into the great American desert of Red Butte country and then across Utah into the sage-brush state of Nevada, across the vast area with only the sight of an odd rabbit, coyote, or alkali covered cow-boy—until we reached Washoe Valley in Nevada. I am not going to speak on the 50,000 acres of productive farmland, but I do want to speak in the next issue on the little city of Reno.



Mr. Heyer's windbreak composed of Spruce and Jack Pine.

and shrubs, forestry organizations, government branches, fostering through extension service, certain activities among the young people, should think very seriously of the possibility of establishing this important line of effort, the encouragement of tree planting in the schools and at the homes. The technical information can be easily obtained; the trees and shrubs are offered by different stations or they can be obtained in their wild state near by. What is wanting is an organization to put this thing over, something that will mean so much to the moral as well as to the economic standpoint of our people. And now lest this be looked upon as merely an exhortation, let us briefly consider what tree planting would mean in Alberta.

The first idea of benefit from tree planting, the one that suggests itself most readily, is that we must have trees and shrubs as a setting before we can classify as home-makers, instead of visitors.

aesthetic, yes, from the moral standpoint, it is not only advisable but absolutely necessary that we attempt to provide those essential settings for the farm buildings that go to make up a real homesteading, that will inspire love and pride.

Wind-break values

The desirability of wind-breaks in the shape of shrubs and trees is generally recognized. The park-areas of our province do not suffer as do the areas, which we may describe as bald prairie. It is scarcely necessary to advocate the necessity of this factor, but the great wonder is that so few farmers have made a definite move in this direction. If we could, by some magic means plant the southern part of this province with rows and clumps of trees I venture to say that there would be no more hot parching winds of the type now so dreaded.

Quite a bit of our precipitation falls in the shape of snow and a great