

heavy task. The plants were therefore removed with an adze, cutting the stems as low as possible. After this treatment, and notwithstanding the couch-grass, many of the plants made new growth, and they are to-day climbing many feet high in the poplars, the two forming at these places a fine shelter-belt. Had the plants been left as put in, the result would have been a barrier able to defy man or beast, and a first-class wind-break. In such position very little trimming would be required at any time, and the character of the growth would absorb the wind rather than drive it over the top, as often occurs with closely trimmed hedges and even with trees of a dense habit of growth. As indicated, I am of opinion that this combination is the best possible where the wind is very strong, and where an effective barrier is required to keep out intruders, either two-footed or four-footed.

A belt of this kind, however, would not suit the taste of every one, and that perhaps is fortunate, as from an æsthetic point of view some diversity in form of tree-growth is desirable, otherwise the landscape would have a monotonous appearance. When planting is being planned the habits of the trees should be considered in relation to the space they are to cover, their capabilities for providing shelter, and the demand they would in future years make on labour to keep them within proper limits. In all cases the less trimming that is required the better, not alone as saving labour but also because the more a tree can be allowed to keep its natural habit the more beautiful it is. For this reason large trees, such as *Pinus insignis* and *Cupressus macrocarpa*, should not find a place in narrow belts. If they are allowed to grow unchecked they smother everything else, or occupy too much space, and if they are checked much labour is involved. Almost any other pine is better, with the exception, possibly, of a very few, such as *Pinus sabiana* and *Pinus Lambertiana*, which, being loosely clad with foliage, would not give good shelter. *Pinus muricata* is, I think deservedly, most valued for shelter-planting. It is a dense tree, eventually round-headed, and not inclined to be overpowering. It is also hardy in most parts, and is perhaps the best pine for planting near the sea-coast.

In inland positions there are many suitable trees the inclusion of which would add interest and beauty to a belt, and this might well be considered and acted on when the same result as to shelter, the primary object, can be secured. The redwood of California (*Sequoia sempervirens*) should also find a place. This tree is not wide-spreading, and retains its lower branches, as is usual with trees of pyramidal habit. *Cupressus torolosa*, *Cupressus Knightii* (with glaucous foliage), and *Cupressus Goveniana* are admissible. *Acacia decurrens* var. *mollissima* dotted here and there would add colour and brightness. A few deciduous trees of quick growth, particularly sycamore and planes, might be included. When there is a desire to keep out wind or to secure privacy, an outer row of a special character should be planted. What this is to be may be a matter of individual taste. Lawson's cypress—*Chamaecyparis* (*Cupressus*) *Lawsoniana*—stands out beyond all other trees for this purpose, being the hardiest evergreen tree we have, quite indifferent to wind, dense in habit, always clothed with branches right to the ground, and fairly fast in growth after the first few years. This tree does well planted at any reasonable distance apart—from as close as 12 in. for a pure hedge. For the shelter-belt purpose now under consideration