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**City Improvement Association.**

The attendance at the city improvement association Tuesday was large and representative of a large circle of citizens. The paper on "Arboriculture" by Mrs. McConnell was received with the very best attention and heartily appreciated. Mrs. McConnell is known in Lincoln as a pioneer in the matter of urging city improvement when the foundations of institutions were being laid in the first years and her enthusiasm does not abate. Her paper yesterday was most excellent. It referred to the love and worship of trees among the ancients, from the Grecian oracle groves to the Druidic oaks and in later days of the influence of trees upon the poets of all lands.

She spoke with sadness of the denudation of our own hills and mountains, that seems to threaten that forests of any kind will be as rare as now are those of the sequoias of the California groves.

In rapid review the great advance in arboriculture in Europe was mentioned. France has reclaimed whole departments from miasmatic swamps and shifting sand dunes to fertile regions fair to look upon. Germany since Frederick the Great's first steps has done wonders and produced a great source of national wealth. Italy has turned her attention to tree culture. The campaign is being wrested from the reign of fever. England's magnificent parks and storied trees tell of that nation's love for trees. Coming to our own country, Mrs. McConnell's paper was as follows:

"In our own land we find a great awakening on the subject of forestry. Warned by the experience by other lands our government and the different states of the union have enacted wise laws for the preservation and perpetuation of our forests.

"Early in colonial days New Hampshire and New York foresaw the destruction of their forests. Laws were enacted to prevent and repair the injury. Agricultural societies tried to create a sentiment favorable to arboriculture. But little was accomplished for the boundless forests seemed inexhaustible.

"But within the last few decades marvellous changes have been wrought throughout our land. In this movement Nebraska has been and now is a leader.

"The people of Nebraska, coming to these treeless plains from older states, where the grand old trees were the companions and friends of their childhood, realized how much of the joy and beauty of life came from the companionship of trees. Their economic value too was a potent factor.

"A public sentiment, borne of necessity, made the conditions favorable, when at a meeting of the state board of agriculture in Lincoln, January 4, 1872, through the far-sighted and inspiring genius of J. Sterling Morton 'Arbor day' was founded. From this beginning Arbor day has grown to be one of our most popular festivals. It is now observed by every state in the union. It has been adopted by lands beyond the sea. Grand results are already attained by its stimulating influence. It will increase and multiply as the years go by.

"The awakened interest in arboriculture has given us government forest reservations and national parks throughout the land—the beautiful park systems of Washington, Chicago, Boston and most of our cities, great and small, and aroused the concerted action of communities for the preservation of beautiful and historic places.

"George Vanderbilt is showing the possibilities of arboriculture in the grand work he is doing on his estate at Asheville, N. C.

"In Massachusetts, led by the inspiring genius and devotion of our world-famous landscape architects, Frederick Law Olmsted and Charles Elliot, son of President Elliot of Harvard, the Massachusetts general court incorporated the society they had formed under the title

of 'trustees of public reservation.'

"The splendid results of the work of this society are seen in the beautiful park systems of Boston, in Virginia Wood, in Middlesex Fell, in the province lands at Province Town, Mass., where the sandy desolate lands are being reclaimed and protected from the inroads of the ocean by planting immense groves of fine trees.

"The moral effect of the work of this society is seen in almost every city, village and hamlet throughout the commonwealth. Charles Elliot was the leading spirit in this movement. His death about three weeks ago at the age of thirty-seven caused by his untiring zeal and self-sacrifice in the work, is a public calamity. We recall his charming landscapes of the Columbian exposition grounds in Chicago. His monument is seen in the thousands of acres of barren lands, rugged mountain sides, river, lake and ocean shores that he transformed and made beautiful.

"With the work now being done in reclaiming the waste lands in our own state, with the changed appearance of these once treeless plains through the groves planted under the auspices of Arbor day and the tree culture act all are familiar.

"In entering upon the work we hope to accomplish through our improvement society in making our city more attractive, we gain courage and inspiration from the results attained by improvement societies in older communities and have visions of what our city may become.

"The first improvement society in our country was formed by Miss Mary Hopkins in Stockbridge, Mass., in 1858. She devoted herself with untiring energy to the work of planting flowers, vines and trees in her native town. The aims of the improvement society she founded appealed to the love of the beautiful in the people of Stockbridge. Public spirit in aid of the cause was aroused. The streets were bordered by trees, groves were planted in the parks and on the hillsides. The citizens sought to make their homes, school grounds, parks and as a result Stockbridge is now an ideal waste places beautiful and attractive, place-famed throughout the land for its beauty.

"The example of Stockbridge has been contagious. Numberless towns and cities throughout the land are being made attractive by their improvement societies.

"The ladies of the Roxburgh club in Boston are now doing a great work by co-operating with the city forester in protecting and caring for the trees in the streets and city parks. In Charleston, S. C., once one of the most beautifully shaded cities, but torn and destroyed by the cyclone in 1885, and again devastated by the earthquake of the following year and many other storms have followed, they have planted thousands of trees in the streets, at the same time making their own grounds attractive again.

"In our own improvement society, in the many sided work before us, all can find something to do. If each club belonging to the city federation will do some special work—something visible and tangible toward beautifying our city—much may be accomplished. The Ingleside, after an existence of fifteen years, left behind it a memorial window in the First Congregational church for one of its members—Mrs. Fairfield, wife of Chancellor Fairfield of our university—one of the noblest women who ever made Lincoln her home.

"At this opening of the spring time and the coming twenty-fifth anniversary of Arbor day, arboriculture has special claims upon the members of our improvement society. Each member can do much toward making our city beautiful by planting around her home flowers, vines and trees.

"Go make thy garden as fair as thou canst, thou workest never alone; perchance he whose lot is next to thine, will see it and mend his own."

It was reported that the Lotos club

had on last Friday, with appropriate ceremonies, planted in the capitol ground a linden tree, the information being received as token for encouragement and co-operation.

Mrs. Tate's report for committee on care of streets and alleys gave occasion for discussion as to ways and means, an expression of opinion being asked for, which resulted in leaving the matter in hands of the committee, as before, with assurance of indorsement. Mrs. Bushnell for the Prescott school reported everybody co-operative, including Mr. Hackney of the school board, and waiting for co-operation of the weather so that grading can be done. Her reports have always a cheery ring. Mrs. Kelley for Vine street school reported boxes for windows all made, through the kindness of certain gentlemen, and without cost and waiting for plants, when the time shall arrive. She expressed concern as to funds for trees and was informed that it is expected that the board of education will supply all trees when assurance is given that they will be cared for by enthusiastic patrons.

Mrs. E. T. Hartley was appointed to secure interest of the children at Bancroft school and Mrs. J. E. Miller for Prescott.

Mrs. Reblaender for membership committee reported the problems on which she is studying in view of making the community understand the object of the association as well as the fact of its existence and the consequent duty of everybody who can raise 25 cents to become a member. She received the sympathy of the entire meeting. It is confidently believed that in time a good number of Lincolnites will awake to a realization of the situation. It seems easier to be posted on matters in Europe than on some matters in Lincoln.

Mrs. C. N. Crawford was appointed chairman for Elliott school and is entering upon her duties with zeal and announces a meeting of patrons for next Friday 4 p. m. at the school house.

At the next meeting Mrs. Nellie Richardson will speak on the new city charter.

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