

ARBOR DAY. It is pleasant to have for a subject one that in its name suggests comfort and rest—a shelter for the weary—a grateful shade to the traveler. Arbor Day is the only holiday that exists for the future, all others eulogize the past, keep alive some memory mingled with sorrow.

Arbor day speaks only of joy, progress, hope, the most unselfish of days providing for the welfare of the future, adding to the joy of our descendants, rather than glorifying the deeds of our ancestors.

The first settlers found on the shores of their new home unlimited forests, reaching, as far as they knew, from shore to shore. The necessity of clearings for their farms led them to look upon the forests as their natural enemy, to be disposed of by axe and saw; so for years forest destruction seemed in the line of progress. The woodman's axe was the symbol of civilization. What a change of scene met the eyes of those who, in later years, emerged from the cool, protecting woods upon the vast, treeless, sunburned plains of the west!

Here, under the fierce rays of the sun, in the blinding sand storms, in the death dealing winds of winter, they learned the value of trees, realized as never before their beauty, their protection, their life saving properties. So, out of man's necessities grew the sentiment for which Arbor Day was born. Early settlers destroyed the forests that the fields might bloom; we must protect the forests, that the fields may not cease to bloom.

J. Sterling Morton of Nebraska, Secretary of Agriculture, who for eighteen years had planted trees about his home, Arbor Lodge, making it a cool, green, sheltered spot on a burning, wind swept plain, in 1872 conceived the idea of setting apart a day for tree planting.

Before that time rows of trees for wind breaks about the ranch buildings, with here and there a little foliage along the river banks, was all that gave variety to that great rolling prairie.

Mr. Morton on January 4th, 1872, in the city of Lincoln, Neb., at the State Board of Agriculture, introduced a resolution declaring that a day in April be set apart for tree planting, to be named Arbor Day, its object to avert treelessness, to improve the climatic conditions—for the sanitation and embellishment of home environments—for the love of the beautiful and useful combined in the music and majesty of a tree, as fancy and truth unite in an epic poem.

One hundred dollars was offered to any Nebraska county planting the greatest number of trees, and a farm library, costing twenty-five dollars, to any person properly planting the greatest number of trees.

Thus Arbor Day originated, and the

cry of "plant trees" resounded through the state.

On March 31, 1874, Gov. Robert W. Furnas issued the first proclamation for the observation of the new holiday.

Results. Some years later the legislature made the 22nd of April, Secretary Morton's birthday, a legal holiday, and christened it Arbor Day. So quickly did it appeal to the intelligent, beauty-loving people of the state, that upon its first anniversary one million trees were planted, and within sixteen years three hundred and fifty-five million forest, fruit and shade trees, one firm alone having a contract for planting three and a half-million forest trees.

Nebraska is known as the tree planting state. So readily do trees grow in its fertile soil that thousands are pulled up by the roots from the banks of the Missouri and set in rows in ploughed furrows, the earth turned back upon their roots, trodden down by the planter's foot, and left to grow without further care. Naturally the greatest number of trees are planted in treeless states, but the tree spirit is as strong among our well wooded hills, and as deep a love may be aroused by the planting of a single tree.

Already forty-two states observe Arbor Day, either as a legal holiday, or as a day set apart by their governors.

All But Three. The States not officially observing Arbor Day are Utah, Wyoming and Delaware. Arbor Day has entered Canada and Mexico, and crossed the seas to Great Britain and India.

Do you realize that railroads, manufacturing and forest fires consume in the United States an average of 25,000 acres growth every twenty-four hours? How many acres are planted every twenty-four hours? How long will it be before the primeval woodlands will be completely denuded.

With this enormous consumption, the need of tree planting becomes greater, and the importance of Arbor Day increases. As more than twice as much wood is consumed as can be grown on our forest area, Arbor day cannot hope to repair the loss, but will set in motion those ideas, that in time, will develop systematic forest management, such as is enjoyed by European nations, and forest guardians to enforce protective laws will reduce our loss to a minimum.

Next in importance to Arbor Day being made a national holiday comes its celebration in the

The Schools. schools, for much as we may hope to influence the present generation toward tree preservation, it is among the children that the greatest work must be done. Only by arousing a tree planting sentiment among them can we hope for forests in the future. Our states do not own great forest areas

as in Europe, even private estates seldom pass from generation to generation in one family, so that we must depend upon public sentiment for our tree preservation—upon individual effort—therefore our clubs cannot place responsibility upon the government—it is to the people that we must look, and the people must be taught through the public schools.

Let the young be taught that they herald an era of forest planters, not of forest destroyers, for "Enlightened public sentiment is better than a national police."

The day was first celebrated in schools in America through the influence of the Forestry Association, which met in Cincinnati in 1882. The city put on its holiday attire, public schools were dismissed that teacher and public might take part in the ceremonies.

Fifty thousand people assembled in the parks to attend the planting. Upon the firing of a gun

A Congregation. memorial groves, such as President Grove, Pioneer's Grove, Battle, Citizens, Author's Groves, were planted by loving hands and dedicated with appropriate ceremonies. In each grove tablets with inscriptions were set. The celebration aroused great enthusiasm. No sight more touching or beautiful has been seen in Cincinnati, and a crown of success was awarded the Forestry Association. This Cincinnati plan of planting memorial trees and groves has been followed by other states and recommended in the schools of Great Britain. When we consider that the age of an oak may be 2000 years—of an elm 500, of a maple 800—what more enduring or beneficent monument can be raised to the dead. New Haven, with its famous elms, holds in grateful remembrance Hon. James Hillhouse, by whose hands they were planted.

Today the beautiful ash trees planted by Washington at Mt. Vernon are not the

Patriotic Trees. least of his memorials. What monument of marble moves the heart of every true American as does the Washington Elm in Cambridge, and as did our beloved Boston Elm, upon whose fall the church bells tolled?

The interest in the grove planted by Hamilton in New York grows deeper as time goes on, and by its living presence seems to bring us into closer touch with the hand that tended it in youth.

In Iowa a law provided that each school shall plant twelve trees upon its unshaded grounds.

Pupil's Plant. In towns where children can plant trees the day is celebrated out of doors by instructing the scholars how to plant trees previously selected, and for which holes have been carefully prepared, poems are read and songs sung relating to their beauty and growth, thereby investing them with an interest and affection that always fol-