

ARBOR DAY. THE CONSERVATIVE gets many letters relative to Arbor Day, its origin and observance.

The subjoined is from a book edited by Governor Robert W. Furnas and published by the State Journal Company in 1888:

"What is now known almost throughout the civilized world as 'Arbor Day,'

Its Origin. originated in Nebraska. At an annual meeting of the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture, held in the city of Lincoln, Jan. 4, 1872, J. Sterling Morton of Nebraska City, introduced the following resolution, which was unanimously adopted, after some little debate as to the name, some present contending for the term 'Sylvan' instead of 'Arbor':

"Resolved, That Wednesday, the 10th day of April, 1872, be and the same is hereby especially set apart and consecrated for tree planting in the state of Nebraska, and the State Board of Agriculture hereby name it Arbor Day; and, to urge upon the people of the state the vital importance of tree planting, hereby offer a special premium of one hundred dollars to the agricultural society of that county in Nebraska which shall, upon that day, plant properly the largest number of trees; and a farm library of twenty-five dollars' worth of books to that person who, on that day, shall plant properly in Nebraska the greatest number of trees."

"Mr. J. T. Allan offered the following resolution, which was also adopted unanimously:

"Resolved that the newspapers of the state be requested by the State Board of Agriculture to keep the resolution in regard to the anniversary day for tree planting standing in their columns until April 10th next, and to call especial attention of the people to the importance of the matter from time to time."

"The newspapers of the state were generous and kept Arbor Day well before the people. The result was that over a million trees were planted in Nebraska on the first Arbor Day, April 10, 1872. The day was again observed in 1873 with increased interest and results.

"March 31, 1874, the first Arbor Day proclamation was issued by the governor:

"Whereas, The Nebraska State Board of Agriculture, at its January meeting, 1874, adopted the following resolutions:

"Resolved, That the second Wednesday of April of each year be and the same is hereby

Governor's Proclamation. designated, dedicated, and set apart as 'Arbor day' for the state of Nebraska, and that the agriculturists of Nebraska be requested to petition the legislature to make said Arbor Day a legal holiday. That until so made a holiday the gover-

nor be requested to call attention to said 'Arbor Day,' by proclamation, and request the whole people of the state to observe it, by planting forest, fruit, or ornamental trees.

"And, Whereas, I have been officially notified by the president of said board, and by him requested to comply therewith,

"Now, Therefore, I, Robert W. Furnas, governor of the state of Nebraska, do hereby publicly proclaim the aforesaid transactions of the State Board of Agriculture, and both respectfully and urgently recommend that the day designated, viz., the 8th day of April, 1874, be observed by the people of this state, as desired and expressed in the resolution herein referred to

"In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great seal of the state of Nebraska to be affixed on the 31st day of March, A. D. 1874.

[SEAL OF STATE.] ROBT. W. FURNAS.

By the Governor:

John J. Gosper, Secretary of State.

"It was generally observed in all parts of the state, and millions of trees were planted on that day. Annually thereafter, other governors followed this example, until at the session of the legislature in the winter of 1885, the following act was passed, designating the 22nd of April in each year as Arbor Day, and making it one of the legal holidays:

"Sec 8. [Days to be observed as holidays.]—That the following days, to wit, the first day of January, February twenty-second, and the twenty-second of April, which shall be known as 'Arbor Day' the twenty-fifth day of December, the thirtieth day of May, and July fourth, and any day appointed or recommended by the governor of this state, or the president of the United States, as a day of fast or thanksgiving, and when any one of these days shall occur on Sunday, then the Monday following shall, for all purposes whatsoever as regards the presenting for payment or acceptance, and the protesting and giving notice of the dishonor of bills of exchange, bank checks or promissory notes, made after the passage of this act, be deemed public holidays, and be treated and considered as the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday. Provided, That when any of these days shall occur on Monday, any bill of exchange, bank check or promissory note, made after the passage of this act, which but for this act would fall due and be payable on such Monday, shall become due and be payable on the day thereafter.

"Since the inauguration of Arbor Day, liberal (both constitutional and Statutory Enactments. statutory) provisions have been made in Nebraska. A clause in the existing constitution provides, 'That the increased value of lands by reason of

live fences, fruit and forest trees grown and cultivated thereon, shall not be taken into account in the assessment thereof.'

"The following statutory enactments are now in existence (Chapter 2, Agriculture]:

"Sec. 3. That the corporate authorities of the cities and villages of the state of Nebraska shall cause shade trees to be planted along the streets thereof.

"Sec. 4. For the above purpose a tax of not less than one dollar, nor more than five dollars, in addition to all other taxes, shall be levied upon each lot adjacent to which the trees are to be planted as aforesaid and collected as other taxes.

"Sec. 5. Trees shall be annually planted, when practicable, on each side of one-fourth of the streets in each city and village in the state of Nebraska, until all shall have shade trees along them not more than twenty feet apart.

"Sec. 6. The corporate authorities aforesaid shall provide by ordinance the distance from the side of the street that trees shall be planted, and the size thereof.

"Sec. 7. Provided, the owner of any lot or lots may plant trees adjacent thereto where ordered as above, in the manner and of the size prescribed, and on making proof thereof by affidavit to the collector, said affidavit shall exempt said owner from the payment of the aforesaid tax.

"Sec. 8. Any person who shall materially injure or shall destroy the shade tree or trees of another, or permit his animals to injure or destroy them, shall be liable to a fine of not less than five dollars, nor more than fifty dollars, for each tree thus injured or destroyed, which fine shall be collected on complaint of any person or persons before any court of proper jurisdiction. One-half of all fines thus collected shall be paid to the owner of the trees injured or destroyed; the other half shall be paid into the school fund.

"Sec. 9. That this act shall not apply to any person that is occupant of any business lot without his consent.

"Sec. 10. That when any person shall plant and properly cultivate for the term of five years, six rows of trees, eight feet apart, and the trees four feet apart in the row, along either the north section or the half section line, running east and west, said rows to be not nearer to the said north section or half section line than four feet or to the south line of any road which may be laid out on said north section or half section line; or when any person shall fill out to the standard above prescribed, and keep the same in a proper state of cultivation for the time above stated, any rows of trees that may have previously been planted along said north section or said half section line, it shall be the duty of the county commissioners to pay to such