

THE PLAN IS FAVORED.

The statement emanating from Washington that President Roosevelt's first message will outline a systematic plan of reforestation and ask for an appropriation therefor, is of especial interest at this time because of President McKinley's well-known love for trees and his utterances in respect to the same on that last Friday of his life.

In this connection it is of interest to know that several of the state administration, as well as the national administrations, are likely to advocate through Arbor Day proclamations or otherwise, the planting of trees in honor of the late President's memory.

It is Orlin M. Sanford, of this city, who is responsible for this latter suggestion and who has communicated with quite a number of the governors and some of the national officials in respect to adopting this scheme. From the replies received it is likely that the state of Ohio will lead off in its forthcoming Arbor Day proclamation, as the governor writes that he thinks it an excellent idea, and will be pleased to consider it in his Arbor Day proclamation. Governor McLean, of Connecticut, has referred the matter to the local press and he is also likely to take action. Favorable replies have also been received from other governors, including New York, Kansas, North Dakota, and others are expected soon. A letter just received from Secretary to the President, George B. Cortelyou, indicates that the matter has been laid before the President for his consideration, which is likely to be favorable in view of his attitude in reforestation. The New York Independent thinks the suggestion a good one and writes that the matter has been put before the proper editor for a forthcoming editorial on the subject. The governors of Colorado and Wyoming are likely, it is thought, to entertain the idea favorably, especially as their attention was called to dispatches from Denver recently, stating that over 50 miles of forest in the mountains between Colorado and Wyoming were burning.

It is stated on good authority that the available forest area of Pennsylvania is equal to a strip of 17 miles wide across the state north and south, but this area by the same authority is said to be diminishing at the rate of about a mile a year, so that at the present rate of progress, or rather destruction, which is likely to be increased rather than diminished, this supply will be exhausted in 17 years. Some idea of the various agencies which are using up our timber may be obtained through the simple statement that the wood pulp manufacturers of this country are using up 25

acres of forest a day. The arguments for reforestation are many and passing, and it is to be hoped that both state and national administrations will promptly recommend immediate measures to this end.—Pittsburg, Pa., "Leader," Sept. 30, 1901.

Pittsburg, Oct. 7, 1901.

J. Sterling Morton, Editor The Conservative, Nebraska City, Neb. Dear Sir: The enclosed editorials and newspaper clippings, relative to a recent suggestion of mine that on Arbor Day trees be planted in honor of our late President's life and love and death, especially in view of those last dying utterances of his, will, I trust, prove self-explanatory.

I take the liberty of sending them to you as the "father, author and originator of Arbor Day," doing so at the special suggestion of your State Superintendent of Public Instruction, William K. Fowler, to whose attention, as well as that of your governor, I have recently also called the matter.

Knowing your living interest in all that pertains to forestry, and extended influence, may I not take the liberty of calling your attention to this subject and bespeaking your co-operation in advancing the good cause? I should highly appreciate whatever you can do.

My attention has been called to quite a number of editorials, commenting favorably upon the idea and a few of these I enclose to you.

In the last few days I have heard favorably from about 20 of our governors: and the governors of Ohio, Indiana, Minnesota, Michigan and Colorado have written me definitely that they will incorporate the idea in Arbor Day proclamations. Governor S. R. Van Sant, of Minnesota, after writing very warmly in the matter, says: "I will bear the matter in mind and will call the attention of our legislature thereto so that the Arbor Day law may be amended to meet your suggestions." I do not think that, save in exceptional cases, existing laws will have to be changed. I am calling the attention of the superintendents of public instruction in many of the states to this idea. Hoping I have not trespassed unduly upon your time, and that you will kindly advise me of any action in the matter, I have the honor to remain,

Yours very sincerely,
ORLIN M. SANFORD.

Even with no other guide than the beauty of his domestic life, it would be a safe inference that President McKinley's relations with the refinements of his earthly environment were true and right. It is said of him that upon the morning of the last day of his life, when the nurses sought to screen his eyes from the light, he dissented, saying: "No, I want to

see the trees, they are so beautiful." It is easy perhaps to dismiss that tribute as the pathetic sentiment of a man who was considering the harmony and beauty of nature for the last time, but a better course is to make some practical use of it. Mr. O. M. Sanford, general agent of the Equitable Life Assurance Company at Pittsburg, suggests in the Dispatch of that city "that our municipalities and schools and citizens, should perpetuate our late President's dying love for the beautiful trees by planting memorial McKinley trees in honor of his life and love and death. In those last words of his, expressing his dying wish to gaze upon the beautiful trees, did he not plant the seed of thought in our hearts and should we not forthwith carry out that thought to a legitimate and loving fruition by planting the trees he loved so well?" We certainly cannot have too many incentives for the stimulation of tree-planting. The plea of utility is all sufficient were its force adequately estimated. But sentiment is frequently an even more powerful influence. We can hardly see how a love of country can be complete without a love of trees and a desire to preserve and multiply them. The last words spoken to his country have been considered among the late president's best words, and what he said of the trees, which he regarded with eyes more of the spirit than of the flesh, should not be permitted to pass unheeded.—Boston "Evening Transcript."

To the Editor of The Dispatch:

Sir—It was on the morning of President McKinley's last day (Friday) upon this earth, when the nurses sought to adjust the pillow so as to screen his eyes and shut off the too direct rays of light, that the dying sufferer quietly objected, adding in explanation, "No, I want to see the trees; they are so beautiful."

May we not think that "their green tops stole over him, and bowed his spirit with the thought of the boundless power and majesty" and goodness of his and their creator? Possibly they may have so appealed to him with peculiar force in that moment; the poetic characterization of them as a "creation of property so clean of tears, of crime, even of care," practically growing "at nobody's cost and for everybody's comfort," that his great wounded heart went out to them and found rest. It has been well said by Emerson that "Nature is loved by what is best in us," and it was our gentle Washington Irving who wrote: "There is something noble, simple and pure in a taste for trees," and Ruskin who still further emphasized this by declaring that such a love is a "sign of godness of heart and just-