

# The Conservative.

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VOL. IV. NO. 26.

NEBRASKA CITY, NEBRASKA, JANUARY 2, 1902.

SINGLE COPIES, 5 CENTS.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

OFFICES: OVERLAND THEATRE BLOCK.

J. STERLING MORTON, EDITOR.

A JOURNAL DEVOTED TO THE DISCUSSION OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND SOCIOLOGICAL QUESTIONS.

CIRCULATION THIS WEEK, 13,968 COPIES.

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

One dollar and a half per year in advance, postpaid to any part of the United States or Canada. Remittances made payable to The Morton Printing Company.

Address, THE CONSERVATIVE, Nebraska City, Nebraska.

Advertising rates made known upon application.

Entered at the postoffice at Nebraska City, Neb., as Second Class matter, July 29, 1898.

On the 4th day of January, 1872, at a meeting of the State Board of Agriculture in Lincoln, J. Sterling Morton offered a resolution setting apart a "day consecrated" to tree planting, and naming it Arbor Day.

Thus on that date was harnessed a thought which has sped its way around the globe and left traces of its value in the islands of every sea and upon the civilization of every continent and climate. In the thirty years of its useful observance it has become the favorite anniversary of good men and women and school children in the United States, in parts of Canada, England, Mexico and India, and it is still advancing in the esteem of the lovers of a beautiful world everywhere.

Arbor Day is the one anniversary that stands with its back to the Past and its face to the Future.



PLANT TREES

It is altruistic. It sends greetings and foliage, flowers and fruits to Posterity. Other holidays worship and eulogize Ancestry; Arbor Day provides the beautiful and useful for our descendants. It compels us to think of the millions who are to follow us in the little journey which begins with a Cradle for its depot and ends in the great union station of the Grave. It makes us happy in trying to provide shade from summer sun, and shelter from winter blasts, and flowers and fruit for those,

descended from our loins, who in the coming decades must possess the earth.

In 1888 Edmund C. Stedman wrote four lines for Arbor Day, entitled: "The Tree Planter," saying:

Tribute of fruits be his, and glossy wreaths  
From roadside trees, and his, the people's love,  
When east and west the wind of summer  
breathes  
Through orchard, shaded path and sighing  
grove.

And from El Paso, Texas, on April 19th, 1888, the late Andrew J. Poppleton, of Omaha, wrote: "Arbor Day is recognized

in Mexico. Mr. Morton, its author, is a benefactor of other states and countries as well as his own. In Nebraska, 'Plant Trees' should be the eleventh commandment."

Writing from Deerfoot Farm, Southborough, on March 25th, to the late H. L. Wood, then editor of the Nebraska City Daily Press, James Russell Lowell declares:

"I think that no man does anything more visibly useful to posterity than he who plants a tree. I should answer the cynic's question, 'What has posterity done for me that I should do anything for it?' that it is all the pleasanter to do something for those who can do nothing for us.

"Marco Polo relates that the great Kublai Khan planted trees the more willingly because 'his astrologers and diviners told him that they who planted trees lived long.' Let me hope that this may prove true in the case of Mr. Morton."

And during the spring of 1888 there came to Arbor Lodge, many hearty congratulations from statesmen, authors, and patriotic citizens proud of their country, and lovers of its woodlands, groves and orchards. In book form they are all treasured at Arbor Lodge.

After thirty years of trial and test, Arbor Day has proved itself the best Evangelist of arboriculture and forestry to which the

country has ever listened. The general revival of interest in tree-planting and tree-conserving is an involuntary and spontaneous tribute to its valuable services as an instructor and an inspiration. It will live and do good for centuries.

JANUARY  
2nd, 1805.

Lewis and Clark  
were encamped  
January 1st, 1805,  
at Fort Mandan,

which they had built for their winter quarters. They began the erection of their cabins on November 3rd, 1804. In their journal for November 20 we find the following:

"We this day moved into our huts, which are now completed. This place, which we call Fort Mandan, is situated in a point of low ground on the north side of the Missouri, covered with tall and heavy cottonwoods. The works consist of two rows of huts or sheds, forming an angle where they joined each other; each row containing four rooms of fourteen feet square and seven feet high, with plank ceiling, and the roof slanting so as to form a loft above the rooms, the highest part of which is eighteen feet from the ground; the backs of the huts formed a wall of that height, and opposite the angle the place of the wall was supplied by picketing; in the area were two rooms for stores and provisions. The latitude, by observation, is 47 degrees, 21 minutes and 47 seconds, and the computed distance from the mouth of the Missouri, sixteen hundred miles."

And on January 1st, 1805, at Fort Mandan, those pioneer explorers enter upon their daily journal this statement: "The New Year was welcomed by two shot from the swivel, and a round of small arms. The weather was cloudy but moderate, the mercury at sunrise was eighteen above zero and during the day rose to 34 above zero; towards evening it began to rain, and at night we had snow, the temperature for which is about zero. In the morning we permitted sixteen men with their music to go up to the first village, where they delighted the whole tribe with their dances, particularly with the movements of one of the Frenchmen, who danced on his head. In return, the Indians presented the dancers with several buffalo robes and quantities of corn. We were desirous of showing this attention to the village, because they had received an impression that we had been wanting in regard for them, and because they had in consequence circulated invidious comparisons between us and the northern traders; all these, however, they declared to Captain Clark,