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J. STERLING MORTON, EDITOR.

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It is a matter of **ARBOR DAY.** extreme gratification to the Conservative to know that Arbor Day is observed more generally each succeeding year.

To a pioneer Nebraskan, who in the early 50's saw the undulating, windswept prairies, dotted with the little cabins unshaded in summer, and exposed to the full force of fierce winds in winter, and now sees them adorned with hedges, groves and orchards, which shade and protect the comfortable homes, the transformation of a barren wilderness into the lovely Nebraska of today seems one of the most wonderful works of the century.

Nor has Nebraska alone been benefited by Arbor Day, though to her must go the credit for inaugurating the beneficent work. As J. Sterling Morton, editor of this paper, was the originator of Arbor Day, as every school boy knows, The Conservative will perhaps be pardoned by friends, and not severely condemned by enemies, for republishing the following literature relative to the subject:

"What is now known almost throughout the civilized world as

**Arbor Day—** originated in Nebraska. At an annual meeting of

the Nebraska State Board of Agriculture, held in the city of Lincoln, January 4, 1872, J. Sterling Morton, of Arbor Lodge, 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. Allen 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 10th, 1872. The day was again

observed in 1873 with increased interest and results."

Since 1873 there has been no abatement of popular interest. On the contrary the movement grew and spread until in 1901 nearly every state observed the day, and this year many enquiries in regard to it were received from other countries.

It would be impossible to estimate the number of trees that have been planted as a result of Arbor Day, and now stand grand monuments to the foresight of early-day husbandmen throughout the west. Those planted in later years are fast attaining gigantic proportions, and many a desolate place has been made glad, many a home and heart made cheerful as a result of this work.

Nor was the East or South far behind the West in taking up Arbor Day, and in old New England and the Sunny South observance is quite general.

Tuesday, April 22nd, Nebraska planted thousands of trees to enhance the comfort, and add to the material wealth of posterity; upon different days the various states do the same. Can anyone estimate the amount of good accomplished by the hordes of tree planters during nearly a third of a century? Can the joy and comfort of living in a country where every house is a bower, and every road a shady lane, be measured in money?

Abroad, interest in Arbor Day is growing rapidly. Mr. Elliott Downs

**A British** awarded first prize  
**Enthusiast.** by the London Society for the

Protection of Birds, upon his essay on "The Best Means of Establishing a Bird and Arbor Day in the British Isles," writes as follows:

"J. Sterling Morton, Nebraska City, U. S. A.

"Dear Sir:—I take the liberty of sending, for your kind acceptance, an essay on the 'Best Means of Establishing a Bird and Arbor Day in the British Isles,' and at the same time, I desire to express my thankfulness for the example set by the people of your country, and my admiration of your public spirit in initiating so beneficent a movement as that of the Arbor Day custom.

"I am pleased to say that we have at-