

# Flowers to Lay on the Graves of Dead Soldiers



MASSES OF HARMONIOUS COLOR ARE POPULAR.

The florists receive most of their orders from lodges and fraternal orders and from persons who desire to decorate graves other than those of soldiers.

All sorts of well grown potted plants are in demand for Memorial day decorations. Pansies, verbenas and other plants which can easily be transplanted are in particular favor for use in cemeteries. There is also a great sale of palms and other large plants suitable for use in vases.

In the larger cemeteries all planting is discouraged. It is urged that the unbroken sod is more presentable than ground dotted with plants and shrubs, but the custom of planting shrubs is still in great favor and before Memorial day florists have many orders for flowering perennials.

## Started in the South.

The custom of decorating soldiers' graves was common in the south before it became general in all parts of the United States. During the civil war women in many of the southern states kept the graves of their fallen soldiers bright with flowers. Their thoughtfulness made a deep impression upon the northern forces and in after years the custom spread beyond Mason and Dixon's line.

It was not until 1868 that a day was dedicated to the memory of the slain. That year General John A. Logan, who was commander-in-chief of the Grand Army of the Republic, issued an order to all posts in the United States requesting that May 30 be observed as Memorial day. Since that time every Grand Army post in the United States has observed the day. Its observance is no longer confined to the Grand Army of the Republic. Of late years the Woman's Relief corps, an organization whose membership is confined to the relatives of civil war veterans, has raised money for the celebration of Memorial day.

On Decoration day the nameless graves in every prison pen and on every battleground of the south are bright with flowers supplied by the women of this corps. Where there are no Grand Army men to look after the graves of their comrades the women of the Relief corps send representatives who provide flowers for the fallen heroes.

May 26 is a day which is dedicated in many parts of the south to the soldiers who fought for the confederacy. Its observance is similar to that of the Decora-



THE CROWN DESIGN IS DIFFICULT.

OVER every soldier's grave in Omaha flags will wave Memorial day and flowers will be mingled with the Stars and Stripes to show a republic's appreciation of the distinguished military service that bought peace.

Veterans of three wars lie buried in Omaha cemeteries. On Memorial day three generations will gather about these graves and pay tribute to the men who fell at Chapultepec, at Shiloh and at San Juan hill.

All the world admires a hero. On Memorial day wealth and poverty, youth and old age unite in paying tribute to the defenders of the flag. Class lines will be wiped out. Prejudices will be forgotten and men and women of all stations will meet on common ground.

Most of the flowers used in decorating soldiers' graves are given by the children of the city schools. The day preceding the memorial services each school will be visited by a speaker, who will explain the significance of the national Decoration day and inspect the floral gifts prepared by the children. In former years the public schools have frequently given ten wagonloads of cut flowers and plants for the decoration of soldiers' graves.

## Providing the Flowers.

Interest in Memorial day does not flag among the school children. Each generation seems to take a greater pride in paying tribute to the soldier dead. Various schools try to outdo each other in the size of their floral gifts and the healthy rivalry fosters the spirit of patriotism which pervades the public school system.

The members of the Woman's Relief corps collect the flowers and prepare them for use in the cemeteries. The larger flowers are arranged in bouquets. The smaller flowers are used in set pieces and grouped in the most attractive manner possible. Jasmine and other flowers from the far south are frequently sent to the local corps and are mixed with the early flowers that thrive in this climate.

A committee from the local posts of the Grand Army of the Republic will have flags placed on the graves of all soldiers and will assist the Woman's Relief corps in decorating them the morning of Memorial day. More than 500 graves will be marked and cared for. In the smaller cemeteries there will be no ceremonies. At Forest Lawn and Prospect Hill salutes will be fired over the graves of veterans and there will be speaking and music. The Spanish-American veterans will have ceremonies Memorial day morning in Prospect Hill cemetery and the Grand Army of the Republic will have exercises at Forest Lawn. In the afternoon all military organizations will unite in the services to be held at Hanscom park.

## Significance of the Day.

While Decoration day is primarily a holiday set aside for the commemoration of the dead who have distinguished themselves in battle, it has come to have a wider significance. It is a day when the hurrying world stops for a little while in its mad rush and thinks of the generations who



LILIES ALWAYS LOOK WELL IN WREATHS.

have gone before. It is a day when the living turn to the cemeteries and pay tribute to the dead.

In New Orleans and many other southern cities where Europeans have had wide influence artificial flowers and strange emblems in wax and metal are placed on graves, but in the north natural flowers, plants and flags are the only decorations in common use.

For months before Memorial day florists devote their attention to plants which they hope to have in bloom on May 30. Roses, carnations and all household flowers are in favor, but there is a greater demand for peonies and other showy outdoor flowers.

tion day instituted by the Grand Army of the Republic.

## Bridges the Chasm.

In many southern cities the veterans who followed the Stars and Stripes and those who bled for the Stars and Bars unite in paying tribute to their dead comrades. Much has been done to bridge the chasm between the Grand Army of the Republic and the United Confederate Veterans and in a few years May 30 will probably be observed in all parts of the United States as a day when tribute is to be paid to all soldiers who fell while fighting for a cause they believed to be holy.

The Spanish-American war did much to

bring about a change in the observance of Decoration day. It carried Memorial day services to Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines and added young blood to the army of mourners who decorate the graves of comrades.

In the south families that mourned relatives who fought for different flags thirty-five years ago are now united in doing honor to the memory of young soldiers who died to maintain the flag of an undivided country. The uniforms of blue and gray have blended into the khaki suits of the heroes who drove Spain from the West Indies.

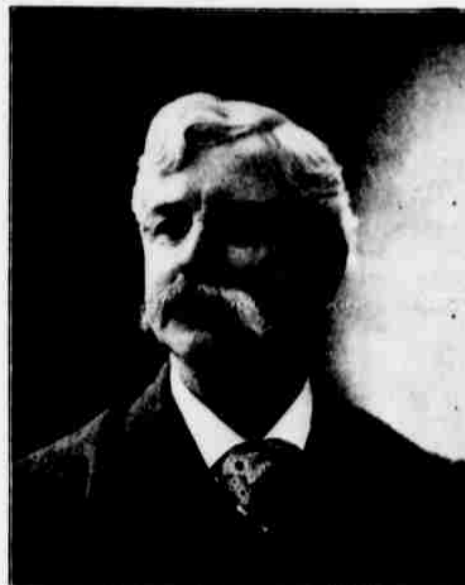
## About Noted People

George Lennox Watson, the designer of Shamrock II, began his career as a naval architect in 1872. Since then he has been responsible for the erection of some famous craft. In his first year he designed the *Clotilde*, which proved a great success. In 1880 he planned the construction of the *Vandura*, which beat the famous *Formosa*, owned by the prince of Wales. He furnished the plans for the America's cup competitors in *Thistle*, *Valkyrie II* and *Valkyrie III*. But perhaps his greatest triumph was the *Britannia* cutter for the prince of Wales, the best craft of its kind ever seen in British waters.

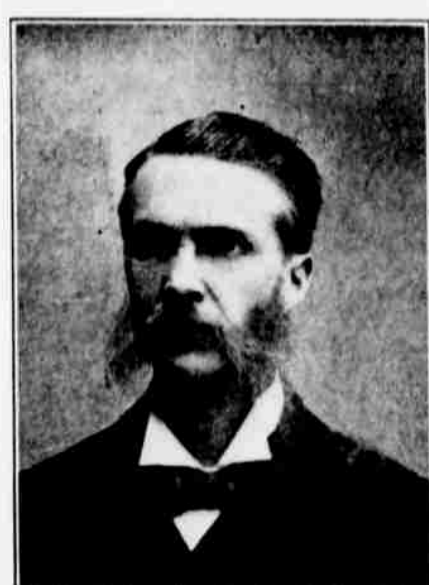
Mrs. Louis Botha, the wife of the Boer general, who has become so prominent in her efforts to bring about peace, is of Irish extraction, being the great-grandniece of Robert Emmet. "She has been," says the King, "one of the most beautiful women in the Transvaal, and, though now the mother of a numerous family, is still a very charming and comely little woman. She is a highly cultured woman, well read, musical, of artistic bent, and, in times of peace, a most successful and popular hostess."

Those who knew the Bothas at home before the war began describe the family as being in habits and tastes very similar to a good class English country family. Mrs. Botha knows English and the English well. She was in this country a couple of years ago and has relatives in London. When entertained at dinner by Lord Roberts she suggested that feminine influences would be necessary to bring peace to Africa and her recent efforts to cause a cessation of the war prove that she is as practical in diplomacy as she is apt in pointing a way.

Samuel R. Callaway, well remembered in Omaha and the west as general manager of the Union Pacific, has retired from the presidency of the New York Central to become president of the newly formed American locomotive trust. Mr. Callaway entered the railway service in 1863 as junior clerk in the auditor's office of the Grand Trunk railway in Montreal. His promotion was rapid and in 1871 he had reached the position of private secretary to the general manager. In 1874 he became superintendent of the Detroit & Milwaukee and four years later was made general superintendent of the Detroit, Saginaw & Bay City railroad. In 1881 he went to Chicago as the general manager of the Chicago & Grand Trunk. In 1884 he accepted the position of second vice president and general manager of the Union Pacific. From 1887 until 1895 he was president and receiver of the Toledo, St. Louis & Kansas City. In 1895 the Vanderbilts selected him for president of the Nickel Plate road and two years later he was elected president of the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern railway. So well were the Vanderbilts satisfied with his work on these roads that in April, 1898, they selected him to succeed Chauncey M. Depew as president of the New York Central Railroad company. Mr. Callaway was born in Canada and is 59 years old.



DR. WILLIAM B. ELY, AINSWORTH, Neb.—PRESIDENT NEBRASKA STATE MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.



E. N. LEAKE, M. D., FREMONT—PRESIDENT NEBRASKA STATE HOMEOPATHIC MEDICAL SOCIETY.