

# Best Trees for Ornamental Planting on a City's Streets and in Parks

Suggestions and Hints as to the Adaptability and Utility of Different Trees to Conditions of the Middle-West—Pictures from Photographs of Typical Trees Found in Omaha



WILLOW



LUCKY BEAN



FINE SPECIMEN OF BIRCH



SOFT MAPLE



BLACK OAK

NOT only is there a growing sentiment in favor of commercial forest planting, but there is a movement looking toward the establishment of parks, the ornamentation of public grounds and the planting of streets and lanes that is very gratifying. The city of Lincoln, Neb., is the present year making a notable extension to its park system. Suitable grounds have been acquired and the work of planting is now under way. The Village Improvement Society of Beatrice, Neb., in addition to its already numerous efforts for civic improvement, is this spring making a special campaign to interest the people in the planting of the church yards. With the many other cities and towns that are organizing for systematic work in the way of ornamental planting, it would seem that there is a forward movement all along the line.

### Future Usefulness.

To the end that the planting may be as permanent as possible, the harder and longer lived trees should be given the preference. It is not intended in this paper to suggest trees that would be suitable or adapted for planting under all conditions. Soils and situations vary so much that trees could be planted with safety in all. One of the safest guides in any work of this sort is to first find out what trees thrive naturally in a given locality and select largely from those, adding such exotic species as are known to be adapted to the situation in hand. Some cities, notable Washington and Denver at home and Paris abroad, maintain nurseries where species suitable for planting are propagated. Thus only those trees whose adaptability has been proved are used for general planting. Paris is said to have \$5,000,000 worth of trees for these and to plant new ones the city appropriates \$40,000 a year. Washington is one of the beautiful cities of the world, largely on account of the care with which its 70,000 or more trees have been selected and planted.

Among the trees that may be recommended for general planting is white elm. It has been widely used as a street tree in eastern cities. New Haven is known nationally as the "elm city." In "Trees of Massachusetts," by Emerson, three distinct forms as to shape are noted. The common vase-shaped type is the one most suitable for street or avenue planting. In fact, the elm is especially adapted for the street, though it is a splendid tree for lawns and parks as well. It should have first place in ornamental planting in Nebraska. It is hardy, grows rapidly, holds its leaves through a long period and is one of the most graceful trees of the American forest. It is noted for its longevity. The famous elm under which Washington received his commission as commander-in-chief of the American forces, though an old tree in 1775, is still one of the sights of Cambridge.

hackberry in Kansas and Nebraska. Hackberry is a tree closely related to the elm, has a wide distribution in Nebraska, and is hardier in the drier portion than the elm. It has been used considerably in western Kansas and Minnesota, where it is a favorite as an ornamental tree. It can be planted with safety throughout Nebraska.

The oaks are used too sparingly in street and park planting. Their hardiness, long life, symmetrical, spreading, rugged habit, and the variety in the shape of their leaves, makes them especially desirable for ornamental planting. The burr, white, red, scarlet and black oaks may be mentioned as suitable for this purpose. Red Oak is the most rapid in growth, and, like the scarlet and black oaks, its foliage assumes a variety of colors in autumn. Whether by the roadside, in the lawn, or along the street, the oak is always in place.

American linden or basswood, is another valuable tree that should be more widely planted for ornamental purposes than it is. It commends itself by its hardiness, large broad leaves, singular fruiting habit, clean limbs and trunk, and elegant form. It is hardy in the eastern part of the state.

### The Birches Are Graceful.

Some of the birches are among the most graceful of our ornamental trees. The paper birch, or the cut-leaf weeping variety, on account of their small foliage, slender drooping branches and characteristic bark, are especially attractive when standing alone in a yard. Sir Walter Scott thus describes the pendulous branches of the European white birch: "Where weeps the birch with silver bark And long, disheveled hair." The rapid growth of the aspen, good form and clean foliage, commend them for lawn or street planting. They are, however, among the last of the trees to put out their leaves in the spring, and among the first to drop them in the fall. Tennyson, noting the tardiness with which the leaves put forth, wrote: "Why lingerest she to clothe her heart with love, Delaying, as the tender ash delays, To clothe herself, when all the woods are green." Green ash may be planted in any part



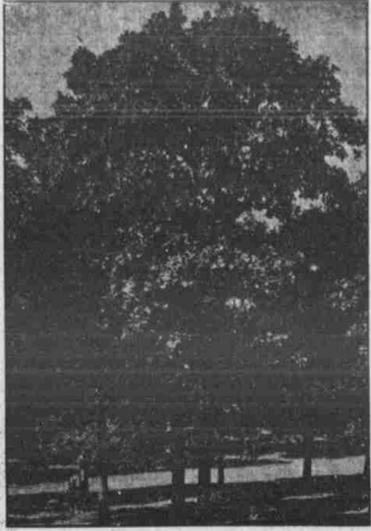
WEeping ELM



CATALPA



THE HORSE CHESTNUT



BURR OAK

## At Work Marking American-Canadian Boundary

(Copyright, 1906, by Frank G. Carpenter.)

OTAWA, Ont., April 19.—(Special Correspondence of The Bee.)—The boundary line between the United States and Canada is being carefully marked. A band of surveyors, representing both countries, is going over it, running new lines from the Atlantic to the Pacific and putting up brass posts to mark them. I have been upon the line several times during my travels in Canada. At the town of Laurier, in British Columbia, I found the depot situated on both sides of the boundary. There was a mark drawn diagonally across the platform on one side of which was painted in red an enormous American eagle with its wings United States below and on the other side Canada and a picture of the maple leaf. I planted one of my feet on the eagle and the other on the leaf and stood for a time astride the division which separates John Bull's American possessions from those of Uncle Sam. Looking to the south I could, in my imagination, see the Rockies rolling onward for thousands of miles to our Mexican boundary and at the north the mountains of Canada and the snow and ice of British America extending almost to the pole.

### Brass Boundary Posts.

In company with Mr. C. E. Stone, the general passenger agent of the Great Northern railroad who was with me, I walked eastward a few steps to look at one of the brass posts which had just been put up to mark the boundary. The posts are only a few miles apart and they are being put up along the whole line, with the exception of the Great lakes, from the mouth of the St. Lawrence to Puget sound. As I stood beside the post it reached to my shoulder. It is, I judge, about five feet high, eight inches thick at the bottom, tapering to four inches thick at the top, where it ends in a little pyramid as sharp as that which caps the Washington monument. The post is made of brass or copper plates soldered together, and so set in a bedding of cement that it looks like solid metal. Indeed, I did not know it was hollow until I tapped it with my knife. One side of this post bore the word "Canada" in raised letters, and the opposite side "The United States." On another face was the inscription: "Treaty of 1846. Line established 1857 and 1861. Surveyed and marked 1906-1907."

### Iron Pillars of Vermont.

I understand that the boundary posts along the eastern end of the line are in bad condition and that they are being replaced by posts of copper and granite. The original ones between Quebec and Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont were made of iron. They were put up about sixty years ago, but the frost and thaws have heaved up many of them and thrown others out of perpendicular. Some of those posts have been moved. The surveyors who have been going over the line during the last year found two of the posts on the northern arm of Lake Champlain missing. One was sixty feet away from the line, and it had

probably been carried there by an ice shove when the water was unusually high. Some of these posts stood near roads and they had dropped over into the gutters. Many were browned with rust and surrounded with weeds. The most of these have been reset or replaced with granite pillars, so bedded that they will resist the ravages of time.

### How the Boundary is Defended.

It is said that Europe is like an armed camp. Its every country has fortifications at the places where it could most easily be attacked by its neighbors and enormous military establishments are kept up with a view to possible wars. The line of three thousand miles or more between Canada and the United States is practically free from military defenses. There is a great fort at Quebec with old guns and a few soldiers. There is a coal station at Esquimaux in British Columbia, which until last year was garrisoned by British troops, but which is now held entirely by Canadians. The British, in fact, have withdrawn their forces from Canada and from now on the Canadians will handle their own military establishments throughout. Indeed, Canada has practically no defenses along the land boundary to speak of and it is the same with the United States. According to our treaty neither nation can keep more than one naval vessel on the great lakes and this is more for police duties than for national protection. Neither country is afraid of the other, neither keeps a large military force and the relations which now prevail and have always

prevailed between the two lead to the belief that we will always have international peace.

### Bit of Unwritten History.

Speaking of the possibility of war between the United States and Canada, I heard an official secret the other night at the position taken by the Canadian Pacific railroad when Cleveland issued his offensive Venezuelan proclamation. At that time the feeling against the United States on the part of Great Britain was such that a war seemed imminent. The officials of the Canadian Pacific railroad realized this and they had their agents in London and Washington instructed that they should telegraph any change of conditions. They realized that if a war should be declared by Great Britain against the United States one of our first acts would be to send an army across the boundary to capture the Canadian Pacific railroad and they wanted to save the property. They were waiting anxiously when they received cipher telegrams from both London and Washington that war was inevitable. Thereupon a meeting of the high officials of the road was secretly called. The matter was discussed and it was decided that Canada could not possibly de-

ferred the western branches of the railroad and that should the Americans come the officers should be instructed to hand over the line at once under protest. They decided to do this in order that there might be no destruction of the property. Great Britain, however, preferred to pocket the affront of Cleveland's proclamation and the danger of war disappeared. The secret meeting has been kept quiet until this day, but my informant, a man high in the offices of the dominion government, tells me that there is no doubt as to the truth of this story.

### Where the Line Goes.

Our boundary with Canada winds in and out at all sorts of angles for the first 1,000 miles or so from the Atlantic. It begins at the ocean and crooks and turns around Maine, keeping pretty well away from the St. Lawrence until it touches that river at the northwestern edge of New York. It runs with the river to the Lake Ontario and then winds its way through the middle of the Great lakes until it reaches the land again at the northeastern end of Minnesota on Lake Superior. From here it winds a little through the Rainy river country to the Lake of the Woods and then takes an almost straight shoot across the prairie and the Rockies to Puget sound. We almost had a fight at one time over Puget sound, the British claiming the island of San Juan, which was afterward, by arbitration, awarded to us. Just how long the whole boundary line is I do not know, but it must be considerably more than 3,000 miles.

### Smuggling and Cattle Rustling.

Two of the great offenses committed on both sides of the boundary in the west are smuggling and cattle rustling. The pastures of Canada are better than those of the United States and the American ranchmen frequently drive their stock across the boundary to feed on Canada's grass. Such depredations are carefully watched by the mounted police. They patrol the international line weekly and arrest such cowboys as have their stock on the wrong side. They say that all stock that comes into Canada pays duty and they carefully examine all cattle brought in for tuberculosis, Texas fever and other diseases. In the past there was a great deal of smuggling of Chinese through Canada into the United States, and some of this goes on today. There are numerous trails through the mountains of British Columbia, and if the Chinese can escape paying the duty which is now charged by Canada on each celestial immigrant they are liable to find their way into our country. Opium smuggling is another crime frequently perpetrated. The opium is said to be prepared at Victoria and carried across in small packages. The duty is very high and it does not take many pounds to bring a profit to the smuggler of \$1,000. Our customs officers are on the watch against such criminals and the Canadian government does all it can to help them. There are custom houses at all boundary points, and the American consul is stationed at almost every town of size. Nevertheless there is a great deal of

some tree that may be added for variety. While doing best in the moister regions, it is especially valuable in the drier localities, where many other trees would not thrive. It is said to have derived its name from the fact that the early settlers in Kentucky, where it occurs in abundance, made a drink from the beans or seed, which resembles coffee in taste.

### Hints on Street Planting.

The planting on a given street should consist of a single species, at least for a considerable distance, as in this way the unpleasant appearance of the street caused by trees of varying size and form will be avoided. On this account, the street planting should be under the control of a board or commission of some sort that should have the power to select the trees for the different streets, thus securing uniformity as to species so far as each individual street is concerned. In these any more reason why the city government should not plant and care for the street trees than that it should put down and control the street paving? Nothing adds quite so much to the attractiveness of a street as to see it planted uniformly to a single species. Variety can be secured by planting different streets to different trees. The selection of trees for lawn planting could still be left to the property owners.

### Another common mistake in ornamental planting is in placing the trees too close together.

The spacing can be closer in the prairie country than in potential forest regions, because our trees do not attain to the size that they do there, but even here the spacing should seldom be less than thirty feet, while forty feet is a good average, and frequently fifty feet would be better, since shade trees must not be crowded if they are to develop into well rounded, shapely forms.

FRANK A. MITCHELL, Professor of Forestry, University of Nebraska.



ONE OF THE NEW BOUNDARY POSTS, MR. CARPENTER AT THE LEFT.



AMERICAN CONSULATE AT NELSON, B. C., NOT FAR FROM THE BOUNDARY.

(Continued on Page Seven.)