

OBSERVANCE OF ARBOR DAY



Girls Going Merrily to the Ceremonies Which Have Now Become a Fixture in Every State.

Scope and Use of Arbor Day

Arbor Day was instituted in Nebraska in 1872 by J. Sterling Morton, afterward Secretary of Agriculture, and has since made its way from State to State until provision for its observance exists in almost every State and Territory.

The central idea of Arbor Day is the intelligent and appreciative planting of trees by school children. The planting is usually accompanied by exercises which are intended to impress upon the children the beauty and usefulness of trees and thus to lead to the work the value of a bit of nature study. Arbor Day has undoubtedly done much to inculcate a love of trees, and has given added impetus to the general movement for the better knowledge and the wiser use of forests.

Yet there is no question that Arbor Day can be made more practical than it has been; that it can be brought into closer touch with forestry by being made the opportunity for carrying out simple steps in forest work. The permanent results of Arbor Day from the standpoint of successful planting have frequently been disappointing. Too often species entirely unsuited for either economic or ornamental planting have been used. Still



more common causes of failure have been the lack of sufficient care in doing the work and neglect of the trees after they are planted. In this way much of the educational value of the work is lost. By leaving the trees unprotected from animals, insects and other destructive agencies the intended good example is turned, for want of a little care, into a negative one.

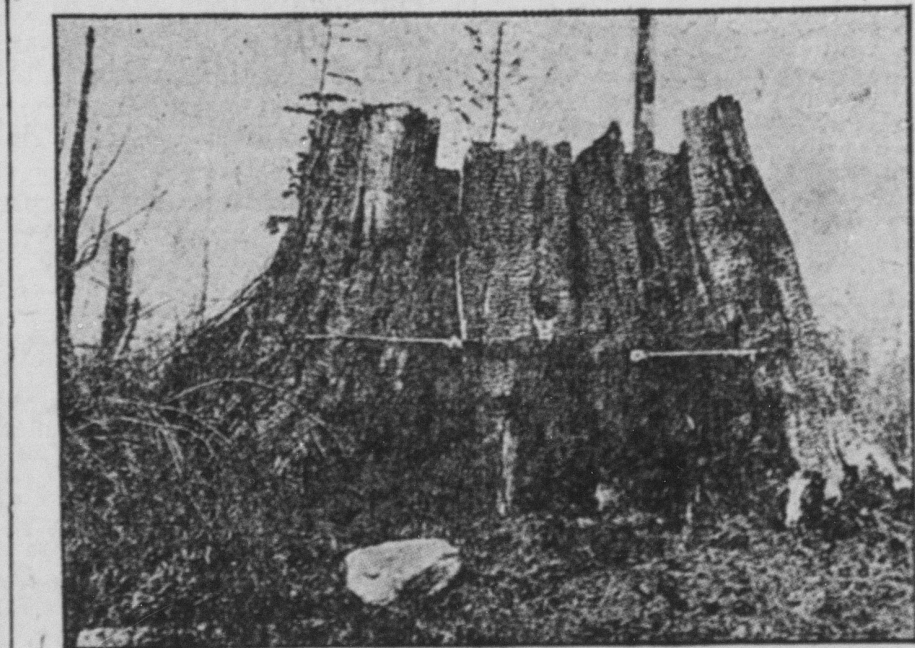
But even when the planting has been well conceived and wisely carried out there is often lacking, in work of this nature, all reference to the larger aspect of forest planting. The ultimate aim of the day might well be to prompt and encourage not so much a sentiment for trees as a sentiment for the forest. Yet the practice has been to plant individual trees rather than groves, and the relation of the single tree to the forest has not been pointed out. Talks on Arbor Day have not dwelt enough upon the economic side of forestry, or have tended to give a wrong impression of the whole subject by lamenting all cutting of trees. The effect of this has been actually opposed to the forester's teachings.

Arbor Day is the time for disseminating sound, practical knowledge regarding forestry in its broader aspect. The mere act of setting a few trees, without reference to the commercial utility and the protective value of forests, is but a small part of the work of the day.

The proper season for planting is

not everywhere the same. South of the thirty-seventh parallel, especially in the more humid regions, fall planting is perhaps preferable, but north of this the winter comes on so quickly that the trees have scarcely time to develop roots strong enough to support them until spring, and spring planting is therefore more advisable. The right time to plant in spring is when the ground has ceased to freeze and before budding begins. Ever-

fruit trees.



TREES GROW LARGE NEAR VANCOUVER, B. C.

greens may be planted somewhat later than hardwoods. The day to plant is almost as important as the season. Sunny, windy weather is very unfavorable; cool, damp days are the best. For this reason it is well to leave the date for Arbor Day unfixed, so that the best opportunity may be chosen. Such exercises as are desired can follow when the planting is done.

The careful selection of trees for a specific use and situation is essential to success, and proper planting is equally important. Though less fastidious than agricultural crops in their demands upon the soil, trees cannot be set in a rough soil at random and then expected to flourish. They should be planted without allowing their roots time to dry out from exposure to the air. When delay between procuring the trees and



AN ARBOR-DAY SURPRISE.

their planting cannot be avoided the roots must be kept moist by stanching them in a "puddle" made of earth and water mixed to the consistency of cream, or "hoed in" by nearly burying them in fresh earth. In setting the trees it is important to place them about three inches deeper than they stood originally, and to spread out the roots and pack the soil firmly about them. Two inches of soil at the top should be left very loose, to act as a mulch to retain the moisture.

Large trees are by no means always the best to plant. Small seedlings may be secured easily and cheaply, and are much more likely to live. If these are set out in good numbers after the pattern of a commercial plantation they will become in due time a true forest on a small scale.

If only a few trees are planted, as is usually the case, it is still possible to make plain the true relation of such work to forestry. No matter how few the trees, they may be made to illustrate planting for commercial or protective use.

The scope of Arbor Day planting may sometimes be broadened by securing permission from some public spirited citizen or nearby farmer for the children to plant a small block of trees on his land. This could be made a practical demonstration of how such work is done on a large scale.

Outside the scope of the actual plantation, it is well to bear in mind that Arbor Day is not the only day on which trees deserve the intelligent thought of the children. They need care throughout the season. Watching the plantation thrive under right treatment greatly adds to the educational value of the work, which otherwise leaves but a slight impression.

It is all important that the plantation should become a model of what can be done along these lines. In after years the children should be able to point with satisfaction to the work of their school days.

Many cast a favorable eye on the fruit tree.

ARBOR DAY.

By Grace Eby.
With joy we hail Arbor Day, especially for its influence on the children. May every school collect a good supply of trees and shrubs with which to adorn its grounds, and may there be added to every home some new attraction. I would see our farms and houses protected by windbreaks of sturdy growing evergreens, and at each homestead a cozy corner, where rustic seats might invite the weary farm hands to cooling shade and rest at noontide, all through the heated harvest time and give the worn housewife a quiet retreat for a little time after the kitchen work is done, and a healthful resort for the children just returned from their long and heated walk from school; and, oh how precious the hours of evening, when all the family is gathered for a little while of sweet communion and quietude before retiring.

If farmers would plant a clump or two of shade trees in the pasture fields and grateful kine would appreciate the kindness and yield a larger and more wholesome flow of milk than if toiling in a broiling sun the whole livelong day.

A few trees by the roadside are such a comfort to the heated traveler; yes, and to his tired boat. Then plant trees by the wayside with here and there some inviting luscious fruit, adding value to the farm and attractiveness to the neighborhood. Who does not love to travel through a part of the country where all seems to have been planned for utility, comfort and beauty, rather than through some dreary, unshaded locality, and over uncomfortable, unshaded roads?

Trees of Historic Note.
The Burgoyne elm at Albany, N. Y., planted the day Burgoyne was brought there a prisoner.

The elm tree at Philadelphia under which William Penn made his famous treaty with nineteen tribes of barbarians.

The charter oak at Hartford which preserved the written guarantee of the liberties of the colony of Connecticut.

The tulip tree on King's mountain battlefield in South Carolina on which ten bloodthirsty Tories were hanged at one time.

The huge French-apple tree near Fort Wayne, Indiana, where Tittle Turtle, the great Miami chief, gathered his warriors.

The wide-spreading oak tree of Flushing, L. I., under which George Fox, the founder of the Society of Friends, or Quakers, preached.

The elm tree at Cambridge in the shade of which Washington first took command of the Continental army on a hot summer's day.

The Freedman's oak, or Emancipation oak, Hampton Institute, Hampton, Va., under which the slaves of this region first heard read President Lincoln's emancipation proclamation.

The magnificent black walnut tree near Haverstraw-on-the-Hudson at which General Wayne mustered his forces at midnight, preparatory to his gallant and successful attack on Stony Point.

Little Tommy's Arbor-Day Speech.
Miss Smith had invited all the people in the neighborhood to attend the Arbor-Day exercises. She had said to the children:

"We will plant good trees, and if we take good care of them, we can make this bare schoolyard so beautiful that in four or five years it will seem like a different place. And just think how pleasant it will be for the children who will go to school here ten years from now," she added, "or twenty years—or thirty!"

With this idea in mind, the children had worked with a will, and when Arbor Day came the holes were all dug, and rich earth had been filled in around the roots. At 2.30 each pupil was in his place, ready with the song, or speech, or recitation, which he was to give before planting his tree.

Miss Smith led the visitors from place to place, and everything went on just as had been arranged till they came to little Tommy West.

When Miss Smith saw his excited face, and the trembling of the hand that held the pine tree, she was sure that he had forgotten his verse, and she was just about to prompt him when he started out on his own hook.

"This is a pine tree," he gasped, clutching it as if for support. "And—and I hope it will grow upon into a forest and—and be a comfort to my ancestors!"—Youth's Companion.

ANTICIPATION.

I am going to plant a hickory tree, And then, when I am a man, My boys and girls may come and eat Just all the nuts they can!

And I shall say, "My children, dear, This tree that you enjoy I set for you one Arbor Day When I was but a boy."

And they will answer, "Oh, how kind To plant for us this tree!" And then they'll crack the fattest nuts, And give them all to me! —From the Country Gentleman

Irish Wit.

"What brought you here?" said a magistrate to an Irish offender. "Two policemen, sorr," was the reply. "Ah, drunk, of course?" "Yes, sorr, bboth of them."—A Story Told at the Savage Club.

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TRIP ON A FREIGHTER.

I am going to tell you about a trip through the great lakes which I made with my father two or three years ago. We went on the Utica, a boat designed to carry freight, but having several cabins for passengers.

We left Buffalo in the afternoon, and on the way out of the creek where the Utica lay we had to pass under a "jack-knife" bridge—that is to say, a bridge which, when raised for the passage of a large boat, breaks in two in the middle, both sides being pulled up until they are almost perpendicular. When we got out of the creek we found it quite rough on Lake Erie, as the wind had been blowing hard all the morning.

We reached Detroit, Mich., the next day, and there took on mail in the following way: As we neared the city we slowed up and a man with a rowboat came out to meet the ship. When he came alongside he threw a rope up to the deck, where it was caught and made fast by one of the hands. Then a pall containing the mail to go ashore was lowered to the man in the boat, who took out the mail from the Utica and replaced it with the mail to go aboard. All this time the boat was going at about half speed (eight miles an hour). Then the rope was cast off and the carrier gathered up his line, to be ready for the next ship.

The next day we were on Lake Huron, after a beautiful trip through the Detroit River, Lake St. Clair and the St. Clair River. The scenery around here is beautiful, one place being called "Little Venice" from the way some of the houses are built on piles set in the water. After another day we reached the Sault Ste. Marie Canal. This lock is the largest one in the world, and also has a larger tonnage than any other canal. There is an old lock and a new one on the American side, and also one on the Canadian side. The old one on the former side is smaller than the other one. As the ship neared the lock a man on the shore called to Captain Davis through a megaphone: "New lock for the Utica." This lock permits ships with a twenty-one-foot draft to go through it. The waters of Lake Superior are higher than those of Lake Huron. When the Utica entered the lock an iron gate was closed behind her, and as there was also one in front of her she was in a sort of box, and the water in front of her was higher than the water she was in. Then some pipes leading under the gate in front of us were opened and the ship, as the water came into our "box," gradually rose until we were on a level with the water in the other part of the lock. Then the gate in front of us was opened and the Utica sailed forth into the waters of Lake Superior. After passing through the lock we had a trip of a day and a half on Lake Superior to Duluth. We stayed in Duluth two days, and in the meantime took a trip to St. Paul and Minneapolis, which we both enjoyed very much. This trip occupied a day, and when we got back we found the ship ready to sail. We went aboard and were soon on our way to Buffalo. We passed the "Soo" (Sault Ste. Marie) lock at 4 o'clock in the morning, but I was up to watch the process, which was just the reverse of the one going up. Then we had a pleasant trip past Port Huron and Lake St. Clair to Detroit, where we took on mail the same way as going up, and then went on to Buffalo, where we arrived about two weeks from the time we set out. We both enjoyed this trip very much, and we shall always remember it with a great deal of pleasure.—Elmer S. Freeman, in the New York Tribune.

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