

Civic Improvement

A DEPARTMENT DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE HORTICULTURAL SOCIETIES OF ONTARIO, AND OF ALL OTHER BODIES INTERESTED IN THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE SURROUNDINGS OF OUR CANADIAN TOWN AND COUNTRY HOMES.

HOW EVERY CITIZEN CAN IMPROVE HIS NATIVE TOWN.

DR. FLETCHER'S ADDRESS BEFORE THE RENFREW HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

DR. FLETCHER began by a reference to and commendation of the good points in the town noted on the letter paper on which he had been communicated with; and from this stated the broad difference which was apparent between the border towns of Canada and the States; the comparison not being favorable to the Canadian towns. The Americans blew their own horn a great deal more loudly, but they endeavored to live up to it. Yet there was no country on this globe so good to live in as Canada; it was without an equal, and was getting to itself every comfort and luxury. Renfrew had done well already in the way of advancement, but there were still some things to be improved. The American believes he lives in the best town in the world. If the people of Renfrew became imbued with the American idea, and believed that theirs was the best town, they would do more to make it so. Prosperity comes from bringing outsiders in. What could each citizen do to improve the town. First, be proud of the town; second, do everything possible to back up that pride. Definite action was what was necessary. Renfrew evidently had an active mayor and an active M. P., and the rank and file must now move forward with a definite purpose.

Each must remember the whole time that he was a citizen and that it was his duty to make the place attractive. Since he had come to town he had noticed some places with nice gardens; but more without them. This could be improved and at little expense. A few creepers over a verandah add greatly to the appearance of a place. No papers or broken sticks should be left lying about. One person setting a good example in improving the beauty and tidiness of his premises was quickly imitated. At Ottawa Lady Minto had taken an interest in improving the city and had offered prizes to the persons who improved the general appearance of their house and grounds. To start the work of civic improvement, begin with the home garden; and incidentally Dr. Fletcher remarked that the young man who didn't care for flowers and babies was hardly worth associating with. People who love flowers are happy, are considerate of others; selfishness does not thrive among those who love flowers. Among the shrubs which he particularly recommended for planting were Rudbeckia (golden glow) and Spirea van Houti. The large flowering Japanese hydrangea was also good, easily propagated, and in clumps of three or five is very beautiful. Three or five are better than four, getting