

tional department of Ontario set aside the first Friday in May as a tree and flower planting day. In 1896 the plan was officially adopted in Spain. In 1905 Hawaii fell into line, and at the present time Arbor Day is observed in all the dependencies of the United States, and in Great Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, the West Indies, South Africa, China, France, Russia, Norway and Japan.

L. C. Everard in his circular on Arbor Day, issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, strikes the keynote of the observance of the day when he says:

"The yearly planting of trees, accompanied by appropriate exercises, serves to keep the people continually reminded of the value and necessity of the work of the foresters; and they have such a far-reaching effect on the community spirit and through that on economic and social betterment that no community can afford to neglect Arbor Day.

"A clean and beautiful town is a source of pride to its citizens and constant incentive to them to go on and do better. A slovenly town is apt to mean slovenly inhabitants. The celebration of Arbor Day may very well be the turning point in the attitude of a community toward its civic duties and by consequence toward its social life and its manner of conducting business. Nothing so helps to beautify a city or town as trees, and few things so educate the people in public spirit and foresight as the care of trees.

"The greatest value of Arbor Day lies in its effect upon our attitude toward the trees that are already growing; for manifestly there are thousands of trees of natural origin to every one planted by man. The average citizen is only now beginning to realize the necessity for taking care of these trees, having never before considered that they needed any care."

Hands Off the National Parks!

By Robert Sterling Yard

THE national parks have a great and special function, in no sense replacing the function of either the municipal, the county or the state park. Obviously the nation can go further than the state, and wisely from its public lands it has set aside all too scanty an area here and there, usually embracing some bit of great scenery, some natural wonders, some broad reach of pleasure land, some tremendous evidence of God's handiwork. These national parks that we have are of the greatest importance, and they seem to be at this time very greatly important to the selfish few who view any public possessions as opportunity for private advantage.

Despite the great increase in the use and estimation of the national parks, they were never in so much danger as just now. The physical fact that water runs down hill is responsible for much of this danger, for that water as it drops may turn wheels to produce power to selfish advantage, or it may run at less cost on to lands and irrigate them to no less selfish advantage, although the claims to it are always clothed in statements of beneficence to "the poor farmer." There is only one proper platform for a patriotic and courageous American to take respecting the national parks and monuments, and it is "Hands Off!" The power producer and the irrigationist are untiring, ingenious, specious, and usually resourceful, financially and politically. They must be made to heed the "Hands Off" cry, by which only the vast majority of the public may hold for their use and for the use of generations yet unborn these relatively scanty areas of the public lands.

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