

Who Shall Plant and Care for Street-Trees?

Municipal Control Essential if Patchy and Expensive Results are to be Avoided

By William Solataroff

IN every town and city of the country where trees are most abundant and where they are most likely to thrive, at one time or other there arises the problem of taking care of those trees and of setting out new ones. There comes a time when a certain species of tree is attacked by an insect, when the trees along a certain street need pruning, when trees are to be guarded from horse-bites and passing vehicles; or when it is desirable to plant a newly opened street.

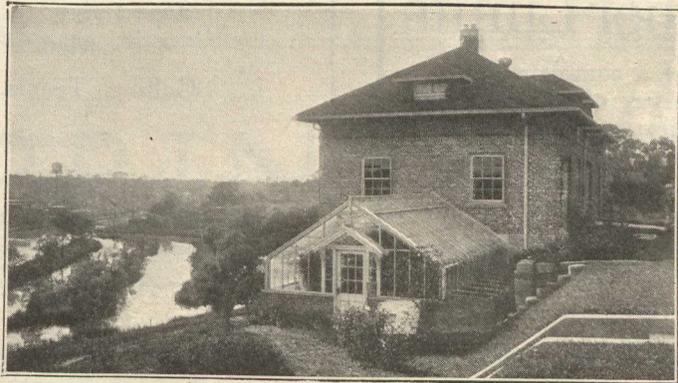
There are two ways by which the work of planting and caring for street-trees can be accomplished. The work must be done either by individual land owners or public officials. The prevailing policy of most of our cities has been to leave this task to the individuals who own the property on a certain street. The results thus obtained have been very unsatisfactory. It will be an easy matter for those at all concerned with municipal improvements to picture to themselves a street or a number of streets in any city where the plan of the individual control of street-trees exists.

What picture do these streets present? There are long stretches that are not planted at all. The trees that have been set out bear evidence of the diversity of taste of the plants. There are half a dozen or more species of trees on the same street, undesirable mixed with desirable, of all shapes and sizes, set either too closely or too far apart. In some cases the trees are not trimmed at all and the limbs are so low as to touch the heads of pedestrians; in others they are pruned too high. The trees have been left unprotected by guards, many of them have been bitten by horses, and there is evidence that they have been injured by destructive pests. The writer has had the opportunity of studying the street trees of a great many towns and cities in different parts of the country and the conditions described above are universal.

Especially in the control of insects which infest certain species of trees from time to time the system, or rather the lack of system, of the individual care of street-trees utterly fails. The citizen is entirely powerless to accomplish anything. He may plant an undesirable species of

tree if the task is left to him, but in insect fighting he will do even less. His efforts will come to naught if his neighbor allows the pest to remain on *his trees*. In the extermination of insects in a city it is absolutely

necessary that all the infested trees be treated in order to obtain effective results. It is impossible to have concerted action on the part of thousands of people of a community in the treatment of infested trees at the same



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