

have had school grounds beautifully ornamented with trees and pleasant to the view. But there are too many school-houses with grounds bare of shade and needlessly ugly. How can they be made more attractive? A little energy is required and a determination not to repeat the mistakes of former years. The planting of a tree should not be undertaken without careful study and forethought. The chief reason why trees die after planting is usually due to carelessness in transplanting.

An excellent authority on tree-planting, Mr. W. F. Macoun, Dominion horticulturist, gives the following directions:

Trees and shrubs should be dug as carefully as possible so as to retain a large proportion of the roots. The more roots there are the surer one is of getting the tree to live. The roots should not be allowed to become dry from the time of digging until the trees are in the ground again. They must be prevented from drying in transit by protecting them with wet moss or wet sacking. If the roots of evergreens, especially pines, become dry even for a short time the trees are almost sure to die. When planting, a hole should be dug large enough so that the roots may be spread out and not crowded or doubled up, and deep enough so that the tree or shrub will be from one to two inches deeper than it was in the woods or nursery. By planting a little deeper than it was before, provision will be made for a little heaving which often takes place the first winter, but planting too deep is almost as bad as planting too shallow. It is important to have the tree at least as deep as it was before digging and, as stated, best to have it a little deeper. The soil when thrown out of the hole should be put in two separate heaps, the surface or good soil in one and the subsoil in another. If the soil is all poor, to get the best results some good soil should be brought to at least partially fill the hole. The tree is now placed in an upright position and the good soil is first thrown gently back about the roots of the tree. As it is important for the soil to come in close contact with the roots it should be trod firmly down with the foot, when thrown in. If there is not enough good soil available to fill the hole the poorer soil may be placed on top of the good. Manure should not be put in the hole with the soil as it may burn the roots and make the soil so loose that it will dry out easily. Better apply the manure to the surface of the ground in the autumn and work it in beneath the surface the following spring. After planting, the tree or shrub should be cut back well, the amount of heading in depending upon the amount of roots on the tree. If a large proportion of the roots are cut off a large proportion of the top should be removed, otherwise the large leaf surface will transpire so much moisture that the tree will dry up before the roots begin to take in more. This is why shade trees are cut back so severely when planted, but it is not necessary to reduce the trees to mere poles as is too frequently done, causing a bad crotch in the tree later on where the stub dies back and where rot is likely to get in.

Before leaving the tree the surface soil should be loosened again so as to leave a thin mulch of loose soil on top which will prevent the moisture evaporating as rapidly as it would do if the ground were left hard. The surface soil should be kept loose throughout the summer and the best growth will

be obtained by keeping a circle of from two to three feet or more in diameter around the tree free of grass and weeds, where the soil will be kept loose and where the rain and air may find a ready entrance. If trees and shrubs are transplanted with care they should usually live. Early in the spring is the best time to transplant most kinds of trees and shrubs, evergreens included. Evergreens may be transplanted in summer, but greater precautions must be taken to do it successfully, and it is not recommended. Both evergreens and deciduous trees may also be planted in the autumn successfully, but on the whole they do not do so well as if planted in the spring.

## CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARIES OF THE WAR OF 1812

### XI.—THE CAPTURE OF YORK—THE BATTLE OF MIAMI.

April 27.—On the twenty-fifth of April, 1813, Commodore Chauncey, with a fleet of fourteen vessels, sailed from Sackett's Harbour, having on board a considerable body of troops under General Dearborn and General Pike. Their destination was York, the capital of Upper Canada. Apparently they had no intention of holding the place if they should capture it; their chief objects being to take or destroy a new ship built there during the winter and to carry off the military stores.

York, now Toronto, was then a small village with about seven hundred inhabitants. General Sheaffe, who was there at the time, was about to do something towards strengthening the defences of the place; but when Chauncey's fleet appeared, on the evening of the twenty-sixth, he saw that he had delayed too long.

On the morning of the twenty-seventh, the invaders commenced to land near Fort Tarento, or Toronto, an old French fort some two or three miles west of the town and harbour. Somebody had blundered, and the landing met with little resistance. When they were all ashore and ready to march towards York, they outnumbered the defenders nearly three to one. The British, with heavy loss, opposed and checked the advance until the western battery, which protected the town, was damaged by an explosion, making the place untenable. Sheaffe then abandoned York and retreated towards Kingston; burning the new ship, destroying a large part of the naval stores, and leaving the militia officers to surrender the place.

As the victorious invaders drew near the town, a large powder magazine blew up, scattering stone