

International Peace Park

The Turtle mountains are not mountains at all. The region is part of the great central plain of the continent. It is a plateau about 40 by 60 miles in extent lying in part in the United States and in part in Canada. Nature, in laying out the ground plan of the landscape of the continent did not give heed to political boundaries. It happens that the political boundary, between the United States and Canada, crosses this unique landscape feature.

Great valleys have been formed by the erosion of streams. Remnants of the original formations, that have not been carried away, remain as hills and plateaus. The Turtle mountain plateau is such a remnant. The great valley of the Souris or Mouse is on the west and north. The great Assiniboine basin is north. The Pembina, tributary of the Red river of the north, lies to the east and north. To the south is the great plain of the Devils lake region, sloping to the south, a part of the Shevenne drainage system. . . .

It is a natural garden. Stones—boulders—of every kind found in the formation to the north for hundreds of miles occur here in rich profusion. Granites, quartzets, porphyry, limestones, fragments of hard volcanic lavas, soft shales, in fact every variety of formation of which the earth is composed in the region extending to the west of Hudson's bay may be picked up here.

A rockery may some time adorn the garden or a geological museum made up of stones picked up in the immediate vicinity, that represent every geologic formation between the international boundary and the North Pole.

A more charming recreation ground would be hard to find. Places of greater interest to the geologist, the nature lover, are few. The lover of fish, birds and game will revel here. The land belongs to two great nations. It is open to the world. Nature made it a monument to peace and good will.

For the purposes of the garden, the province of Manitoba kindly agreed to donate to the association fifteen hundred acres of the Turtle mountain forest reserve, and the state of North Dakota agreed to purchase and donate an adjoining block of land of equal size. Following this a meeting of representatives of the sponsoring organizations and representatives was held at the Royal York hotel in Toronto on December 2, 1931. At that conference the state of North Dakota was represented by Dr. Charles McLachlan of San Haven, North Dakota, and the province of Manitoba by Hon. D. G. McKenzie, the Minister of Mines and Natural Resources. The two governments then formally donated to the international peace garden a tract of land in the Turtle mountains of over 3,000 acres, being an oblong block, three miles long by one-and-a-half miles wide.

The plans of the garden will be under the supervision of three expert horticulturists appointed by the American sponsoring body and three by the Canadian sponsoring body, and the actual carrying out of the plan will be

[Mr. Willis.]

under the supervision of the secretary who will reside at or near the garden.

May I say in passing that the official sponsoring organizations are:

For Canada—The Canadian Florists and Gardeners' Association.

For United States—The National Association of Gardeners.

Among the different organizations which have endorsed the project are the following in Canada:

1. The National Council of Women of Canada.
2. The Federated Women's Institutes of Canada.
3. The Canadian Florists and Gardeners' Association.
4. The Ontario Gardeners and Florists' Association.
5. The Manitoba Horticultural Association.
6. The Ontario Horticultural Association (80,000 members).
7. The Saskatchewan Horticultural Association.
8. The Ontario Women's Auxiliary to the Canadian Legion.
9. The Canadian Historical Society.
10. The United Farm Women of Saskatchewan.
11. The president of the Kiwanis clubs of Canada and several local clubs.
12. The Canadian Gladiolus Society.
13. The Rose Society of Ontario.
14. The United Church of Canada.
15. The Roman Catholic Church.
16. The Anglican Church of Canada.
17. The Salvation Army of Canada.
18. The Baptist Church of Canada.
19. The various local Rotary Clubs.
20. The Toronto Progress Club.
21. The Holy Blossom Synagogue (Hebrew) Toronto.
22. The Boy Scouts of Canada.
23. The Girl Guides of Canada.
24. The Toronto and District Labour Council.
25. The ornamental committee of the Canadian Horticultural Council.
26. Catholic Women's League.
27. The Manitoba government and opposition.
28. Various local chapters of the Imperial Order of the Daughters of the Empire.
29. The University of Manitoba.
30. There are also a large number of boards of trade, chambers of commerce, municipal councils, and other governing bodies.

Among the United States organizations which have endorsed the project are:

1. The National Association of Gardeners.
2. The Federated Business Women's clubs of the United States.
3. The Massachusettes Horticultural Society.
4. The garden clubs of America.
5. The New York Horticultural Society.
6. The American Orchid Society.
7. The American Rose Society.
8. The American Society of Landscape Architects.
9. The Boy Scouts of America.
10. The Campfire Girls.
11. The Lions Clubs.
12. The Florida Horticultural Society.