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Having set up a powerful organization composed of leading men and women of this continent, backed by technical experts in horticulture, the next step was the selection of a site for the international peace garden. For this purpose two experts were chosen, one representing the sponsoring body of the United States and one for Canada. The Canadian representative as chosen was Henry J. Moore, above mentioned, a graduate of the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, England, and one of the leading horticulturalists of this dominion. The American representative as chosen was Joseph K. Dunlop, of South Euclid, Ohio, estate superintendent to Congressman Chester W. Bolton. Mr. Dunlop is one of the outstanding practical horticulturists in the United States, having a special knowledge of ornamental gardening and landscape architecture.

This committee of experts had several sites brought to their attention, both east and west, and after a careful and unhurried survey, reported unanimously to the sponsoring associations in the summer of 1931, in favour of the Turtle mountain site, on the International boundary between North Dakota and Manitoba. This recommendation was subsequently agreed to by the international committee on September 16, 1931.

Mr. J. W. Parmley of Ipswich, South Dakota, and Mr. W. V. Udall of Boissevain, Manitoba, drew the attention of the committee to the Turtle mountain region, and on June 2, 1931, it was inspected by Mr. Dunlop and Mr. Moore. Some idea of the nature of the region may be gathered from part of the report of Mr. Moore as to the inspection. I quote:

We inspected the area from the air, and what a sight greeted the eye. Those undulating hills rising out of the limitless prairie are filled with lakes and streams and in the lakes are lovely islands, all timber clad. On the south of the imaginary and unrecognizable boundary, wheat everywhere! On the north the Manitoba forest reserve. One photograph taken from the air revealed seventeen lakes, but in the Turtle mountains there are nearly two hundred on both sides of the boundary. What a place for a garden! Then on the ground our inspection of soils and vegetation was made. There is no finer soil anywhere. The vegetation composed of oak, elm, ash, poplar and other trees and hundreds of species of shrubs and flowers revealed this. Then a motor boat trip across Lake Max, in the forest reserve, where some ten species of ducks were noticed. Also in this reserve are beaver and many other forms of animals, and birds, including swans and part-ridge.

The Turtle mountain region is the watershed of Manitoba and North Dakota. It is a beautiful undulating plateau which rises out of the seemingly endless prairie. The hills rise from a mean elevation of four hundred feet to an average of about one thousand feet, although at one point an elevation of 2,500 feet is attained. The contours of the area lend themselves to the development of landscape gardening in all its forms. There are sheltered areas galore; there are scenes of pastoral loveliness and others of rugged grandeur.

A popular scientific description of the Turtle mountains has been given by Daniel E. Willard, A.M.; Fellow of the American Geological Society, former professor of geology, state agricultural college of North Dakota. He says:

The Turtle mountains plateau is a unique remnant of an older landscape of the continent of North America. It is located in approximately the centre of the continent, one half way between lake Superior and the Rocky mountains. It is crossed by the international boundary between the United States and Canada.

Owing to its unique location and to its geologic and geographic features it is a most fitting place for the location of the International Peace Garden. Its beauty as a natural garden at once impresses the observer. Its fitness to be the place of an international playground, and movement of international friendliness, and good-will becomes more apparent the more the natural features of its geological character are studied.

There is probably no accessible spot between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans that affords a more inviting and appropriate location for the International Peace Garden than does this natural beauty spot of the Turtle mountain.