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TREES ARE THE BEST MEMORIALS



Living Remembrances of the Country's Defenders That Will Give Each Man an Enduring Monument



Trees are the best memorials. In what more fitting form can the respectful sentiment of the living be enshrined? The newspapers are surcharged with bright new ideas for the raising of monuments to the soldiers who have fought their last fight and paid the forfeit, and to those who having served valorously have returned to civil life. Nearly always the ideas are boxed in concrete, stone, brick and asbestos—a memorial hall, a bridge, a statute, a hospital.

“He who plants a tree,
He plants love,
Tents of coolness spreading out above
Wayfarers he may not live to see.
Gifts that grow are best;
Hands that bless are blest.
Plant! Life does the rest.”

Let us popularize a form of memorial that identifies the individual soldier with an individual living monuments. One thousand names may be hidden on a brass tablet within a public hall. There is no reason why this mass remembrance may not be given more distinction and made much more suggestive through a living ever-renewing symbol. Trees will perform this happy function perhaps better than any other medium yet suggested. Let our monuments to the country's defenders represent our personal participation in the act of tree planting rather than a charitable toss of a dollar bill into a collector's hat.

Woodstock's Plan.

Southern Ontario already has moved in this matter. Much activity is to be found in parts of the United States where Boy Scouts and other organizations have been promoting the planting of highways in memory of Theodore Roosevelt. Motor clubs have taken up cudgels for

the planting cause and expeditions have been carried out with success. A fine example was recently set by the Woodstock (Ontario) Horticultural Society, which has adopted a plan for setting out a shade tree along a popular highway for every soldier who enlisted from the county. The trees will be given permanent identification plates.

The Canadian Forestry Association has been encouraging this work for months past and has supplied to many applicants information that tends to make planting work successful. Readers of the Forestry Journal probably are aware of the discouragements that often attend tree planting by amateurs, but the observance of a few simple rules will make the work simple and pleasurable. There is every need that before societies, schools, etc., commence a tree planting enterprise they should avail themselves of expert guidance. Particularly is this true where the tree stock is taken from woodlots and where evergreens are being handled. Unless the latter are cared for in ways that do not usually suggest themselves to the amateur, failure is almost sure to result. The Canadian Forestry Association desires to place its facilities at the disposal of all Canadians who are interested in tree planting and will be glad to co-operate with bodies of citizens planning a programme for the fall months. At this season, it is improbable that many will care to take the risks of transplanting trees in full leaf to new locations. But a busy season should open in the fall. Meantime the Forestry Journal will contain special articles for tree planters that should be kept handy. The following by Mr. F. W. H. Jacombe, of the Dominion Forestry Branch should help many to steer clear of common errors.