

## The Farmer's Advocate AND HOME MAGAZINE.

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placed on an equality with other important industries by the government, and legislators would give all enterprise its just dues.

### America's Greatest Achievement.

Great epochs do not follow one upon the other at very short intervals in the world's history, and people of the New World do not often stop to think about the real importance of North America and its institutions in the world's history. True, we are sometimes a little inclined to brag about the strides made in this country, but as a general thing the Old World is looked to as the real birthplace, nursery and developer of civilization, and to it is given the credit for any accomplishments which have been made in Canada or the United States.

In an address delivered recently to a joint meeting of the Women's Canadian Club and the Canadian Club of London, Ont., Dr. J. A. Macdonald, of Toronto, pointed out that North America really is a great "World Idea," that democracy had its birth on this continent, and that Europe and all the world must credit these two countries, with their 4,000 miles of boundary over which no fortifications tower, across which no cannons tilt their threatening muzzles, and on the waters comprising which no menacing war-craft floats with this great World Idea, rule of the people by the people.

Dr. Macdonald pointed out that 450 years ago Constantinople fell, shutting off the great East. Soon it became necessary for the thickly-populated countries of Western Europe to seek some outlet, and in an attempt to find a road to the East through the West America was discovered. In 1915 Constantinople is again about to fall, and with its fall the East looks to America for a measure of the democracy which has been so successful on this continent.

After all America has something of which to be really proud. The task of working out the first real democratic government in the world from the embryonic state to present-day perfection, Dr. Macdonald places as the greatest achievement in the history of the United States and the evolution of responsible Government in

Canada, where a nation was created within a nation, the first step of its kind to be taken anywhere in the world. Dr. Macdonald classed as the greatest achievement in the history of Canada, and to Canada and Canadians he gave all the credit for the developing and working out of this system, not by revolution but by evolution. Few Canadians realize that Canada was the first colony of any nation to be granted responsible government independent from that of the Central Government of the Homeland. It was purely a Canadian idea, which has spread throughout the colonies of the British Empire, to Australia, to New Zealand, to South Africa and to Newfoundland, all of which now enjoy the same privileges as exist in Canada in so far as Government is concerned. It would seem that the beginning of democracy in America was simply the beginning



Fig. 1—Western Dogwood.

of the end of autocratic rule the world over, and the present war in Europe is likely to bring about the end of more than one autocratic government, and when they go the people of those countries must look to America for the foundation of a system of government of the people by the people as the only system which can stand the test.

When thought is given to the matter perhaps, after all, in the final summing up decades or centuries hence, America will be credited with the greatest World Idea of them all. Credit should be given where credit is due, and there is no getting away from the fact that democracy was born, nursed, and reared into its present high state on the North American continent from the Gulf of Mexico to the Arctic Ocean. One thing is certain, the people of two great nations, the United States on the one hand and Great Britain on the other, have lived side by side for more than one hundred years without a shot being fired across the 4,000-mile frontier upon which no sentry has paced and no precautions have been

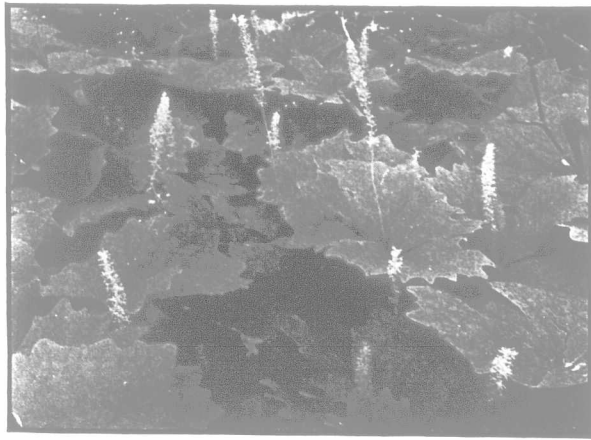


Fig. 2—Scented-leaf.

necessary to prevent an enemy from crossing from one country to the other. The two countries have been friends, but this does not mean that situations have not arisen from time to time which might have been used as excuses for war. However, all differences have been amicably settled without military demonstrations, and through the long century democracy has grown and proven that it is not necessary for frontiers to be bristled with bayonets and to yawn with wide-mouthed cannons protected by every conceivable fortification in order that peace be maintained. While peace and industry have reigned in

America, Europe has been an armed camp laboring under the delusion that heavy and ever increasing armament would secure lasting peace. The present gigantic struggle has shown an armed peace to be "a colossal failure." In this great fight Britain and the colonies which have enjoyed democratic government are lined up with the other Allies against autocracy, against militarism, against rule by the sword, for by the sword is the only rule which autocracy knows, and when the war is finished and the war lords are taught the final lesson that the people really should and will have something to say in the Government of a country of which they form a part, then it is that America and her great World Idea will be recognized, and it is to America that the world will look for the greatest aid in rebuilding that which has been destroyed as the final step of militarism and as the culmination of the long strain of increased armament in the forlorn hope that the more the nations armed the smaller were the chances of war. People will rejoice the world over if the great nations of the world, and the smaller countries as well, could build their future on the World Idea which has proven so successful in America, and after this great war in times of peace prepare for more peace. This was one of the outstanding features brought out by democracy in America, and in place of following the old autocratic rule, where in peace or war the orders were "Prepare for war," reverse the rule and prepare for peace. The desire for democratic rule is in the Anglo-Saxon blood. Britain's colonies have proven what can be done under it. To the older countries it must be taken, and the larger the number of people who get responsible government in full measure as a result of the success which it has attained in America, and as a result of the present revolt against one-man rule the nearer will the world be to permanent peace. North America is truly as Dr. Macdonald brought out so well, "A Great World Idea," and ideas are the mightiest forces in the world. Dr. Macdonald referred to the people who think this war is Armageddon and put forward the belief that Armageddon when it comes will not be a conflict of armaments but a conflict of ideas. The idea is everything, and ideas such as the greatest North America has brought forward cannot fail.

### Nature's Diary.

A. B. Klugh, M.A.

It is spring over most of the Dominion, but on the Pacific coast it is early summer. The early spring flowers are now over in this region, and those which mark the early summer are appearing. One of the most striking of these is the Western Dogwood (*Cornus nuttallii*) which is shown in Fig. 1. This species is a tree from twenty to seventy-five feet in height, with a gray, smooth, mottled bark which resembles that of the Beech. When in flower the trees look like huge pyramidal snowdrifts, as they are densely covered with the large white flowers. The large white appendages, which look like petals, are really bracts, and they surround the real flowers which are small and borne in compact heads. These bracts are from four to six in number, and are from one and one-half to two inches in length. In many localities on the Pacific coast the Dogwood is so abundant as to practically whiten the landscape when it is in bloom, and thus affords one of the most glorious botanical spectacles which I have ever seen.

Another plant which is very common at this season in the woods on the Pacific coast is the Scented-leaf (*Achylis triphylla*). This species, as may be seen from Fig. 2, has a unique-shaped leaf and bears its white flowers in long "rat-tail" spikes. The common name of Scented-leaf is derived from the sweet and peculiar perfume which the leaves of this species give off. This plant is one which puzzles the amateur botanist to classify, as it takes a very careful examination of its flowers to reveal its affinity to the Barberry, though it really belongs to the same family—the Berberidaceae or Barberry Family.

Two other Pacific coast flowers which are very noticeable now are those of the Salmon-berry and the Western Flowering Raspberry. Both are much like a wild rose in form and grow on bushes, the former being a rich rose-purple color and the latter white. The Western Flowering Currant with its hanging racemes of bright red flowers is also a very attractive species.

A very handsome blue flower which is also common in this region is the Camassia (*Camassia esculenta*). The specific name—*esculenta*—was given to it because its bulbs were eaten by the coast Indians. It belongs to the Lily Family, a family which is very well represented in the coast flora. These flowers, and many others which are now in bloom in our "farthest West," represent a stage in the floral procession which is not reached in the East until the middle of June.