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## A Plea for the Observance of Arbour Day in the Country

Much has been done during recent years towards the beautifying of Canadian cities and towns by the awakening of the people to the importance of making their homes more attractive by the planting of trees, shrubs, vines, and herbaceous plants. Many influences have been at work, chief among which are the Horticultural Societies, which through their organizations have been able to do much to bring about the great improvement which is already apparent.

In the country, unfortunately, it is quite otherwise, and one fails to note any decided improvement in the home surroundings during recent years. To us it seems almost sad that in the older settled parts of Canada a large proportion of farmers' homes are bare and uninviting to the passer-by. The contrast between the city and country home in Canada becomes greater every year, and greatly to the advantage of the city. This should not be so. With the greater room in the country and the abundant sunlight, the country home should be a delight to all beholders, and we are glad to say some country homes in Canada are a great credit to their owners.

Can nothing be done to change all this? We believe that something could be done if interest can be awakened in the right quarter and it seems to us that the Women's Institutes are the best organizations to effect a change. Through organizations plants could be ordered and distributed to the members; or as there are so many beautiful wild trees, shrubs, and vines which can easily be obtained in the woods without cost expense need not be a consideration. Then there should be a certain day or afternoon set apart every year as Arbour Day when the women would see to it that some planting was done about the home grounds. A vine one year, a tree or shrub the next, a flower bed, a hedge, a flower border, a well kept lawn; all these would gradually come and in a surprisingly short time there would be a great change. One can imagine Arbour Day becoming a day looked forward to in every community when each family would vie with its neighbor in making the greatest improvement in the shortest time.

Will not the women of Canadian rural homes rise in their might and see to it that their homes are made as beautiful as any in the land? There is abundant information about gardening that can be obtained free for the asking. Which will be the first Women's Institute to take this good work in hand? Perhaps some have done so already.—W. T. Macoun, Dominion Horticulturist.

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