

of form; which represent the embodiment of plastic strength and great virility, is to insensibly shape their moral natures in such ways as to develop character and self-reliance, as well as an appreciation of those more gentle graces which contribute so largely to the characteristic qualities of the cultured and refined. Nor can we doubt that an abundance of well-cared-for shade trees operate as an attraction to visitors and as an actual incentive to settlement. The naturally fine shade trees of Montreal constitute one of the features most commented upon by strangers, and it is the same feature which lends such charm to Toronto, New Haven, Washington, Buffalo, Detroit, and many other cities.

Turning our attention briefly to more practical considerations, it is obvious that it is the part of a wise civic policy to see to it that a form of property which possesses so many potentialities for good; which possesses so large a measure of intrinsic value; which constantly enhances in value with increasing age through a long period of time; and which also involves a considerable initial expenditure, should be most carefully protected, not only against the far too numerous enemies which Nature herself has provided, but against man himself as the very worst of all the foes with which shade trees must contend. The fact that Massachusetts has expended vast sums of money in its efforts to protect its shade trees against the ravages of insect pests; and that in spite of repeated failures, they still persist in the fight and continue to spend large sums of money annually, with a feeling of confidence in ultimate victory, is at once a tribute to the enlightenment of a community which finds it desirable to put forth such heroic efforts, and a practical proof of the wisdom of such a policy of protection, even though it involve the expenditure of millions of dollars of public money.

Abundant experience has shown that it is not alone a policy which shall deal with the pests when they arrive, that is wanted, but quite as much a policy of prevention which, ever alert, anticipates the coming evil and adopts such measures as will render its further operations ineffective. If all this may be said with respect to remedial and protective measures where natural enemies are concerned, it is certainly a penny-wise and pound-foolish policy which will expend thousands of dollars upon the destruction of insects and other natural foes, and at the same time permit man to operate in such ways as to be quite as, if not far more speedily and far more certainly, destructive. Since the introduction of telegraph, telephone and electric lighting wires throughout all the thorough-



Look! and Ask if we Should Not Protect our Trees

fares of our cities, shade trees have ceased to have any recognized status. A tree which has developed a fine form through the growth of half a century is suddenly deprived of its top or other essential parts and left a maimed and shattered wreck whose mutilated stumps of former members reach up their ragged ends as if in mute appeal for vengeance upon the vandals who have been guilty of such an outrage. The case is somewhat aggravated when an enterprising citizen plants a fine tree, perhaps at considerable expense, and watches with fondest care its gradual development into an object of beauty and utility. Some day he arrives home from his office to find only a wreck of that in which he has taken so much justifiable pride and pleasure. Trees which have been dealt with in such a manner, should be removed at once, for they can never become what Nature designed them to be, and their presence cannot fail to exert precisely the opposite effect to that for which they were intended, because of the false standards which they illustrate.

In justice to the linemen, however, it should be pointed out that while their operations are serious enough, they are by no means the only transgressors, since these are found even in the ranks of those who by profession, or at least by occupation, might be supposed to exercise the most intelligent and thoughtful oversight and care. The operations of the professional (*sic*) forester, or at least of the man who is paid to fill that rôle, are very often far from what they should

be. To cut off a limb with a hatchet instead of with a good saw; to cut from above and allow the falling limb to drag a long splinter with it; to leave a projecting stump with a ragged end; or to leave limbs on the tree long after they have commenced to decay—all these things not only present a most unsightly and unprofessional piece of work, but they one and all invite the entrance of decay and ensure the certain destruction of the tree.

The time has certainly arrived when every town and city should regard it as a paying investment to plant good trees. This should be done not alone by the city itself, but by property holders as well, who should be encouraged, in every way, to undertake such work independently. It should then be the further duty of the town or city to guarantee a suitable measure of protection to such trees against the attacks of animals, the lawlessness of street boys who have no higher ideals than delight in the destruction of everything which contributes to the grace and beauty of our streets, the attacks of insect pests and the operation of parasitic fungi. Furthermore, there should be a systematic inspection of all the trees each spring. Sporadic efforts in this respect are of very little value, but there should be a well-ordered service which will bring every tree under an intelligent inspection. If accomplished regularly and systematically, such service need not be costly, and it could be accomplished before the more pressing work of decorating the squares with flowers begins.