

past planted our parks and public grounds with plants which were native of other countries when we might have made them beautiful with our own.

Every city should have a by-law regulating the planting of avenue and shade trees along the streets of the city, and while, in all cases, it might not be desirable to confine the planting to native species, yet everything possible should be done to encourage the planting of them. The merits of the different species should be brought prominently before our people. A proposed by-law of this kind is before the Ottawa City Council now.

Let us now look at the material there is to draw upon, beginning with the trees, shrubs and vines which are, perhaps, our most effective plants.

The Norway Maple, *Acer platanoides*, is a good shade tree, but it is not as desirable for street planting as the Hard Maple, *Acer saccharum*. The chief drawbacks to the Norway Maple, as I have observed it, are that it forms too low a head and if pruned up does not look well. This tree is being planted in greater numbers every year, chiefly due, in my judgment, to the fact that it grows rapidly in the nursery, and hence is a more profitable tree to grow. But let us stick to our Hard Maple, the best maple by all odds. It grows to a great height and size and its brilliant colouring in autumn gives Canadian cities an individuality.

As the Hard Maple is the best maple to plant, so is our American Elm, *Ulmus americana*, the best elm. The rapid growth of this tree in most soils, the great height to which it grows, and its graceful form, make it one of the most desirable trees for street planting. Moreover, it lends itself to high pruning, which is so necessary in our cities, where there is such a mass of wires. The higher the American Elm is pruned the better it looks when the tree is large, and this is a very important matter. In some places two species of European elms have been planted instead of the American. This is a great mistake as they are inferior trees to our own and everything possible should be done to confine the planting to the American Elm.

With the Hard Maple and American Elm conceded to be the two best trees for street planting, there are few other trees which need to be considered, as they should constitute by far the greater part of the planting. But for variety, a few other desirable species may be used. Why the Red Oak, *Quercus rubra*, has not been more planted as a street tree is a mystery to me. It is a most beautiful tree, the fastest growing of the oaks, and as rapid a grower, I believe, as the Hard Maple. Its leaves, which are usually highly coloured, remain on the tree until winter and give a colour to the streets long after the leaves of