

great philosopher in ancient Greece, which we ought to take to heart today.

Here are a few concrete objects which our societies should work for, as distinguished from more general civic ideas, viz.:

Preservation of the natural beauty-spots.

Removal of unsightly bill-boards, poles, overhead wires and signs.

Object-lessons on how to plant the home grounds, showing the importance of a right start, etc.

Offering prizes for the best porch window and garden display.

A relentless war against dirty, garbage-strewn streets and vacant, weed-grown lots.

Bringing influence to bear so as to make railway-station grounds tidy and attractive. First impressions are usually lasting ones, and unfavorable impressions can only be formed by uncouth conditions about a town's main gateway. A pretty station, with flowers and vines, will afford pleasure to every resident, every visitor and every traveller who passes that way. Cemetery improvement: "God's Acre," in many towns and villages in Canada, is a wilderness of tangled weeds and matted grass—the most dreary, neglected waste in the countryside; a standing reproach to our Christian faith.

Enough perennials and bedding plants to embellish scores of small gardens are thrown away every year by professional gardeners on a large scale. It would be a good plan for our societies to request these florists with an embarrassment of riches to save their surplus plants for the benefits of schools, etc., who would be only too glad to send and get them.

I fear my address has already transgressed in length the bounds of time set for it, but I cannot conclude without giving you a final summing up and reinforcement of my argument, which I take special pride in doing in the clear, cogent and concise language of Mr. J. Horace McFarlane, the distinguished President of the American Civic Association, whose eloquence of voice and elegance of pen have accomplished wonders for "a more beautiful America."

Having written to Mr. McFarlane, informing him that I had been invited to prepare this address, and asking him for suggestions that would help to inspire a great civic awakening in this Province along the lines inaugurated by the Horticultural Societies in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Minnesota and Philadelphia, and other parts of the United States, I had the honor to receive the following reply:

Harrisburg, Pa.,
Sept. 19th, 1907.

Dear Sir,—In respect to the subject of your address, I may say that it seems to me that the horticultural associations and societies throughout the Province of Ontario can very profitably take up civic improvement for many reasons, among which might be cited the following:

1. To the prosperity of the horticultural trades, civic improvement directly tends, for, aside from the mere physical and decent cleaning-up which precedes adornment, most of the adornment is connected with the use of seeds, plants, trees and vines. There is, therefore, a good business reason, if such were necessary, for the interest of horticulturists in civic improvement. The amateur in horticulture has the best opportunity to be a good civic improver, because he has knowledge of the materials which help to make the surroundings of his home and his home town more beautiful.

2. It would seem to me that these associations, interested in the prosperity of bustling, active Ontario, would have reason to undertake civic improvement work, because such work always increases values. Significant commentary from this side of the case is presented in a paper which the chief engineer of the Maintenance of Way, of the Penn. Rail-

road, has prepared for presentation at the Providence meeting, in November. He calls attention to the fact that improvements instituted by that company at suburban stations have uniformly resulted in a greater business to that station, and therefore have paid the railroad. He points out that those looking for homes are attracted by pleasant surroundings, and repelled by ugly surroundings, and that, therefore, the prosperity of the community is directly connected with its relation to the improvement movement.

3. It would seem to me that the horticultural associations might be interested in civic improvement, also, because of the way in which improvement conditions tend to satisfaction and permanence in the matter of industrial workmen. Some of the most successful manufacturers realize the importance of providing pleasing surroundings, helpful recreation and proper playground facilities for the workmen and their families in a self-respecting way, to the end of keeping these workmen sober, happy and contented.

4. The education of children proceeds through the eye. Ugly surroundings give an education in ugliness. Beautiful surroundings give an education in beauty. No one would for a moment suggest that the better citizens grew out of an education in ill-looking and evil-smelling surroundings. Yet this point has been lost sight of all over our great continent, and we grow our children in pigpen conditions, wondering, after a while, why they do not appreciate healthful and beautiful condi-



A Good Road, but Bare, Bleak and Uninteresting for Want of Trees Along the Fences.

tions as fully as they ought to. I am sure that I am within the facts when I say that it will pay any community to surround its children with clean beauty, to cause them to hate ugliness.

5. In making a final suggestion to your associations, it would be that the members resolve themselves into units for work, beginning with that work about the home. When these units have thus acted, they will be ready to fight against the ugliness of bill-boards, the correction of poles and wires, mutilation of trees, and other ways in which so-called enterprise has turned our beautiful America, in some portions, into a most unbecoming condition. These same units, then proceeding, will insist upon pleasant surroundings for school-grounds, so that the children will not have to live through the years of their education in unsatisfactory and sometimes unsanitary conditions.

I have the greatest faith in the future of Ontario, and I sincerely trust your address may be an inspiring one, with the greatest benefit to the earnest people who will hear you.

J. HORACE MCFARLANE,
Pres. A. C. A.

Ladies and gentlemen, representatives of the horticultural societies of Ontario, let us propagate this beautiful cult, like those torches of which the Latin poet speaks, which passed from hand to hand until the whole land was aflame with light.

HOW ARE WE TO EXPEND OUR FUNDS TO THE BEST ADVANTAGE?

By Rev. A. H. Scott, M. A., Perth, Ont.

(A paper also rich in suggestion to all who are interested in seeing beauty displace ugliness in Canada.)

I have a friend who has riches and a garden. He says that he hopes those who come after him will take as much pleasure in spending his money as he takes in making it. Other people may be right or they may be wrong, but they say that Mr.

grudges the expenditure of a dollar unless he can see how it will make another dollar. The only reservation in this outgo is the expenditure for the upkeep and embellishment of his garden. My friend may have his own purposes in finance, but I know to his credit, he is seized of the horticultural idea.

To the horticultural idea belongs, necessarily, some right conception of money. In our fair Ontario the right expenditure of smaller or larger sums of money at the present time, for the purpose of soil and garden development, counts for a great deal. "A dollar in a university is worth more than a dollar in a jail." Since cultivated mankind from time immemorial has shown a hereditary tendency for the soil, and inasmuch as "to own, to till and to beautify a bit of land, no matter how humble, is the absorbing desire of most men of moral breadth," it is important that an association such as ours, and operating at a time and place such

of being a helper in the horticultural cause in Canada. You know of that phase in our make-up which disposes us to think well of our own. Now, in my spot in Ontario we have a pride in clean streets. We glory in overhanging shade trees. We advocate well-kept lawns and good gardens. About our premises in summer you may notice the product of intelligent cultivation, and if you visit us in the winter we will show you something that is rewarding in the indoor culture. A part of our pleasure is the result, I believe, of a certain expenditure for the bulbs and shrubs that reach us through the Perth Horticultural Society.

It soon became impressed upon our members that they were scarcely justifying their horticultural existence by confining that attention to the cultivation of those niceties which were largely for their own personal or household use. So they looked about and asked what more they could do. Their attention was fixed upon the places where many pioneers in the Perth district were sleeping. A new piece of land had been purchased for a general cemetery, and when the community began to bury its dead in the large place the old grounds came to be neglected. Prompted, no doubt, in some measure by attachment to Him through whose grace and power the dead are to rise again, in some measure, too, out of respect for the memory of the departed, and in a great measure by that sense of propriety which is shocked to see the stone wall of a sacred place broken down and mounds that should be putting forth green grass grown over with nettles, our society contributed out of its own funds, and added to these through personal solicitation among the townspeople, with the result that the old burial grounds, belonging to the Presbyterians, Anglicans, Methodists and Roman Catholics, have been made new. Perhaps no expenditure has given more satisfaction to our members and to our citizens than this upon God's Acre.

Some of the funds belonging to our society have been expended in various ways along the line of civic improvement. Ornamentation of public buildings with blooming boxes and hanging baskets has been done. The society has helped to prepare the way for beautifying the grounds about the place, which is conspicuous when we are leaving our homes and returning to them again at the season of travel.

Our most recent service was one in which we were associated and assisted by one of the departments of the Dominion Government. A waterway leads from our town to the Rideau, which again opens on the one side to the St. Lawrence, and on the other to the Ottawa. The basin at our end is the head of navigation. The banks were unkempt. But now, the Government of Canada and the Perth Horticultural Society having joined hands in the enterprise, there is a new order of things since the banks of the Tay were subjected to the skill and culture of the landscape decorator.

These are sample instances of what has been done in a single place. Expenditures for kindred purposes in places where other conditions obtain would seem to be the advantage of the localities, and in keeping with the right trend of Horticultural Society endeavor.

Taking a wider outlook, it appears to me that doors are presented to us in the three following directions:

(1) We should be free to spend money to bring in men and women who are capable of making the public platform a disseminating place for healthy horticultural information. L. H. Bailey tells of an owner of land, who, not knowing reasons for anything, has no information, and goes fishing. The fisherman's calling is time-honored and respected, but it is too bad, inasmuch as right gardening is intellectual employment, that so many fine acres should be locked up because so many operators on the soil are uninitiated and uninformed. There is a power in the living voice of an interested personality who will

Let me proceed through a concrete instance. The Horticultural Society of which I am a member is desirous