

as they come round every year. In a word the day has become all ceremony. It was born in the make-believe of a politician, and fostered in the tawdry attire of a newspaper paragraph, and now the saying is heard, out of hearing of the newspaper man, "What is the good of it anyhow?" The ceremony was to be an encouragement to the work, but now it has become nearly all the work that is done, with its garden party invitations from city councils and departments of public works. Meantime, with the planting of a few trees, with a bow from the Hon. Mr. Johns to the Hon. Mr. Secretary, our forests are going to wreck at the hands of our lumbermen, and not a man has taken to the cultivation of timber as a source of wealth to the country more than in the days before Arbor Day was spoken about. Why should our cities and towns not be beautified with ornamental trees? And we answer the query by asking, Why? Why should not every school-house and church edifice in our land be enshrined in a shade-spot of maple and birch? And we answer the query by asking, Why? What has Arbor Day, with all its ceremony and hob-nobbing done for our cities and towns and village streets, for our school-houses and church buildings? Nothing? Well, no, not exactly nothing; for Sir Henry Joly would say that such was not the case, remembering the champagne festivities and the flow of eloquence and all the sweet words of expectancy, that have showered plentifully on the few trees planted on a hill-side never afterwards seen, or on some government grass-plot that needed no shade. But what has Arbor Day done for the spread of an improved skill in the art of planting and pruning and stripping—what has it done for arboriculture and the rearing of farm plantations, such as are to be found in European countries? Were the proper care given to

the growing of trees on the farm, there might have to be a mortgage on the place as now, but there would also be the prospect of its final discharge in the maturing timber. And were the planting and protecting of trees properly taught to our young people in the woodland districts, and afterwards properly encouraged by our governments in the employment of rangers and foresters, neither federal debt nor provincial debt would hang over us for long as an irremovable load.

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*The Outlook* deals, in the following note, with a phase of the school question to which we have frequently called the attention of our readers. The same conditions exist in the United States as we have here in Canada :

*The Missing Link in Education.*—A meeting of teachers and parents was recently held in a town not many miles from New York. It was supposed that the audience was composed of teachers and parents, but about two and one-half thirds of the audience, if not more, were teachers, although the meeting had been advertised for at least two weeks before it was held, and the most liberal invitation extended to the women of the community. The title of the organization under whose auspices the meeting was held would indicate that it was a co-operative organization of mothers and teachers. It is impossible to understand the lack of active interest of mothers and fathers in the subject of education; for certainly this interest is passive so long as it means only the placing of a child in a school which ranks according to their standard, and then dropping the whole sense of responsibility unless some abnormal occasion arises that compels consultation on the part of the parents with the teacher.

It is very evident that no speaker