

referred to. Twenty-five years ago peaches were raised in abundance in that State, but peach culture in Ohio is a thing of the past. The climate has become colder and more dry and uneven. The springs are later, droughts are frequent, crops of different kinds less abundant and more uncertain, and everybody is familiar with the record of her devastating floods. The record of Nebraska and other Western States, and even of Massachusetts, is somewhat similar to that of Ohio.

It has thus become a well and widely recognized fact that the proper conservation of the forest lies at the very foundation of national prosperity; and having this conviction, several European countries a century or more ago began the work of preserving and restoring their forests. Forestry societies were formed, schools of forestry were in time established, legislation was improved, large and small areas were planted with different kinds of trees; but it was found that the preservation of the forest was dependent upon the due appreciation of its importance and value on the part of not merely a portion, but of all the people. Laws are of little avail unless they are the expression of the popular sentiment. How were the people to be led up to this appreciation? There is a German proverb which says: "What you would have appear in the nation's life you must introduce into the public school." Germany, therefore, introduced tree planting into the public schools throughout the country, and in the hands of enthusiastic teachers the treeless school plains soon found shade and shelter, and the school deserts were made to "rejoice, and blossom as the rose." Lessons on trees and forests were easily enforced under such circumstances, and soon Germany had a people that looked upon her 20,000,000 acres of forest with anxious solicitude, and the public schools became more effectual in forest protection than the national police. Regular "Arbor Days," so called, were not established in Europe so far as we know. Prussia has an income from her forest of \$14,000,000. The expenses are \$7,500,000. Leaving a net profit of \$6,500,000. Saxony, Bavaria, Hanover and other countries pursue a similar forest policy with similar results.

In America, interest in tree planting has developed more recently. About twenty years ago several village societies were formed in New York State, one of their objects being the improvement of streets by the planting of trees; but to Nebraska belongs the honor of originating Arbor Day. About thirteen years ago, at the request of the State Board of Agriculture, the Governor appointed the second Wednesday in April as the day to be devoted to economic tree planting in that State, and it is claimed that 12,000,000 of trees

were planted on that day. Every year since, this day has been similarly recognized in Nebraska. Other states soon followed Nebraska's noble example, until now nearly all the Western and several of the New England States have their annual Arbor Days, and most of them celebrate it in conjunction with their public schools. We are not quite certain, but think Indiana was the first state to proclaim a school Arbor Day; but it was soon found that while this celebration was educating the young people in the important lessons touching the beauty and vast utility of trees and forests, it was an important educator in other respects as well, and was rendering school premises not only more beautiful and comfortable, but more healthful, refining and attractive, and actually promoting school attendance.

The plan of planting memorial trees and groves in honor of illustrious persons or friends, and known as the Cincinnati plan, had its origin in 1882, and was introduced by Hon. Mr. Peaslee, Superintendent of Schools. Governor Foster had proclaimed April 27th as Arbor Day for the State. Mr. Peaslee addressed a circular to trustees, superintendents and teachers throughout Ohio requesting them to celebrate the day after the Cincinnati plan. No sight more beautiful, no ceremonies more touching, had ever been witnessed in Cincinnati. The school children were under the charge of Mr. Peaslee. Fifty thousand citizens covered the grassy slopes in the suburbs of the city. Many memorial groves were planted and thousands of trees. This was the first Arbor Day celebration in Ohio. The Cincinnati plan has been largely followed in other States, especially in Virginia and Connecticut. One of the leading journals of England has recommended the Cincinnati plan of tree planting celebrations among the public schools of Great Britain.

Arbor Day was first celebrated in Ontario in 1885, in response to a circular issued by the Minister of Education, requesting the schools throughout the Province to plant trees, shrubs and flowers on their premises upon the 8th of May. Though the circular was not issued till after the middle of April, 30,648 trees were planted and 253 flower beds were made. So gratifying was this result that in 1886 it was provided by law that an Arbor Day shall be annually observed throughout Ontario in connection with her public schools.

In Nova Scotia, provision has for three years existed for planting trees on school grounds.

In New Brunswick the propriety of planting shade and ornamental trees on school grounds was first formally discussed at the Sunbury and Charlotte Teachers' Institutes, in 1883, and resolutions were