

A Little Walk

By Peter McArthur, In the Toronto Globe.

EKFRID, Ontario.—One spring morning four, or perhaps five, years ago, the youngest boy and I took a little walk that may leave its record on the farm for more years than anything that has been accomplished on it since the original clearing of the land. He had found some sprouting acorns under the big white oak near the house, and he brought them to me. As it was an idle morning we decided at once that the acorns should be given a chance. We filled our pockets with them and went out to the wood-lot. There we rambled about, stopping every few rods to plant one of our sprouted acorns. Then we forgot all about our little adventure in reforestation. As oak trees make a slow growth, the results of our plantings were hidden by thousands of faster-growing sugar maples and the pines, chestnuts and other trees that had been planted some years earlier. But one day last week I happened to notice a thrifty little oak growing on a little knoll beside one of the few small boulders on the place. At once I remembered distinctly that we had planted an acorn on that spot. By an effort of memory I recalled other stops where we had planted acorns, and on visiting them found lusty little oaks. While I found it impossible to retrace all our steps on that spring morning, because the undergrowth is too thick, I found a number of little oaks that were undoubtedly of that planting. Although it will be many years before they become noticeable among the faster-growing trees, the "many centuried oaks," if undisturbed, will outlast all the others. As the years pass the course of our morning ramble will become definitely marked with noble trees. Future generations will perhaps wonder how this particular

wood-lot happened to have so generous a supply of white oaks, and in examining the giant trees may retrace the steps of our morning walk. Who knows but taking that morning walk with our pockets full of acorns may prove to be the most enduring thing that either of us will have done. In any case, we did something worth while.

An Editorial by George E. McKee

President Canadian Pulp and Paper Association

THE real source of employment for fifty thousand Canadians in the pulp and paper industry is not a steel-and-cement mill but an inflammable wooden forest, and every time a camper or fisherman or hunter contributes to forest destruction by his camp-fire or his cigarette or match he puts one or many workmen out of a steady job.

The real meaning of forest destruction is not the devastation of trees but the devastation of workmen's jobs. Too many people regard forest fires as clearing up land for agriculture. This is not true of one forest fire in fifty. Nearly all the land on which fires occur is of non-agricultural character and will never pay a profit to this country in any other way than through timber growing and occasionally through mining.

The pulp and paper industry and nearly five thousand other wood-using plants, with an army of employees, are the creations of the living forest and according to the condition of the forest they progress or decline. The axe, after all, is a minor factor in timber destruction. The Dominion's forests are being put out of business by people who need them most, the camper, the smoker and in an amazing number of instances, the amateur fisherman.

Beautifying Grand Trunk Station Grounds

THERE HAS been much favorable comment during the past summer on the improved appearance of the grounds surrounding the stations on the Grand Trunk Railway System. While it had been the practice at a few of the larger stations to have flower beds, there was no general plan dealing with the creation of garden effects at the smaller stations until about two seasons ago. Reproduced on the page opposite are photographs of the excellent effects which have been attained at various G. T. R. railroad stations in Ontario and Quebec. As will be seen from these considerable progress has been made and what were formerly waste pieces of land and often cinder beds have been transformed into green lawns, shrubberies, and flower beds. The officers and employees have co-operated in the work and the successful results obtained are due to the practical interest in the new departure.

The amount of ground available around the various stations was as a rule not extensive and nothing of an elaborate nature was attempted, the main object being to have some simple arrangement of lawn, shrubs and annual flowers in keeping with the general surroundings. In order to obtain results with a minimum of expense there was no interference with the general contour of the land. Considerable care was given the collection of flowers and shrubs, as they were required to grow under conditions not conducive to the best of plant health. The work has been carried out entirely by the track forces and station staffs of the railway, and the fact that a large portion of the upkeep has been done by the men in their own time shows how enthusiastically they have supported the plan.

The men in charge of the various stations were supplied with the plants, etc., and in the majority of cases they did their own arranging. The ultimate result of their work, as seen from the passing trains is in every way satisfactory, and reflects great credit on the men, who, previous to the Company taking up the subject, had done little or no horticultural work. As there has been a marked awakening of interest in the improving of home surroundings, the work accomplished by the Grand Trunk men in beautifying the railway premises will serve as an inspiration to the citizens of many towns with regard to what can be done in a simple and inexpensive way in improving their own home grounds.