

THE PRESERVATION OF WILD FLOWERS ON VANCOUVER ISLAND

The following article on the preservation of our beautiful native flowers appeared in the Daily Colonist of Wednesday, February 11. As many of our readers are keenly interested in this subject we take pleasure in publishing the article in full:

"Upon the request of Hon. Dr. Young, Minister of Education, a committee was appointed by the Natural History Society to prepare the following paper on 'The Preservation of Flowers,' for publication in the school magazines.

"In view of the danger of extermination to which many of our native plants are exposed through thoughtlessness, carelessness and ignorance of conditions under which plants perpetuate their species, the Natural History Society hopes that by means of an appeal to the better feelings of all classes, especially children, a sentiment may be created which will result in the protection and preservation of the lovely flowers and plants which even now, in spite of past inconsiderate methods or vandalism, are still to be found in diminished and diminishing numbers in secluded situations. Time was when Beacon Hill Park was a sheet of white when the white lily was in bloom, and the surrounding woods fragrant with ladies' slippers, to say nothing of the various other plants which adorned the park. Where are they now? Through various means, often vandalism but mostly, let us hope, through ignorance and thoughtlessness, they have disappeared.

Care for the future often involves sacrifice for the present. Are we not willing to forego some pleasure for the sake of preserving for the enjoyment of future generations the beauty of our woods, hills, swamps and pastures, while our beautiful wild plants are still to be found?

A Dreadful Possibility.

It is conceivable that the day is not far distant when the children will not only be ignorant of nature, but they will grow up without the power to form mental pictures and thus will be deprived of much that is best in nature and literature.

Plants do not grow spontaneously. Many propagate their species by seed or bulbs alone and if they are deprived of the power of reproduction through these means those plants will surely, sooner or later, disappear from the face of the earth.

"For instance, when we look into the life history of the Erythronium, our wild Easter lily, it is no wonder that they are becoming scarcer. The wonder is that any remain at all within picking distance of town. This beautiful wild flower has a bulb, which must be renewed every year. It makes this new bulb on the side of the old one, but entirely outside it and the old bulb decays. At the flowering season if you dig up a bulb you will see the new bulb just beginning to form. Before you pull up any more lilies with the pair of leaves attached to the stem, stop a moment and consider what it is you are doing. You are taking away from that lily its power of reproducing a new bulb and it must inevitably die, as this pair of leaves are the means by which it elaborates the substance necessary for this purpose. Only the very strongest lilies bear seed, and these are the ones naturally picked, as they are the finest and prettiest.

Lilies Disappearing.

If you would like to verify this statement, just take a walk next June to your favorite lily patch, the place where you found the thickest and see if you can find one seed pod where you saw a hundred flowers. This seed is shed early in midsummer and lies on the ground till the fall rains, a tempting morsel for seed-eating birds, mice and other small rodents. If people who love lilies and pick them would spare the foliage and

if they would take enough interest to gather, when mature, a few dozen seed pods, keep the seeds till the fall and then sow them near town by the roadside, our walks abroad in lily time would soon be as they were in the days of old.

"The lady's slipper also is rapidly disappearing through injudicious methods. This is an orchid with a bulbous root, which does not have any hold in the soil, being simply covered with moss, so that unless some care is exercised the whole plant is uprooted. Care should be taken to pinch the stem when picking, thus avoiding the danger of destroying the plant. But the accidental uprooting of some is not responsible for the wholesale destruction which goes on annually. Many persons, not only children, but women—indeed the latter being possibly the worst sinners—are to be seen in the spring bringing in quantities of this lovely flower pulled up by the root in baskets of moss. Such destructive methods require no comment.

Protecting Wild Flowers.

"Many lovers of flowers in Victoria and its vicinity are protecting the wild flowers and establishing other spring flowering plants in uncultivated patches of wild land in their private gardens. The school children and even grown men and women do not seem to realize that uncultivated ground, when protected by fences or other means of defining boundaries, may contain flowers as precious to the owner as any trim and cultivated border, and every spring hordes of children and adults swarm through and over fences and drag the wild and cultivated flowers alike from their homes in the grass, ruthlessly destroying the plants and, for the sake of gathering a few bouquets, often to be thrown away almost directly, spoil a whole year's work and pleasure for some patient lover of nature, who has, at the cost of much time and money, coaxed these living gems to establish themselves where they can be a recurring joy in the springtime of every year.

"Often these trespassers go so far as to gather handfuls of tulips and daffodils, valuable plants imported at great expense from other lands.

The Gardeners.

Let these despoilers of private grounds put themselves in the place of the gardeners and try to realize how they would feel if some stranger were to enter their own garden patch and let them remember that the owner of one or more acres is worthy of as much consideration as the owner of a sixty foot lot, and, though the grounds appear so large that a few flowers may not be missed, they have been laid out with as much care and patience and give as much pleasure in every part as the smaller flower bed.

"It is as wrong for boys and girls to pick a person's flowers as it is to dig up and take away his vegetables. They are his own, the fruits of his own industry. And this maxim applies to public parks as well, for they are kept up for the many and not for the fleeting pleasures of the few who who are selfish or thoughtless enough to destroy their beauties."

NOT NECESSARY TO SHARE IT.

"Did you have such a toothache all the afternoon?" was asked of a girl who had just returned from a little outing, and who followed her good-bye to her companions with a proposal to visit a dentist. "Why, you never mentioned it!"

"Of course not. It wasn't necessary to inflict a toothache upon the whole party because I had one myself," was the quick reply.

The words bore a trace of impatience, perhaps, but they had a whole volume of wisdom. We all know the people who insist on sharing every

ache and pain, all their disappointments and annoyances with whoever happens to be near them. There are headaches that, instead of being confined to the head of the owner spread gloom and discomfort over the whole household, from the family at the breakfast table to the maid in the kitchen. The unreasonableness of some one's conduct, the annoyance caused by some one's failure to keep an engagement, the disagreeable task that must be undertaken, the sleepless night caused by disturbances without or within—all these are dilated upon and spread out before the family in a fashion which forces every one to share in the vexations which no one can help.

The habit of demanding sympathy—for it really is that which causes the needless retailing of troubles and worries—is one that grows rapidly and has its root in selfishness. There are great griefs that come into life, griefs that can neither be hidden nor borne alone, and in these the tender sympathy of friends is solace and support. But to inflict all the petty ills of our daily lives upon others and to darken their sky with every shadow that crosses ours is both weak and selfish. The burdens that no one can lift from our shoulders should be borne as silently and unobtrusively as possible; they are ours alone. Learning to share our joys and pleasures, to bring brightness to those around us and to keep our ills and discomforts in the background is not merely a matter of good taste, it is a positive duty. It adds not only to the happiness of those around us, but it is for our own good as well; it tends to build up a character strong, controlled and unselfish. Cheerfulness is not so much a question of satisfactory surroundings as of our attitude toward them. It is a habit that can be cultivated. There is never any need to give a whole party the toothache.—Comrade.

THE LOCAL FOOTBALL TEAM DRAW WITH VICTORIA ELEVEN

If the picked team of Victoria football players that journeyed to Sidney on Sunday last came out with the intention of administering a severe defeat to the local eleven, the result of the game must have been a disappointment to them. No scores were made on either side, yet from start to finish the local players had much the best of the day, and in many respects the game resembled the recent Sidney-Fulford game, on account of the ball being almost continually in Victoria's territory.

The splendid work of the visitor's goalkeeper was the only thing that saved the day for them, while Fagan and Denoull at back broke up many determined rushes of the Sidney forwards.

For the local squad perhaps Scarlett and Morris were the most conspicuous, and in the majority of cases when the opposing forwards did make a break for the Sidney territory, they showed a decided preference to run around Scarlett instead of checking him. Bowcott, on the right wing came near distinguishing himself several times but his efforts were always blocked by his check.

The first half was uneventful, no goals being scored by either team. In the second half Sidney succeeded in putting the ball through once, but it was from an offside and did not count.

Following is the lineup of the teams:

Sidney—Goal, Shrimpton; backs, Scarlett and Morris; half-backs, Norton, Sewell, Jennings; forwards, Bowcott, Wilkinson, Graham, Cowell, Phillips.

Victoria—Goal, Munday; backs, Fagan, Donoull; half-backs, Boyd, Youlden, Massey; forwards, Beach, Randall, Williams, White, Cassidy.

Referee—P. King.
Linesmen—Rudd and Cameron.

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