

*International Peace Park*

a permanent record book to be maintained within the garden. The land for the garden having been donated, and so many people having come forward, unasked to contribute, the committee anticipates no difficulty in being able to maintain the garden for an indefinite period of time.

The dedication of the international peace garden will be held on July 14, 1932, and to this dedication the world is invited. It is hoped that at the ceremony there will be present the Prime Minister of this country, or members of his cabinet, and the President of the United States, or members of his executive council, and leading representatives from the different governments, the different churches, and the leading societies of both countries. The arrangements for the dedication will be under the management of the International Peace Picnic Association which last year held a celebration at the site, at which some ten thousand people were present.

Legislation is now going through the legislatures of North Dakota and Manitoba to incorporate the international peace garden, and also to transfer to it fifteen hundred acres on each side of the international boundary or a total of three thousand acres, making up a block of land three miles long by one and one-half miles in width. Words cannot express the great feeling of thankfulness felt by the people of this continent to the government of the province of Manitoba and that of the state of North Dakota for the great confidence shown in this project by the magnificent gift to it of three thousand acres of land.

What I desire to point out to this house is that the international peace garden movement in reality commenced in 1928, and is sponsored and endorsed by leading citizens and societies in the United States and in Canada. I desire also to make it very clear that the site for the international peace garden was selected by horticultural experts appointed from the United States and Canada, and that a site was not chosen until 1931, after due deliberation and proper examination.

The international peace garden is not a government institution, but is rather what might be termed a foundation to commemorate peace administered by a business organization in accordance with the wishes of its shareholders.

The governments of Manitoba and North Dakota have shown their confidence in the project and its personnel by donating 3,000 acres, and the garden will be dedicated this year at a site which is in the Turtle moun-

[Mr. Willis.]

tains in practically the geographic centre of the North American continent, at a location which in the opinion of the experts is highly suitable for the purposes of the garden.

May I say in passing that the international peace garden should not be confused with the Waterton Glacier Peace park, about which this house may have heard something. The Waterton Glacier project is merely a change of name in connection with the national park now in existence, with the hope that by including the word "peace" tourists in large numbers may be brought to view its forests. The change in name does not include the creation of anything new, nor does it make the forest the property of the public, but is merely the advertising of an area which in its present form has been in existence as long as the continent, and which was formerly known as Glacier park and Waterton park.

An international peace garden has a value which is educational and symbolic and renders a material benefit to the two nations of this continent which cannot be over estimated.

In commemorating a peace of over one hundred years it invites a continuation of peaceful and friendly relationships without which there cannot be material progress. It encourages peace rather than war and breaks down the barriers of reserve and indifference. It tends to offset insidious and dangerous propaganda which may be engendered by vocal citizens on both sides of the border and helps to disarm hatred and prejudice.

There is nothing which can be compared to a garden as typifying peace, and there is no memorial as beautiful as one of trees, shrubs and flowers. Other memorials of stone and concrete there have been, but a garden becomes more beautiful and more symbolic as the years advance, and the more the visitors who come to this international peace garden the stronger the friendship between the two nations will become.

The garden will become an object lesson to the nations of Europe, pointing out that nations may live in peace as neighbours to the mutual benefit of each country.

In the past we have enjoyed the friendship and confidence of the American people, but it is always highly desirable that such a condition of affairs should be nurtured and strengthened, in order that founded upon the past a bond of everlasting friendship may be created for the future.

I think it highly proper at this point to draw to the attention of the house a part of the address delivered to this house by the Prime Minister on July 8, 1931, when speak-