

FILL CANADA'S BUTT-HOLE WITH A NATIONAL FLOWER

Also Decorate Graves of Those Fallen in Flanders Field With Floral Emblem of This Country—First Choice Flower

(Toronto Globe.) Canada's buttonhole is empty. Fragrant foliage for Flanders fields that will mark the mounds that harbor all that is mortal of Canada's fallen heroes as Can-



ada's and not Italy's or New Zealand is also wanted, and wanted now, or so soon as the people of this country can make up their minds.

The movement for a national flower, initiated by the Toronto Horticultural Society, is widening and the interest deepening in horticultural circles.

"Let every Canadian who stands up in the theatre when the national anthem is played or feels a thrill when a regiment passes help choose a fragrant foliage," is the call to the country.

"Get Everybody Interested." "Don't touch the Maple Leaf," cry those who fear its displacement.

"You cannot get a national flower by deliberations," says a western educator. "Wait for the unheralded day or event or little incident that will give sudden and glorious birth to a floral emblem of the nation."

"Give us the columbine," comes the request from the prairie province. From Nova Scotia come the following suggestions for consideration: Lupin, clover, violet, wild rose, lambkill (kalmia), mallow, lily, great willow herb (freeweed).

Six Flowers Suggested. In November of last year F. E. Buck, president of the Ottawa Horticultural Society, reported to the Ontario Horticultural Association that a committee of their members had been discussing the question of a national flower for Canada which might be officially adopted by the dominion government and receive its first recognition by being planted on the graves of our heroic dead.

For the purpose of obtaining the national mind on the subject the committee at Ottawa had selected six flowers—the columbine, the

perennial aster, the trillium, the iris, the delphinium and the peony—and they suggested that the matter should be freely discussed by horticultural societies, educational and other institutions, and in the press.

In response to this suggestion meetings were held in the botany and forestry buildings of the University of Toronto last month, which were attended by representatives of the universities, the schools, library, College of Art, the press, the city parks department, the Ontario Horticultural Association and Toronto Horticultural Society.

The Toronto committee felt that nothing should be done to imperil the standing of the maple leaf as a national emblem, which it had become by national sentiment, though not by official sanction. The fact was revealed that it does not enter into the dominion arms as a dominion emblem, but only as the emblem of the two provinces of Quebec and Ontario.

This then they conceived to be the first step that should be taken, the extension of the authorized use of the maple leaf as a national emblem, and Prof. Smith of the McMaster University moved "That the maple leaf be officially recognized by the government as our national emblem, and come more definitely into national devices." This motion was seconded by Prof. Keys of the University of Toronto, and was carried unanimously.

It Cannot Be a Weed. The advisability of selecting a national flower or of submitting a list of Canadian plants to be grown on the graves of our soldiers was next discussed, and here again the local committee saw the matter somewhat differently from the Ottawa committee. It was thought inadvisable to select a plant before it had been tried out horticulturally on the spot where it was to be planted. It might not succeed and might prove a fiasco. There had been an example in America where sentiment had failed to gather round the golden rod, which was regarded by farmers as

a pestiferous weed. They therefore recommended, on motion of Owen P. Staples, seconded by Dr. Faull, "That we submit to the Ottawa authorities a list of Canadian plants suitable for planting on the graves of our heroes in France." The

list of flowers comprised the columbine, the bunchberry, the hepatica and the trillium.

Dr. Faull moved and Dr. Coleman seconded: "That if a national flower be selected it be chosen from this list, but the final decision be postponed until its horticultural possibilities be determined by experience in cultivation."

Provincial Flower Wanted. There was one further step taken at the meeting of some importance. The principle of a provincial flower was approved, and it was recommended that if such a movement should meet with public interest and endorsement the flower should be selected from the list submitted. It was also decided to recommend that each of the provinces should submit a similar list.

JOHN BARLEYCORN HARD HIT Twenty Municipalities Out of 39 in New York State Voting go Dry Albany, N. Y., April 18.—The liquor traffic received a hard blow in New York state yesterday with the announcement that more than a majority of the thirty-nine cities holding local option elections had declared not only against the saloon but also against the sale of liquor under any conditions.

With only one city—Geneva—in doubt, the returns showed that the dry had triumphed in twenty municipalities, while eighteen decided to continue the traffic in alcoholic beverages.

QUEBEC LICENSES UNDER THE SCOTT ACT. Quebec, April 18.—Twenty-one licenses for the sale of liquor under the Scott Act have been issued here by the lieutenant-governor-in-council. They are for sale of sacramental wines, fifteen retail licenses and five wholesale licenses.

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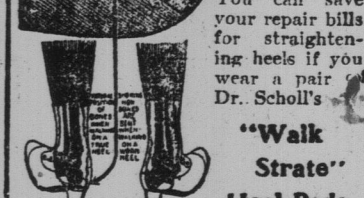
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