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ARBOR DAY, 1893.

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"He who loves trees, loves others besides himself."

Department of Agriculture,

SIR, —

WELLINGTON, 4TH JULY, 1893.

It has been decided to observe FRIDAY, the 4th day of AUGUST next, as a public holiday in all public offices throughout the colony, for the planting of trees and shrubs in suitable public places and reserves and in private grounds, and for the observance of such ceremonies or demonstrations as are suitable to the general character of the occasion.

I have therefore to request that you will invite all the residents of your town or district to observe that day as a general holiday in the interests of Arbor Day and forestry, and that you will urge them to plant trees, flowers, and seeds about their homes and farms, on all public reserves, and along highways.

The intention is to extend the interest shown last year, and make this movement a colonial one. The importance of promoting forest-growth, the culture of trees, and their preservation at all stages should command the interest of every resident in the colony, and it is hoped that the Education Boards and teachers and pupils of our schools will take an especially active part in the proceedings of the day.

By the annual celebration of Arbor Day it is sought to make each colonist understand how important the care of our forests has already become, owing to the wholesale destruction of timber-trees which has been going on for many years past in all parts of the colony.

This colony has special cause to regret the lack of trees in many districts, and to deplore—like the State of Colorado—the reckless stripping of forests from hills and mountain-sides, and the consequent diminishing supply of water in many streams.

It is felt that if the local authorities will interest themselves in this matter the success of Arbor Day will be assured, and lasting good to the country will result.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN D. RITCHIE,

Secretary.

SUGGESTIONS.

If the proceedings take place within a city or borough, the programme for the day should be as follows:—

The Borough Council should have the conduct and direction of the general proceedings.

A marshal should be appointed by the Council, and as many deputies as he may require.

All functions and ceremonies should be made as impressive and imposing as possible.

The sites for planting should be determined upon at the earliest possible moment, and arrangements made for having the holes properly dug for receiving the trees. The attendance of as many professional gardeners as possible should be obtained to assist and direct the planting, so that the trees may obtain a proper start. This is all-important.

Presents of suitable trees should be invited by advertisement beforehand.

A list of the varieties of trees planted, and also the number of each variety, should be made, and a copy forwarded to the Department of Agriculture, in order that a comprehensive record may be kept of the annual progress of this important movement.

An "Arbor Day Fund" should be established in each town or district. This might be raised and added to from time to time by means of concerts, socials, &c.; also by direct contributions from those who sympathize with the movement. This fund would be available to provide trees and meet other incidental expenses.

School Committees should be urged to use every means in their power to encourage the planting and beautifying of school-grounds.

PROGRAMME.

The children attending each State school should meet at the schoolhouse, or, if at too great a distance from the ground to be planted, then at convenient points on the road, whence they should march with banners and bands to the plantation, other schools on the line of march joining in.

Where public reserves are to be planted, it is specially urged that each school be allotted a certain section of the ground, and, under suitable supervision, the entire care of planting and tending that section should be placed in the hands of the scholars.

On the succeeding Arbor Day a certificate should be given to the school whose plantation had, during the year, received best attention and proved most successful.

During planting operations the banner of each school should fly over the section allotted.

At a stated time, after the arrival of the schools and other processions, a short and appropriate address or addresses should be given by the Mayor and other prominent colonists, pointing out the great advantages resulting from an intelligent planting of trees, *i.e.* :—

Benefits which would accrue to soil and climate from a general system of tree-planting.

Trees as shelter.

Trees as a protection from encroachment of sand.

Trees as ornaments.

Wealth in trees.

Timber.

Secondary products, as tanning-barks, potash, charcoal, turpentine, pitch, gum, Burgundy pitch, resin, lamp-black, tar, creosote, &c., &c.

Compare present condition of countries that have despoiled their forests with their former prosperity—Palestine, Persia, Colorado.

The speeches to be followed by suitable music, such as the National and New Zealand Anthems, Arbor Day Cantata, &c. ; or the following :—

PLANTING OF THE TREE.

Tender twig and rootlet fine,
Guarded by an eye Divine,
Now to earth's fond care we give;
May they stronger grow and live!

Planted with the faith of youth,
Emblem fair of Nature's truth,
Smiles and hopes, no need of fears,
Promise of the coming years.

Slowly rising toward the sky,
Spreading knowledge, liberty,
Glories of our country blest,
Type of all we hold the best.

Day of pride, the nation's joy,
Our glad service long employ.
Ever thy return shall see
Hearts to tend and love this tree.

Then by the more serious work of tree-planting, in which it is hoped all colonists will take part.

PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS ON TREE-PLANTING.

[Extracts from the *Prairie Farmer*.]

1. TEN minutes of extra time and care devoted to the best planting and care of a tree will tell upon its life and upon its value in all subsequent years.

2. A few trees well selected, well planted, and well cared-for during the first year or two will always be more valuable than a far greater number hastily set out and then neglected.

3. In taking up trees, preserve all the roots and fine rootlets possible. Always *dig* them out with as much earth as is convenient, instead of pulling them up.

4. *Most carefully guard the roots from any exposure to sun or wind, even for a few minutes.* If the weather be dry, dipping them in a "mud porridge" is a good plan, but the coating thus given must not be allowed to get dry. If, upon arrival, they cannot be at once planted, set them in a trench or opened ground, and cover *all* the roots with soil until the last moment before planting.

5. Give the roots a deep and broad bed of good soil to start and grow in. If the soil be stony or poor, dig out a good-sized hole and fill in with suitable soil. This extra trouble will be more than repaid in the extra growth and vigour of the tree. Where holes are thus dug in clay soil, be careful to dig a small ditch or trench leading from the hole to carry off the surface-water; otherwise in damp seasons the tree may be killed by the collection of such water.

6. Spread out the roots well and naturally, and set them only a trifle deeper than they grew before removal.

7. Fill in fine soil well *under* and around the roots, and make it firm by pressure, taking great care not to injure the roots.

8. In watering after planting avoid the "little-and-often" method. Such sprinklings do little good. Pour in water enough to soak far down.

9. Unless the season or the situation be wet, a mulching of cut grass, straw, or leaves, from 2in. to 4in. thick, and extending out 4ft. each way from the trunk of the tree, is a great protection and starter, and saves the necessity for much watering, even in a dry season. In windy situations such a mulching may be kept in position by weighting it with a few stones—or the stones alone afford protection, and may be used with advantage.

10. Lastly, if success is to attend the planting of trees in exposed situations, they must be *well staked* and tied. In order to avoid any rubbing or chafing of the bark from the cords, tie round the bark a piece of old bagging. No young tree will ever make good roots or take shapely form if it is constantly shaken and swayed about by strong winds.

After planting, visit the ground from time to time, and take care that weeds are not allowed to choke the young trees; time spent in weeding will prove a good investment.

LIST OF FOREST AND OTHER TREES SUITABLE FOR PLANTING.

List of Shelter Trees.

	Ft. apart.		Ft. apart.
Pinus austriaca (Austrian pine)	... 10 to 12	Eucalyptus sp. (gum)	... 20 to 25
" halepensis (Aleppo pine)	... 10 to 12	Salix babylonica	... 25 to 50
" pinaster	... 10 to 12	Populus fastigata	... 8 to 10
" pinea	... 25	Euonymus japonica	... 6 to 8
" insignis (Californian pine)	... 10 to 20	Olearia fosterii	... 6 to 8
" maritima (seaside pine)	... 10 to 20	" traversii	... 6 to 8
" laricio	... 10 to 12	Corynocarpus laevigatus	... 8 to 15
" muricata	... 10 to 12	Escallonia macrantha	... 6 to 8
" ponderosa	... 10 to 20	" rubra	... 6 to 8
" tuberculata	...	Acacia dealbata	... 15 to 20
Cupressus macrocarpa	... 25 to 60	" pycnantha	...
" lawsoniana	... 20 to 40	Coprosma baueriana	... 6 to 8
" torulosa (Nepaul cypress)	... 20 to 40	" lucida	... 6 to 8
Quercus ilex	... 15 to 25	Viburnum tinus	... 8 to 10
" lucumbiana	... 15 to 25	" lucidum	... 8 to 10
" lanata	... 15 to 25		

NOTE.—Distance apart of shelter-trees is usually regulated by the local conditions. Close planting for bleak positions or sterile soils should be adopted.

Trees and Shrubs for Seaside.

Austrian pine.
Tamarisk.
Euonymus japonica.
Elder.
Sea-buckthorn.
Poplar.
Sycamore.
Bay-laurel.
Escallonia macrantha.
Ngaio.
Olearia fosterii.
" traversii.
Coprosma baueriana.
" lucida.

Corynocarpus laevigatus (karakā).
Metrosideros tomentosa (northern rata, pohutukawa).
" lucida.
Pinus maritima.
" halepensis.
" laricio.
" radiata.
Acacia longifolia, var. sophorae.
" pycnantha.
Casuarina quadrivalvis.
Cupressus sempervirens horizontalis.
Robinia pseudo-acacia.

List of Ornamental Trees and Shrubs.

	Ft. apart.		Ft. apart.
Araucaria excelsa	... 30	Cytisus laburnum (laburnum)	...
" imbricata	... 20	Fraxinus excelsa (ash)	... 20 to 30
" braziliensis	... 50	Ulmus campestris (elm)	... 20 to 30
" bidwillii	...	Betula alba (birch)	... 20 to 30
" cunninghamii	...	Hoheria (New Zealand lace-bark)	... 10 to 30
Cupressus lawsonii	... 25	Berberis darwinii	... 15
" funebris	... 30	Acacia dealbata	... 25
" atlantica	...	Cerasus lusitanica	... 25
" torulosa	...	Deutzia gracilis	... 3
Cryptomeria elegans	... 20	" scabra	... 8
Juniperus excelsa	... 8	Deutzia crenata candidissima	... 8
" glauca	... 6	Diosma ericoides	... 9
Abies douglasii	... 25	Daphne odorata	... 6
" excelsa	... 25	Euonymus latifolia aurea-marginata	... 10
" smithiana	... 25	Eurybia argophylla	... 15
" alba	... 25	Laurus nobilis	... 25
" canadensis	... 25	Ilex aquifolium	... 20
" menziesii	... 25	Polygala grandis	... 10
Pinus insignis	... 20	Syringa persica	... 8
" longifolia	... 25	" vulgaris	... 15
" radiata	... 25	Wiegelia hortensis alba	... 8
" pinea	... 30	" rosea	... 8
" sabiniana	...	Viburnum opulus	... 15
Picea amabilis	... 25	Hakea suaveolens	... 10
" nobilis	... 25	Yucca aloefolia	... 9
Retinospora plumosa	... 15	" gloriosa	... 9
" obtusa	... 10	Magnolia grandiflora	... 20
" pisifera	... 10	Liriodendron tulipiflora	... 25
Thuja gigantea	... 20	Photinia serrulata	... 12
" aurea	... 4	Chamaerops humilis	... 15
Sequoia gigantea	... 25	Areca sapida	... 15
Libocedrus decurrens	...	Camellia japonica	... 12
Quercus suber (cork oak)	... 30	Rhododendron ponticum	... 15
" ilex	... 30	Cordyline indivisa	... 8
" lucumbiana	... 30	" australis	... 15
" lanata	... 30	Willow (Salix sp.)	...