

On this 22nd day of April, 1915, Governor Eberhart duly issued and caused to be filed in the Executive Department of the State of Minnesota his proclamation as follows:

S T A T E O F M I N N E S O T A

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT.

PROCLAMATION.

A tree is one of the most beautiful of God's creations. Standing alone in its stateliness, the spreading oak or the towering pine is an impressive symbol of power. Scattered over the hills or grouped about the lakes and streams, trees make more pleasing the view that meets the eye. Massed in the solid ranks of aged trunks, covered with the swaying canopy of leaves, forming the far reaching sombre forest, trees are at their best. Minnesota has the greatest timber resources of any state East of the Rocky Mountains. She is fortunate in having such forests as will leave a splendid stamp on the character of her citizens. The Big Woods, with its beautiful oak and maple and basswood, met our earliest pioneers. Our pineries, still unconquered, contend with the lumbermen, calling for and developing in them the maximum of human energy and skill. Beyond the pineries lie the dense, dark forests of spruce and cedar and birch and the rugged wilderness. Our State, therefore, has the deepest interest in trees.

We are all interested in the individual tree, as it grows and spreads in stateliness on our lawns or in the park. We obtain infinite satisfaction from viewing it in its varied colors at the different seasons, and we cannot fail to realize that it is a part of the living world about us, just as we are a part of it.

1136

On the farm, we know the comfort of having the bleak prairies transformed by the sheltering grove, and the winter blasts shut out from our yards and barnyards. We are beginning to realize, also, the immense importance of the shelter belt to protect the fields from the dry winds, to reduce evaporation and increase their productiveness. In the wooded portions of the State, we are coming to realize the value of the woodlot as an adjunct to the farm, furnishing fuel and building material, and adding beauty to the home.

It would be unfair not to mention that the woodlots, groves and shelter belts furnish rest and homes for the thousands of insect eating birds, thus repaying us many fold for the thoughtfulness and care in growing trees.

As a people we are vitally interested in the preservation and proper use of the great forests which, though sadly depleted by fire and the ax, still cover half the state. Particularly are we concerned that no land should remain idle or unproductive. Millions of acres of rough, rocky or very sandy lands now covered with timber should always be cared for in such a way as to be producing crops of timber. Minnesota has been progressing toward a better appreciation of her forest problems. She is still making pitifully small provision for protecting and perpetuating the forests which maintain the second industry of the State, and which, without detracting from our agricultural development, can be made to produce more timber than we are cutting to-day.

That the town which man has made may compare with the country God made, vigilance must be exercised to preserve

the native trees, protect the wild flowers and wild birds, the planting of fruit and shade trees, vines and shrubs is necessary to repair in part at least the losses wrought by carelessness, ignorance and greed.

To this end, I hereby designate Friday, May 2nd, 1913, as

ARDOR AND BIRD DAY.

(Great Seal)

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Great Seal of the State to be hereto affixed, at the Capitol in the city of St. Paul, this twenty-second day of April, 1913.

Adolph O. Eberhart
Governor.

Attest:

Julius A. Schmahl,
Secretary of State.

A. M. Hayes,

Executive Clerk.

1136