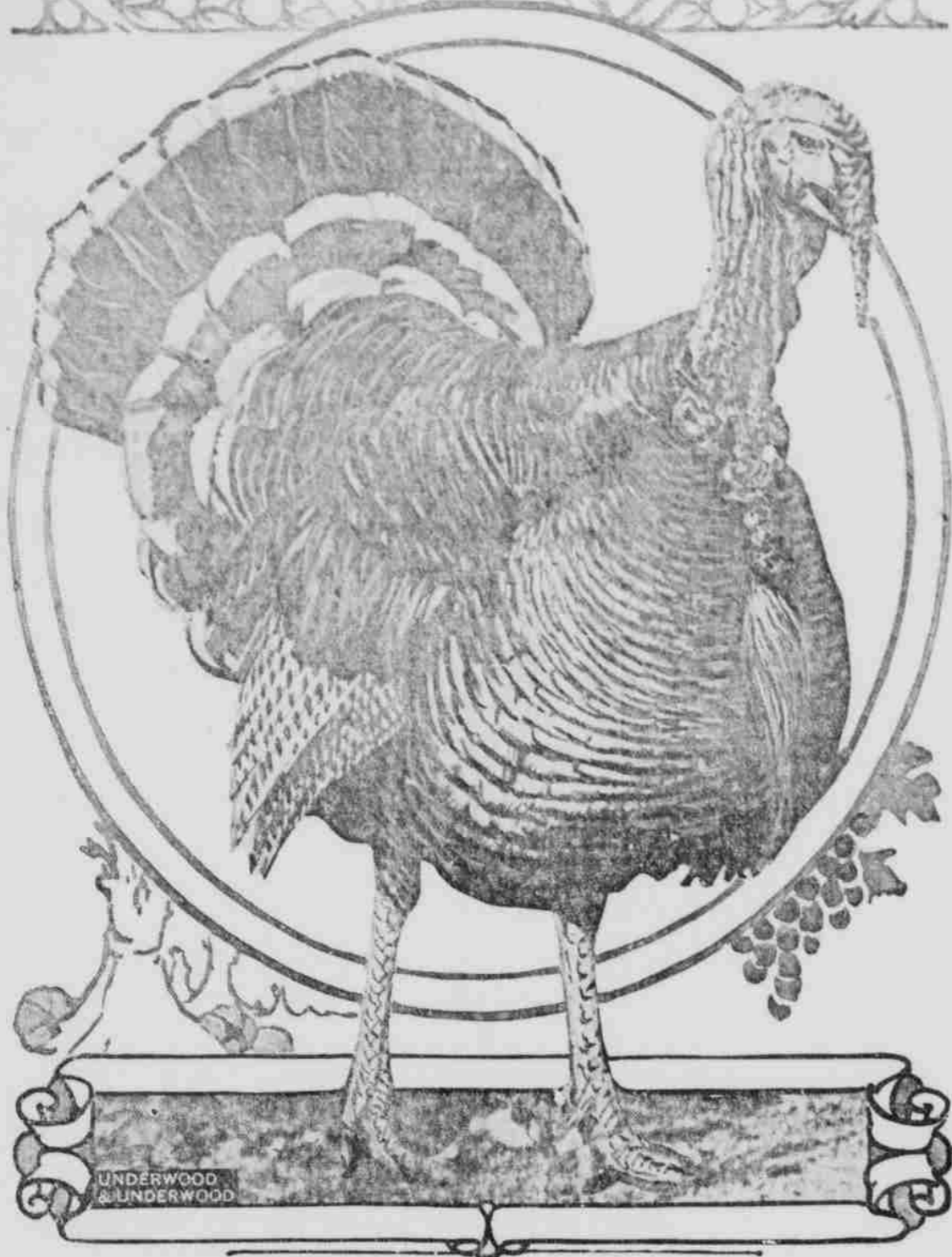


NICE JUICY TURKEY may be a powerful incentive to Thanksgiving, yet is not necessary when there is genuine appreciation of the real blessings of the year.



His Highness

GIVING THANKS may be made so formal that the Almighty doubts the existence of gratitude. It was the poor Publican's prayer that was commended to us all.



UNDERWOOD & UNDERWOOD

WHAT WOULD THE DAY BE WITHOUT A BIRD LIKE THIS TO GRACE THE BOARD?

Thanksgiving Should Mean More Than Mere Feeling of Gratitude for Favors

It is to be regretted that the beautiful and appropriate custom of observing a day of Thanksgiving has become associated with an abundance of material things. If crops have been bountiful, if the harvest has been great, if there has been an overflow of the "good" things of earth, and if the times have been peaceful, reasons for thanksgiving are supposed to increase correspondingly, remarks the Kansas City Star.

There is something in the outward tradition of Thanksgiving that would appear to justify this stressing of the importance of material things; but there is also something in the real Thanksgiving that would demand the stressing of other things, demand the placing of emphasis upon spiritual matters rather than upon conditions which pertain solely to the physical well being of man.

There is something sacrilegious in making the heartiness of Thanksgiving turn upon the prosperity of the nation or the individual. It amounts to saying, in substance, to the Creator: "We thank You for bounty, but for anything less we should not be so sure of our feelings of gratitude."

The real Thanksgiving demands a feeling of deep appreciation for whatever has come, the acceptance "with equal thanks" of the good fortune or the bad fortune of previous months. This Thanksgiving is essentially an historical thing—it can be observed regardless of what one had for dinner that day, and its observance is an affair that should be open to the rich and the poor of the earth.

It may well be that some, on this day of taking stock and expressing gratitude for blessings, can find little of good that has come to them as the world counts good. But these are the ones for whom Thanksgiving may hold the deepest reality. These may say: "Lord, for life, its love, its hope, its interest, its opportunity for service; for the great and durable satisfactions of living that center about home and work; for deep and abiding memories of joy that bereavement has brought into sharp relief, for all these blessings may I be truly thankful."

To this prayer may be added by those in prosperity: "And may I be mindful lest in the excess of good things I become self-centered and forget my obligations to my fellow men."

Farmer's Festival.

Thanksgiving day is the farmer's autumnal festival of rejoicing over the bounty of Nature and the goodness of the Creator.

Cranberries Always Have Played Prominent Part at Thanksgiving Feast

It is a tradition in Plymouth that the eating of turkey and cranberry sauce on Thanksgiving day goes back to the first Pilgrim Thanksgiving.

That little band of self-elected, devoted Christians crossed the stormy sea in the Mayflower and landed at Plymouth Rock on December 21, 1620. Their first winter in the New World was one of great suffering, marked with famine and hardships.

During the spring of 1621 the Pilgrims, who had survived the bitter winter, saved their seed and watched its growing with much anxiety. For upon the success of the crops at harvest time depended their very lives. The following October the first harvest was gathered in, and, to their great joy, they were blessed with an abundance. Then Governor Bradford (following somewhat the custom of the English harvest home) declared a three days' celebration for feasting and thanksgiving. Chief Massasoit and other friendly Indians were invited to this first Thanksgiving party, and a grand celebration it was.

Governor Bradford, in his account of the Pilgrims' first Thanksgiving, does not give a menu of the dinner, but he often refers to the wild turkeys as one of the luxuries of the colony. However, John Josslyn, an English traveler and naturalist, who visited New England in 1638 and wrote an account of its "Barbities," says: "Cranberry or huckleberry (because bears used much to feed upon them) is a small trailing plant that grows in salt marshes that are overgrown with moss."

That cranberries belong to the traditional Pilgrim dinner is shown by the menu of the "decent repast" served at the first "celebration of the Landing of our Forefathers," which was observed on December 22, 1793. This day was celebrated by the Old Colony club of Plymouth with a procession and a dinner consisting of a large baked Indian wren's-berry pudding, a dish of saupatch (succotash), a dish of codfish, a haunch of venison, roasted by the first Jack brought into the colony; a dish of fowl, cranberry tart, a dish of fresh fish and eels, an apple pie, a course of cheese made in the old colony. These articles were dressed in the plainest manner (all appearance of luxury, whose memory we shall ever respect).

Turkey, succotash and cranberries still play their part in the Thanksgiving dinners in Plymouth, and five grains of parched corn are laid beside each place in remembrance of the early years of famine.

Pessimism Has No Place in the Real Spirit of Time of Thanksgiving

After having devoted so much of our time to bemoaning the misfortunes that have come to us as a people during the past year, it will do us good on this Thanksgiving day to stop and look at the other side of the ledger and cast up the account of the good things that have come to us.

Our situation admittedly has not been as favorable in many respects as we could desire. We have had problems and difficulties which naturally aroused dissatisfaction and discontent. We have been feeling mighty sorry for ourselves.

Perhaps Thanksgiving occasion could bring no greater blessing to us as a people than to readjust our perspective and displace pessimism with a new spirit of optimism. Before we enter into the true spirit of the day it is necessary to put away our hatreds, our grievances and discontents and center our thoughts upon the blessings that have come. If one would give thanks he must realize the fact of having been blessed, and in doing so he minimizes the misfortunes he has experienced. The pessimist is in no position to give thanks. The spirit of optimism will possess us to the extent that we are able to give thanks in spirit and in truth to the Giver of All Good Gifts today.

While we have been divinely warned against giving thanks that we are not as other men, it will surely not be out of place today to recognize the excess of blessings that have come to us in comparison with other peoples, and to render thanks in accordance with the favors received.

For the fact remains that, in spite of our difficulties, we are the most prosperous and the most favorably situated nation on the earth and that we have more reasons for contentment and gratitude than any other people.

This Thanksgiving day, if observed in the spirit of those who inaugurated it, is capable of lifting the spirit and thought of the American people to new heights and of ushering in a new era of contentment and happiness.

Thanksgiving day comes to mean today not only an occasion when we may express our gratitude to the Most High for His care and kindness in the past, but likewise a time when by marshaling our blessings before us we are inspired with new hope and courage for the future.

THANKSGIVING FESTIVAL.

And let the altar, wreathed with flowers And bed with fruits, awake again Thanksgiving for the golden hours, And early and the latter rain! —WHITTIER.

The AMERICAN LEGION

(Map for The Department Headed by The American Legion News Service.)

"BACK-TO-HOME MOVEMENT"

New York Post's Woman Commander Would Have Women Give Up Their Jobs.

Someone should start a "back-to-the-home movement" for married women who toil unnecessarily in the business world, according to Mrs. Julia E. Wheelock, commander of the Barbara Fritchie post of the American Legion in New York City, and widely known as a writer.

Mrs. Wheelock believes that "working wives make lazy husbands." She believes married women should give up their jobs in favor of unemployed ex-service men.

It was Mrs. Wheelock who successfully opposed the making of the American Legion strictly a man's organization. As a result there are today several women enrolled as Legionnaires and several posts composed altogether of ex-service women.

Mrs. Wheelock began helping the United States in the war as early as 1918 when she started a campaign to obtain steel helmets and coal haversacks for the navy. She caused to be presented to congress petitions for adequate preparation and is successful with having through her own efforts recruited 10,000 men for the navy. In recognition of her services she was made a chief yeoman in the regular service.

Mrs. Wheelock is active in social and civic affairs in New York and is widely known for her writings in both the English and French languages.

AMONG "BIRDS OF PASSAGE"

Editorial Asserts West Point Will Continue to Turn Out Crop of Second Lieutenants.

That the "second birds" of whom there were so many during the war, is more or less an institution of active warfare is shown in an editorial from the American Legion Weekly under the caption "Birds of Passage." It follows:

"Buried in the recent official list of the number of army officers of all grades who have contrived to survive the congressional gutting appeared this inconspicuous entry:

"Second lieutenants (all arms)... 233. "Only 233 second lieutenants left! And once there must have been that many thousand. Who shall now deny that the war is over? Certainly while it lasted they bloomed like so many hardy perennials, emerging full blown from the training camps and finally from the ranks, for was not the top sergeant only a little lower than the angels?"

"After the Armistice, when divisional and regimental shows began to appear all over the A. E. F., the second lieutenant won fresh immortality in the quips which Mr. Bones passed to Mr. Tambo, and vice versa. It was a token of his popularity—for humanity does not poke gentle fun at what it hates.

"The second lieutenant is not extinguished. Most of him has graduated into a first lieutenant. West Point will, of course, continue to turn out its annual crop, but even these will within a few months enter the larger life of the silver bar."

POST NAMED FOR LIEUTENANT

Manhattan Post of Legion Condemns Action of Navy Department in Releasing 200,000 Members.

That the security of the United States is endangered by the release by the Navy department of nearly 200,000 members of the naval reserve force, is the opinion of members of Manhattan naval post, American Legion, New York, who have adopted a resolution condemning the dropping of the reservists as "breaking the back of the reserves."

The Manhattan post is composed of former navy enlisted men and officers. The post has made a careful study of naval affairs and has maintained a policy favoring complete naval preparedness.

The resolution points out that without the maintenance of a complete naval reserve force, the government lacks sufficient trained men to man the ships and stations of the navy in time of war.

Cause of Birth.

When the young mistress of the house entered the kitchen she carried herself with great dignity. She had, incredible as it might seem, come to call the cook to account.

"Bridget," she said, "I must insist you have less company in the kitchen evenings. Last night I was kept awake by the uproarious laughter of one of your women friends."

"Yes, mam, I know," Bridget admitted cheerfully, "but she couldn't help it. I was telling her how you tried to make cake yesterday morning."—American Legion Weekly.

I. W. W. Take His Legion Button.

Following his refusal to join the I. W. W., Joe Smith, a street car conductor at St. Louis, Iowa, was attacked, robbed and tortured until he became unconscious, according to his report to the St. Louis City police. Smith said the "robbers" took his American Legion button from his coat lapel and replaced it with an I. W. W. button. They took his conductor's change belt and told him if he reported the attack to the police they would bring 15,000 I. W. W. to the city.

LEGION AND THE UNEMPLOYED

Organization Discourages Parades and Stunts to Attract Attention to the Jobless Men.

In assuming responsibility for the cure of jobless ex-service men throughout the country the AMERICAN LEGION, through its national unemployment committee, has sent out the following messages:

"To the Public—Hire the soldier. He may have been restless at one time, but he is steady now.

"To Municipalities—Start new public works which you may have planned to put off until next spring.

"To the Soldier—Don't drift around—tie yourself down to a community and stick to your job when you get one."

The Legion's unemployment committee's survey revealed that about 100,000 veterans of the World War were out of work and some of that number in actual need of food and shelter. In its appeal to the 11,000 Legion posts to assist in giving relief to the needy ex-servicemen the committee disapproved charity soup kitchens and bread lines. "Job holidays must have food and shelter without degrading their manhood or our country," the committee declared.

Parades and "stunts" to attract attention to the unemployed are discouraged by the Legion. The employment committee of the local posts are asked to bring the needs of the ex-service men directly to the attention of the employers and demand preference for America's defenders. The committee must be convinced that some service men at the close of the war has disappeared.

In Boston a parade of jobless ex-service men was headed by Frank Greenfall, a New England doughboy, wearing four decorations for bravery in France.

Legionnaires with incomes have been asked to adopt an unemployed buddy and take care of him until he finds a job.

VOTED THE "HOMELIEST MAN"

Editor of Nebraska Veteran's Paper Draws Women's Decision at Department Convention.

Glenn H. Coffey, editor of the Mid-Western Veteran of Lincoln, Neb., was adjudged the "homeliest man" at the convention of the Nebraska Department of the American Legion, but his photograph reproduced herewith raises the question of what is meant by the homeliest man.

The candidates for the "honor" were lined up on the stage of the convention hall at Fremont, and five women decided their fate, based on the uproarious applause that greeted each of the contestants as he arose. The second honors went to Lum Doyle, state boxing commissioner of Nebraska.

"I am deeply sensible of the unique honor conferred upon me by the convention," Mr. Coffey said. "Some of the other contestants could hardly be classed as matinee idols, but I feel that I was elected entirely upon my merits."

ENDANGERS SECURITY OF U. S.

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One Advantage.

"It must be some consolation to be a foreigner."

"What makes you think so?" "Then you have a chance to understand a trolley conductor when he announces a street."—American Legion Weekly.

Allibi.

Teacher—Why are you so late to school this morning? Pupil—I think I must have over-washed myself.—American Legion Weekly.

BOY SCOUTS

(Sponsored by National Council of the Boy Scouts of America.)

SCOUTS ON "QUEST."

When Sir Ernest Shackleton decided a few months ago to take two boys along with him on his forthcoming antarctic expedition, he stipulated that they must be scouts, for well he knew that he could count on a true scout to be loyal, obedient, reliable, trained in outdoor craft, cheerful in hardship—"prepared" in every sense. Among the hundreds of applicants for the privilege of accompanying the famous explorer on his great adventure, the choice was narrowed down, at length, to two Scotch laddies, both patrol leaders and enthusiastic scouts, by name J. W. S. Marr of Aberdeen and N. E. Mooney of Kirkwall in the Orkneys. Both boys are up on sea trim as well as woodcraft. Young Mooney came 600 miles to present himself as a candidate for the expedition and had never seen a passenger train up to that time. Every true scout the world over will envy these two lads their privilege of sailing as cabin boys on the Quest on a journey of romance and adventure and mystery, and every scout will be proud that in making his selection Sir Ernest recognized and paid a tribute to scouting as a mark of manly men, fit to share so great a task as he has set for himself.

GROWTH OF SEA SCOUTING.

Sea scouting as an older boy activity is taking strong hold of the Boy Scouts of America. From December 1, 1929, to July 15, 1931, there has been an increase of 50 per cent in the number of sea-scout troops organized. Sea scouting remains undeveloped in only one of the twelve districts in which the country is divided for scouting purposes—the Texas-New Mexico division, which is naturally less suited than the other localities for aquatic work and play.

The summer national sea-scout camp at Marlon, Mass., was a great success, the boys getting in some real seafaring experience, cruising around Buzzards bay and incidentally visiting many points of historic and picturesque interest along the beautiful shores of the bay.

This camp was an especially interesting one in that it was run by the scouts themselves, boys having reached the highest rank in scouting being the camp leaders, acting as junior officers, bos'n's, bos'n's mates, coxswains, etc.

BEARD'S SCOUTMASTER RECIPE

A bowl full of unbounded love for boys; add one pint of absolute faith in American institutions; mix it with a cupful of the milk of human kindness; add two teaspoonfuls of American Pioneer blood, one tablespoonful of Indian traditions, teaspoonful of the vigor and grit of the Puritans, a teaspoonful of the chivalry of the Cavaliers, a quart of the idealism of Thoreau, one heaping cupful of optimism; the whole seasoned well with patriotism, character, grit and hardiness. Stir with the golden rule; sprinkle well with the Stars and Stripes, and serve hot.

SCOUTS HANDLE TRAFFIC.

Scouts of the North Shore, Northwest and Hyde Park districts handled a traffic of over 3,000 automobiles on the occasion of the recent Indian celebration near Chicago. They also gave some fine scout demonstrations and proved their ability to render real as well as fictitious first aid, for when a young Indian got hurt in a lacrosse game they treated his injury promptly and efficiently, and improvising a coat stretcher, carried the victim to the nearby hospital.

SCOUTS PREVENT TRAIN WRECK

Some Omaha scouts returning from an overnight hike discovered a tree lying across a railroad track at the same moment they heard the whistle of the oncoming passenger train just rounding the curve 300 yards away. Instantly the boys stripped the red sweater from the back of one of the group and waving it frantically flagged the train in time to avert a disaster.

WORK IN FOREST PRESERVATION

In McKean County, Pa., boy scouts have been for some time organized as forest fire fighters and have reached such a high degree of efficiency in the service that they are said to be far better fire fighters than the average adult. Their tireless activity and enthusiasm make them invaluable in this connection.

ACTIVITIES OF BOY SCOUTS.

Frederick (Md.) scouts scoured the country for miles around in behalf of the Near East relief presenting their appeal to the grain mills and stores in the vicinity.

Richard Wegver, the San Francisco boy scout, who sacrificed a hundred inches of his own skin to save the life of a badly burned scout, was recently formally awarded the medal of honor, given only for distinguished heroism, from the National Court of Honor of the Boy Scouts of America.

Scouts in Roselle Park, N. J., have for three years been in charge of the daily raising and lowering of municipal flags, while out in Bettie Creek, Mich., they keep the town clock wound.

One of the special features of the big present given recently at Grant park, Chicago, under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce, was a public ceremonial inducting one thousand aliens into American citizenship. A group of Eagle scouts served as the guard of honor and led a flag ceremony in which the whole throng assembled participated.

Might Meet a Fool.

Nailed to a tree along the side of a highway in Colorado there is a board which bears this significant warning: "Caution! Many Curves! You might Meet a Fool!" And nary a fool runs the risk of being known as a fool at that set of curves.

Pneumatic Tires Wear Less.

According to the bureau of public roads, United States Department of Agriculture, there is less wear on the roads when pneumatic tires are used on motor vehicles.

Most of Roads Are Gravel.

More than 42 per cent of the surfaced roads in the United States are gravel, 25.22 per cent are sand clay, 10.98 per cent are asphalt and other bituminous materials, 8.91 per cent are concrete and .82 per cent are brick.

Geese Seldom Need House.

Except in stormy weather during the rainy season geese seldom need a house. But wherever they are, geese should be provided with a clean place, with plenty of straw or shavings.

Highway Improvement

PLANT BLACK WALNUT TREES

Particularly Adapted for Public Parks, Lawns, Along Highways and Other Places.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

The war demand drove heavily upon the black-walnut timber supply. The condition became alarming as it was recognized that unless there should be a decrease in the cutting, the merchantable trees would soon be gone. Fortunately, however, the war ended before the larger trees entirely disappeared. Now a reaction is setting in. Black walnuts are being planted in small numbers by many persons, directly in harmony with the policy advocated by the United States Department of Agriculture.

A conspicuous instance of planting occurred near Saginaw, Mich. Last fall, W. S. Linton, president of the Northern Nut Growers' association, procured 30 bushels of walnuts from trees at the home of George Washington at Mount Vernon, Va. These were shipped to Saginaw and in the main distributed among the school children of the county and planted, two in a hill, on school grounds and along public roads and streets. Two thousand were placed in a nursery for later transplanting in one of the public parks of Saginaw.

When it became known that these nuts were available for planting, very keen and widespread interest in them developed. Telephone calls for them were numerous. Automobileists drove for many miles to call in person. Since then, enthusiastically attended meetings have been held in various places in the state to consider the question of black walnut tree planting along the highways. The suggestion is made that in view of the known differences of hardness existing in many species of native trees, special care should be exercised to avoid extensive planting of nuts or trees from the warmer portions of the country in sections where destructively low temperatures are occasionally experienced.

Doubtless the safest rule to observe in the North is to plant nuts from trees that have attained good size and



Black Walnut Trees Are Favored for Public Parks, Private Lawns and Along Highways.

habit, and as nearly as possible in the section where they are to be planted. No harm is likely to result from transferring such trees from northern points to more southerly locations in so far as reaction to temperature is concerned.

The suitability of the black walnut for home planting is now being recognized as never before. That it is one of our most valuable American trees and that its numbers have steadily been decreasing has long been realized. To a considerable extent this tree was planted on the western prairies by the first settlers in compliance with the timber and stone act, required in the late eighties, which required that trees be planted in proportion to land taken up from the government. Some planting has been going on in states and districts beyond the range to which the species is indigenous.

Even now the forest service of the United States Department of Agriculture does not advise its planting in pure stands on land from which income is necessary during the lifetime of the average planter, as no returns in timber are probable under at least 35 or 40 years from the time of planting.

Department experts recommend that the walnut be included among the species for planting in public parks, on large, private lawns and dooryards, along highways, and in out-of-the-way places on the farm. It is invariably the single tree planted in the open, apart from other trees, that develops into the most perfect specimen. It is such trees that produce the greatest quantity of nuts. Usually the finest quantity of kernel is from this source.

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Thanksgiving

In days of old our Pilgrim sires, These modern days with blessings great, Saved from pestilence, famine, war, The world at peace, the harvests vast; Pledged faith anew round homestead fires, Might we not pause, a moment wait— And set a day their thanks to show, To offer thanks, as in the past.

L.M.R.