

A 6/24

Mrs. Hayward, Mrs. Sideman, Mrs. Cownie:

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Dit is vir my 'n eer asook 'n plesier om vanniddag hier amptelik namens die stad Johannesburg op te tree en hierdie boom namens die Nasionale Vroueraad by geleentheid van Boomplantdag te plant.

Ons stad word al hoe meer bewus van die noodsaaklikheid om die kwekery van bome en ander plantsoorte aan te moedig. Ek wil die Nasionale Vroueraad van harte bedank dat hulle hierdie veldtog aan die gang gesit het en ek spreek die hoop uit dat van jaar tot jaar Boomplanterdag versterk sal word.

It is indeed a pleasure for me to be here this morning, and I want to congratulate the National Council of Women on the revival of Arbor Day. This is the third occasion on which the ceremony has taken place.

That I should have been chosen to plant a tree in Rhodes Park is a particular pleasure, for this was a happy hunting ground of mine for many years, as in 1922 we moved to 24 Milner Crescent, just opposite the Park, our home at that time being the last house in Kensington. I remember well when this Park was built. It was a project to give employment to ex-soldiers from World War I. We often used to swim in the lake, as at that time the only Municipal swimming bath was at Ellis Park.

On an occasion such as this it is opportune to ask "Why do we plant trees?". Some trees we plant for shade, some for their beauty, some for the fruit they bear, some for use as timber, some for medicinal purposes. In South Africa a lot of trees are planted for use as pit props in the mines, and where would boys be if Willow trees were not planted for the making of cricket bats?

In parks and open spaces in Portugal this inscription is displayed:

HARM ME NOT

Ye who would pass by and raise your hand against me,
hearken ere ye harm me.

I am the heat of your hearths on the cold winter nights,
the friendly shade screening you from the summer sun; and my

fruits are refreshing draughts quenching your thirst as you
journey on.

I am the beam that holds your house, the board of your
table, the bed on which you lie, the timber that builds your
boat.

I am the handle of your hoe, the door of your homestead,
the wood of your cradle, and the shell of your coffin.

I am the gift of God and the friend of Man.

Ye who pass by listen to my prayer - Harm me not.

The age of trees varies tremendously. The redwoods of
California are said to be up to 3000 years old. The largest
of these has a diameter of 37 feet and a height of 368 feet.

Yellow wood trees, found in South Africa, are estimated to be 2000 years old. The Cedars of Lebanon are 1500 years old. You remember the reference in the Bible to the use of these trees by King Solomon in the erection of the Temple. Apparently the Cedar tree has a very bitter taste which repels insects, and it is also resistant to decay.

I have stated the use for trees. Why have the N.C.W. decided to revive Arbor Day? I think this occasion makes us conscious of trees, and it should create an interest in the names of trees, particularly those indigenous to South Africa. A person planting a tree needs faith. He is doing something and not expecting a reward for himself - many trees take such a long time to grow to create any real benefit.

I am wearing a tie today of the Administrative Staff College, Henley-on-Thames. The emblem is an acorn and a leaf, representing the mighty oaks that from little acorns grow.

This city is planning an Arboreteum at Van Riebeck Park. In an Arboreteum one endeavours to have specimens of trees from all over the world. From your history you will remember that Simon van der Stel was one of the early Governors of the Cape to encourage tree planting, and those of you who visit the Cape will have seen the great advantages we have inherited through Simon van der Stel's forethought.

I would again like to congratulate the N.C.W. on the initiative taken in reviving the planting of trees, and I would

also like to thank the Parks Department of the City Council for all the assistance they have given, as also the National Veld Trust.

I am now about to plant the tree and I would like to tell you a little more about it. It is a Liquid Ambar tree, LIQUIDAMBAR STYRACIFLUA - a narrow pyramidal-shaped tree up to 50-80 feet high. It derives its name from the fragrant resin called liquid orientalis. The young shoots develop corky wings, which are very distinctive and the leaves, which are up to 7" wide, are in the shape of a hand, with five or seven lobes. Fruits are round, golf ball size, having numerous winged seeds. This tree prefers a moist loam in a protected position and rewards one with a brilliant display of autumn

tints, the leaves turning bright red, crimson and orange, before falling for the winter.

Collection Number: A1132

Collection Name: Patrick LEWIS Papers, 1949-1987

PUBLISHER:

Publisher: Historical Papers Research Archive, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Location: Johannesburg

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