

Programme of Dedication Ceremony

SUNDAY, 2nd OCTOBER, 1921.

- 3.00 p.m.—Band Selections.
- 3.25 „ Arrival of His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.
- 3.30 „ Firing explosive charges to blast holes to receive trees.
- 3.35 „ His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor to open ceremonies with dedicatory address, to be followed by an address from the Premier, the Honourable John Oliver.
- 3.50 „ Planting of the first tree by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor.
Sounding of "Last Post."
- 3.55 „ Dedicatory Prayer.
- 4.00 „ Dedicatory Hymn.
- 4.05 „ "The Benediction."
- 4.10 „ Sounding of "Reveille."

O CANADA
GOD SAVE THE KING

Master of Ceremonies:
Brig.-General R. P. CLARK, C.M.G., D.S.O., M.C.

The Province of
British Columbia

Memorial
Avenue

Victoria, B. C.

BRITISH COLUMBIA owes, not only to her soldier dead, but to posterity, some monument which will adequately commemorate the heroic sacrifices of the South African war, and of the Great European War.

The British Columbia Memorial Avenue, the first tree of which will be planted on October 2nd, is planned with a realization of this debt.

The long double line of trees itself, as it sweeps through the valley, will have a beauty and a freedom and a grace. After centuries these same trees will still stand and symbolize for our children's children the spirit of 1914-1919, and the portals which will be erected by the various Municipalities of the Province at the entrance of the section of the Avenue apportioned to them, will perpetuate the names of the glorious dead.

The plan is a practical one. As at present conceived, it includes a double border of Plane and Mountain Ash trees, planted alternately, 30 feet apart, along Shelbourne Street, connecting Mount Douglas Park with the City. The planting is to be started at once. The Mountain Ash tree is one of rapid growth, and will have reached its maturity in a few years. It is a short lived tree, and when the Plane trees have attained their full size and beauty the Mountain Ash will be cut down, and the Avenue will stand in all its beauty. We venture the thought that posterity will do its part towards preserving for all time this fitting Memorial.

The plan also includes appropriate portals or gateways at the dividing line between the sections allotted to the various Municipalities, on which will be suitably inscribed the names of the men from that Municipality who paid the Supreme Sacrifice.

Through the Parks and Beaches Committee, Victoria and Saanich are co-operating in preparing the ground. Victoria has donated the Trees from her Nurseries, and is doing the planting. Oak Bay has undertaken to look after the watering of the trees. The Canadian Explosives Company, Limited, has donated the material and services for the blasting. The initial effort, therefore, is put through without any added call on the public. This is an important feature. It was first thought that a large outlay would be required to prepare the ground and plant the Trees, but the splendid spirit shown by the Municipalities has overcome these difficulties.

Gradually, while the Avenue grows, sufficient funds can be gathered together by the various Municipalities to complete the portals.

The Union of B. C. Municipalities in Convention have endorsed the plan for this British Columbia Memorial to be constructed in the Capital City of the Province.

This is a work which cannot be hurried, and in the months which intervene, the best design can be selected, by the artist who most adequately interprets the spirit of the undertaking.

In the months to come, too, can the names of the fallen be gathered in, so that none shall go unrecorded.

And, conceived in devotion, carried out through co-operation, and completed in idealism, this "Via sacra" will for generations to come stand as an inspiration to the country whose freedom has been bought with so great a price.