

## U.S., Europe Trade Trees for Christmas

ANN ARBOR—A Christmas tree—like the grass—is always greener in the other fellow's yard.

The Scotch pine is becoming a favorite Christmas tree in northern U.S. because of its lush, long-needed beauty and lasting qualities.

As its name implies, this tree is not native of North America, but had to be imported originally from Scotland and elsewhere in Europe, reports G. Robinson Gregory, associate professor of resource economics at University of Michigan.

The favorite Christmas tree in Scotland, on the other hand, is the Sitka spruce. You guessed it—this is a native North American tree, growing extensively along the northern Pacific Coast, for which seed had to be exported to Europe from British Columbia and the U. S.

Until recent years, Gregory adds, almost all of England's fresh Christmas trees were imported from France.

Post-war rise in British incomes coincided with the availability of aromatic evergreens from Britain's large plantations. As home production increased, imports declined and "just about wrecked the French Christmas tree industry."

Balsam fir, the biggest U. S. seller, is similar to the tree first used—the silver fir in Germany.

REPUTEDLY introduced here by Hessian troops during the Rev-

olutionary War, the Christmas tree tradition spread through northern Europe during the 19th Century.

Martin Luther, inspired by moonlight on a snow-draped evergreen, is credited with first lighting a tree with candles.

Some Michigan trees move to market early in November, but the bulk of them begin to move the latter part of the month, reaching a peak during the first half of December.

Many are imported from

THE TREES COME from three main sources: 1) contractors who secure cutting rights and harvest wild trees on private, state or federal lands; 2) pulpwood harvesting operations which yield tree tops usable as Christmas trees, and 3) commercial growers who plant nursery stock on private acreage, prune, shape and tend the trees over the six to 10 years of growth required.

The latter group supplies high quality trees, though a relatively small proportion of the total supply as yet, Professor Gregory explains.

What is the best Christmas tree to buy?

"The Scotch pine earns its growing popularity," according to Frank Murray, forest manager in the U-M school of natural resources. "It grows fast, maturing in six to eight years, it is attractive, holds its needles, is easiest to grow in the nursery and easiest to transport."

THE BUYER should try to get a fresh-cut tree and then keep it in water to preserve the "almost fireproof" quality of a fresh evergreen, Murray adds.

## Rev. Hodgson Leads New March of Dimes

The Rev. G. Burton Hodgson will be the volunteer campaign chairman of the New March of Dimes in Oakland county during January, according to an announcement by the county chapter's Board of Directors.

Mr. Hodgson, of 2488 Derby, Birmingham, is Director of Christian Education for the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan.

IN ACCEPTING the volunteer post, Mr. Hodgson said: "I feel it is a privilege to serve a cause as worthy as this one. Who one has been close to the work of the National Foundation,

its genuine worth becomes more and more apparent, I am grateful for this opportunity."

Mr. Hodgson explained that the word "new" had been added to the March of Dimes to emphasize the fact that National Foundation funds are now used to fight two crippling diseases in addition to polio.

"THE NEW MARCH of Dimes" expanded program now fights crippling birth defects and arthritis in the same effective way that the polio fight has gone on for more than 20 years," Mr. Hodgson said.

"Each year, nearly 35,000 infants are either stillborn or live less than a month as a result of birth defects," Mr. Hodgson said. "The National Foundation's action in tackling this affliction promises great benefits to parents and generations of children to come."

The National Foundation is coordinating its attack on the cause and treatment of arthritis with the goal of helping the 1,000,000 victims in this country. Efforts in this field will be directed especially to youthful victims so that they will be enabled to reach adulthood as free as possible from deformity.

IN ADDITION, the Oakland County Chapter is continuing to provide aid for 250 victims of paralytic polio from all sections of the county. Mr. Hodgson pointed out that through the years every cent raised in Oakland County has been spent here.

A native of Canada, Mr. Hodgson has lived in the United States since 1926. Prior to his entry into the ministry, he was a general auditor for the Pontiac Motor division. He served four years in the Army during World War II and attained the rank of captain.

He was graduated from Seabury-Western Theological Seminary in 1949 and was ordained to the priesthood in September, 1950. His appointment to the diocesan department of Christian education followed five years of parish work.

He has been active in the Oakland county chapter of the National Foundation for five years and is serving his fourth year as chairman of the chapter's board of directors.

Ford Motor Opens Service Award Plan in Birmingham Area

Ford Motor company is extending its community service awards program to include Birmingham area employees for the first time, it announced recently.

The awards are made to employees who voluntarily have performed some outstanding community service.

Nominations will be accepted through Jan. 15, after which nominees will select the winners. Recipients will be honored in February, according to Philip Martin, manager of Ford's community relations department.

Employees may be nominated by their families, fellow employees or anyone familiar with their community activities. Nominations may be based on services performed in the calendar year or over a period of years.

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