

STAR TELLS OF DR. WARD

OTTAWA'S "GRAND OLD MAN" AS A TREE PLANTER.

An Interesting Review of Early-Day
Ottawa University History, And
Appreciation of Dr. Ward's
Place In It.

In the Kansas City Star of January 28th, was a short resume of the life of Dr. M. L. Ward of O. U., with some pictures taken by a Star representative.

The following is what the Star says of Dr. Ward:

When Dr. M. L. Ward was president of Ottawa University, in Ottawa, Kans., back in the early '80s, it used to be his custom on pleasant afternoons to lock up his classroom at 4 o'clock call a couple of boys to help him and plant a few shade trees while daylight lasted.

Three thousand spreading elms, standing in long, straight rows across the campus and along the surrounding streets, form a monument to the patient labor of the rugged old professor with the white beard, who is now in his eighty-first year. Tree planting was the one relaxation in which he forgot for the time being the tables, of logarithms and conic sections which occupied him through the day.

When He Planted 17,000 Seedlings.

"It isn't much trouble to raise elm trees," he said a few days ago, at his home on South Poplar street, not far from the campus. "To get them started I used to go out with a mattock and dig up the seedlings and then plant them all along a deep furrow. One year I put in seventeen thousand of these seedlings. After two years they would be large enough for permanent planting.

"Whenever I got ready to put in a row of the trees I'd first plow a double furrow where I wanted them to grow. Then I'd set my transit at one end so the rows would be even, and set in a tree at the other end to act as a stake. Then two of the boys would walk down the row, one setting in the saplings and the other tamping down the earth with a spade, while I kept my eyes on the transit to keep them in line. Once we got out sixty trees in sixty minutes.

"Every spring I've watched them bud and leaf and spread their branches out further each year. Take it all around," he added, reflectively, "those hundreds of trees have been as great a satisfaction as anything I've done in Ottawa."

The planting of the shade trees is only a small matter of what Doctor Ward has done for Ottawa University and its students. His friends say that his most useful gifts have been bestowed on the long list of boys and girls he has helped to get an education. But Doctor Ward doesn't say much about this. To him all these acts of kindness and assistance, like the tree planting, have been only incidents in his twenty-eight years' service to the institution. His devotion to the university did not stop with his withdrawal from active service five years ago, when he retired from teaching and was made professor emeritus.

His Home to The College.

After his retirement he succeeded in raising, through personal efforts, \$6,000 which had long been pledged to the university, but which had never been paid. The raising of this money brought to the college treasury an additional \$2,000 endowment, which had been promised on condition that the other pledges were collected.

Only a few days ago announcement was made of the latest gift which Doctor Ward has made to the university. To found a scholarship for the aid of future students Doctor Ward has deeded his home, the large white house and the 2½-acre lot covered with fruit trees and berry bushes, where so many students have been welcome during his residence there.