

# Conservation

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## Industrial Training

Preparation for Future Re-quires that Technical Education be Provided

In 1910 the Dominion Government appointed a Royal Commission to enquire into the needs and present equipment of the Dominion respecting industrial training and technical education, and into the systems and methods of technical instruction obtaining in other countries. The report of the Commissioners was published in 1913, but has not been acted upon as yet. The following is a brief extract from this report, showing the need of industrial and technical education in Canada:

"Until recently Canada was an interested and debating spectator of the movements for industrial efficiency. The training of young workers to deftness in manipulation and technique, and to an understanding of the principles and sciences which lie at the base of all trades and industries, was not provided for in the courses. When manufactured goods were wanted in increasing quantities and varieties, and towns and cities were growing by leaps and bounds, it was discovered that there had been practically no organization of means for preparing the hundreds of thousands of young people to become the best qualified artisans, farmers and housekeepers in the world. The country's growing wealth was ample for the cost; but the educational work was becoming haphazard in the extreme, and worse than that, was developing into school systems that had few points of contact with or relation to industrial, agricultural or housekeeping life."

In so far as mining is concerned Canada not only would be benefited industrially, but workmen would become better educated, more contented, and the risk of accident would be considerably lessened. The accident death rate among miners is greater in Canada than any other civilized country. This is due, largely, to the hazardous nature of the work and to the class of labour available for employment.

The fatality rate in coal mines in Belgium is the lowest in the world, being but slightly over one per thousand employed. In 1850, the fatality rate in Belgium was as high as it is to-day in Canada. The decrease is the result of the combined efforts of the mine owners, the workmen, and the Administration of Mines, and it is due, to a great extent, to diffusion of technical and professional education. In view of its importance, the government should direct more attention to the education of the workman, so that he may not be a danger to himself or others and that he may become better educated, more skillful, and thus have the opportunity to better his position.—W.J.D.

## Paper Mills in Prairie Provinces

Large Supplies of Pulpwood Available if Protected from Fire

Thus far, the pulp and paper industry in Canada has been limited to the provinces of Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and British Columbia. Now, however, the beginning of a large development in the prairie provinces is foreshadowed by the announcement that a pulp and paper mill is to be erected in Manitoba, at a point 250 miles northwest of Winnipeg.

Each of the prairie provinces contains large quantities of timber suitable for pulpwood, and the present great demand for pulp and paper from Canada will undoubtedly stimulate the development of these important resources in the North-West. Were it not for the enormous damage done in past years by forest fires, those developments might easily rival those of the eastern provinces. Large supplies still remain, however, although to the extent of only a fraction of what they once were. On the other hand, vast areas contain young forest growth, on lands previously burned over, and if fires can be kept out there will be an opportunity for the permanent maintenance of a number of pulp and paper mills in the prairie provinces. Protection of the forests from fire is the one prime essential.—C.L.

## Forest Fire Legislation

Prevention of Fires Receiving Attention of Provincial Governments

The great loss of life and property in the Northern Ontario fires of 1916 is causing nearly all the governmental fire protective organizations throughout Canada to take stock anew of the situation and to consider what reforms are necessary to prevent a recurrence of the disaster. As a result, it is anticipated that improved fire legislation will be submitted to several of the provincial legislatures this winter, in addition to the adoption of improved administrative measures under existing legislation.

New Brunswick and Quebec have under consideration the improvement of their forest fire protective services. The loss this year in New Brunswick has been remarkably low, considering the unfavourable weather conditions, but it is realized that, to adequately safeguard the future, additional measures are necessary. In Quebec, the losses in the Saguenay and Lake St. John districts have been heavy, and experience has shown conclusively the necessity for stronger measures outside the territory protected by the St. Maurice and Lower Ottawa Forest Protective Associations.

In Ontario, the situation calls for the reorganization of the whole fire-rangefinding service, with more provision for overhead supervision and inspection, and for the regulation of settlers' clearing fires, under the permit system. During the past two years, the provincial government has been making investigations with a view to improvements in the fire-rangefinding service, but the disaster of last July occurred before any of the proposed measures had been made effective.

For Dominion lands in the western provinces, a distinct advance has been made by a recent order issued by the Minister of the Interior. This is to the effect that a provision shall be included in the Dominion land regulations, requiring new homesteaders in wooded districts, or within six miles of a forest reserve, to secure a permit before setting out clearing fires be-

tween April 15 and October 31 of each year. The enforcement of this provision will prevent the setting out of clearing fires during dangerous periods, and will very generally reduce the danger of fire loss to the forest reserves and to forest areas generally, in Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta and the railway belt of British Columbia. This action is directly in line with the previous adoption of the permit system in British Columbia, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, and within the Dominion forest reserves. Past experience has shown that the greatest damage to Dominion forest reserves is due to fires running in from the outside, and that settlers' clearing operations are the most frequent source of such fires.

The foregoing provision, while important, will affect only future homestead entries. To secure complete control of the situation, legislative provision must be made by the governments of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta, putting the permit system into effect in connection with all settled lands in wooded districts. This matter is now being considered by the respective governments.—C.L.

## READ YOUR INSURANCE POLICY

The following, or a similar clause, appears in all policies of fire insurance:

"The company is not liable for losses following, that is to say: Where the insurance is upon buildings or their contents for loss caused by the want of good and substantial brick or stone or cement chimneys; or by ashes or embers being deposited, with the knowledge and consent of the assured, in wooden vessels; or by stoves or stove-pipes being, to the knowledge of the assured, in an unsafe condition, or improperly secured."

Notwithstanding this, in 1915, there were 51 fires from defective and overheated stoves and furnaces; 62 from defective and overheated pipes, chimneys, etc., and 8 by live coals and hot ashes.

Should the insurance companies take advantage of this clause, many victims of their own carelessness would find themselves without any recompense for their losses.