

OUTDOOR RECREATION CONFERENCE

Importance of Recreation From National Health Standpoint—Canada Participates in Washington Meeting.

A great forward movement in conservation, and one that affects Canada profoundly, was inaugurated by President Coolidge in the convoking at Washington, May 22 to 24, of the first National Outdoor Recreation Conference. At this conference, which embraced national and state organizations, Canada was represented upon the special invitation of the President of the United States. It was intended that Canada should be represented by Mr. W. W. Cory, Deputy Minister of the Department of the Interior, and Mr. J. B. Harkin, Commissioner of Canadian National Parks. Owing to unforeseen circumstances Mr. Harkin was prevented from attending and to Mr. Cory fell the duty of acting for Canada at the various meetings of the conference.

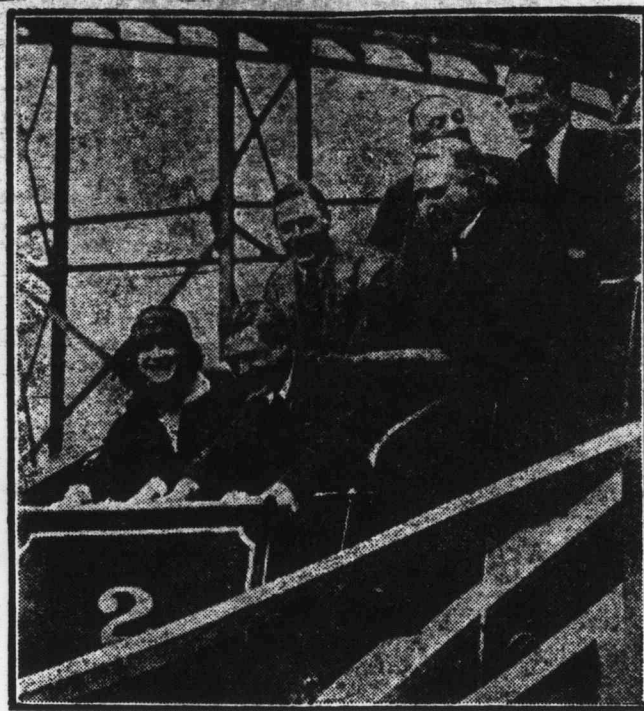
Canada could not remain aloof from a conference of this kind even should she desire to do so, because outdoor recreation, in the broad terms in which it was dealt with on this occasion, involves the international guardianship of fish, migratory birds, boundary waters, pollution of streams, international games, and international recreational travel. The Dominion is already in touch with these subjects at a dozen points and the chief work of the conference was to emphasize and organize the activities they involve.

The personnel of the conference indicates the important place the subject occupies in the minds of the leading men of the United States. It was called and opened by President Coolidge, and the executive chairman was Hon. Theodore Roosevelt, Assistant Secretary of the Navy. Other members of the United States cabinet who took part were: Hon. J. W. Weeks, Secretary of War; Hon. Hubert Work, Secretary of the Interior; Hon. H. C. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture; Hon. Herbert Hoover, Secretary of Commerce; and Hon. J. J. Davis, Secretary of Labor.

Arrangements were completed by which the people interested in the various forms of outdoor recreation will be fully represented on the permanent organization by their acknowledged leaders. These details need not be gone into here, the point being this: that people everywhere now recognize the importance to the whole country of properly directed sport and

recreation. The crowding of people into great urban centres on the one hand and the development of the automobile on the other have changed the outlook of the people of North America in regard to outdoor recreation in one generation.

The great majority of the people no longer have, as they had thirty years ago, open spaces near at hand for recreation, and the automobile has provided the means by which they may escape into the forests, the mountains, and along the watercourses. The holding of this conference indicates that people have suddenly awakened to the fact of which leaders in both Canada and the United States have been aware for some years that the health and efficiency of the nation are going to depend in no small degree upon the maintenance of national parks, game preserves, game sanctuaries, forest reserves, and other open areas, and upon the wise administration of proper laws respecting the protection of game animals, game and insectivorous birds, and fish. The view taken a few years ago was that national parks with their beautiful scenery and their wild animals living in a state of nature ministered only to the sentimental side of life, but it is now seen that the very stamina of the nation is dependent upon these playgrounds, and Canada has shown that she does not intend to be behind any part of the continent in developing these safeguards for her people. This has been evidenced by what has been done in the establishment of national parks, in the creation of game preserves and sanctuaries, both in the settled parts of Canada and for the protection of natives in the far north, in the preservation of the buffalo as well as other large and small game animals and migratory birds, in the establishment of national forests, and in the holding of Empire and National Conferences on the conservation of forests, wild life, and public health. Activity in these different spheres has never been as great in Canada as it is at the present time, it is intended that there shall be no slackening but an increase of effort, and that the work already begun shall be extended and made more far-reaching and effective by further organization and co-operation.



Above are shown the Duchess of York, the Prince of Wales, and the Duke of York (behind Prince), photographed in a moment of fun on one of the roller-coasters at Wembley.

BEAUTIFUL GEMS ARE BUT COMMON MINERALS

Garnet Finds its Chief Use as An Abrasive—Found in Many Parts of Canada.

Many of our most beautiful and valuable gem stones are varieties of comparatively common minerals. The diamond—one of the hardest substances known, and the most highly prized of the precious stones—is a form of the common soft black graphite, which occurs abundantly in Nature. Emerald is a rare variety of the not uncommon mineral beryl, and owes its beautiful green color to traces of chromium.

Two of the common abrasive minerals, corundum and garnet, when clear and flawless, give us beautiful gems; the ruby is a red variety of corundum, and the sapphire a deep blue variety of the same mineral, while many of the variously colored garnets are extensively used in jewelry and are classed as semi-precious stones. Both corundum and garnet occur in Canada, but no material of gem quality has yet been found.

In recent years the use of all kinds of abrasive materials, both natural and artificial, has greatly increased, and there are now very few articles, in factory or home, other than textiles, that have not been subjected to the action of abrasives. On account of this increase in demand, the Mines Branch of the Department of Mines is making special investigations of Canadian abrasive minerals, including garnet.

Garnet is really a very common mineral, and occurs in several varieties, having slightly different compositions and color, and varying considerably in hardness, toughness, and method of breaking. For abrasive purposes the mineral should be very hard—harder than quartz or sand; and it should break into sharp angular fragments without curves, or rounded edges, so that it will easily cut or abrade the articles under treatment. Approximately 95 per cent. of the garnet mined throughout the world is used on paper or cloth, and the term "sand paper" is often applied, generally, to papers coated with sand, emery, corundum, or garnet.

Little is yet known about the existence of commercial deposits of abrasive garnet in Canada. In Ontario, the Bancroft Mining Syndicate has been producing a good type of garnet from a rich vein near Bancroft. A promising deposit of larger extent but lower garnet content at Parry Sound has been well prospected and will probably become an economic producer. Near Sudbury, Ont., there is another promising exposure, about 50 feet wide, and traceable for a considerable distance. The centre of the deposit contains well-formed garnets,

two inches or more in diameter, which gradually decrease to the size of a pin-head as the contacts are approached.

At Chogoggin Point, near Yarmouth, Nova Scotia, a 35-foot dike, with a garnet content of approximately 40 per cent., outcrops on the sea shore and has been traced inland for several miles. Several other deposits are known that are both rich and suitable for abrasive purposes.

The market for garnet is limited, however, and concentration and preparation are important factors. The Mines Branch has paid considerable attention to the preparation of Canadian garnets for market, and has made tests to determine the best processes for different classes of ore.

If a steady demand for garnet should develop many new deposits of suitable material will probably be found, as there are large areas in which the geological formations give promise of their probable occurrence.

About As Usual.

Uncle Tybalt and Aunt Fretty led a regular and normal life. They quarrelled steadily and, you might say, mechanically, for many years, and doubtless loved each other devotedly all the time they were doing so. Of the family some members habitually sided with him and others with her, and thus aided in keeping the row going whenever uncle or aunt seemed likely to slow down or give out.

There was also an eccentric brother-in-law who lived with them the most of the time for several years and for some reason took sides with neither—but he died rather young.

They went on thus till their races were run and they were laid away, whereafter in due course their sorrowing relatives erected a handsome stone over them, on which it was proclaimed that they had enjoyed fifty-eight years of happy married life with never a cloud of discord darkening their horizon.

Destroying Predatory Fish.

The destruction of nearly 28,000 coarse fish, principally squawfish, by the staff of the Cultus Lake Hatchery, B.C., is announced by the Department of Marine and Fisheries. This work was undertaken as a result of the investigations that were made when the sockeye yearlings were migrating from Cultus lake to the sea. It was noticed that the goldfish were feeding on the young salmon and an examination of the stomachs of a number of those caught gave an average of three yearling salmon to each squawfish.

THE MENACE OF THE GIPSY MOTH

The appearance of the gipsy moth (Porthetria dispar) near Alburg, Vermont, about half a mile south of the Canada-United States boundary has given rise to conditions affecting natural resources and their utilization of which the Government of Canada, as well as that of the province of Quebec, ever on the alert to protect the interests of citizens, have taken cognizance. As a result of the discovery of this infestation, the United States Government intend to place an embargo on that area of southern Quebec in general about 10 miles in width immediately adjoining the International Boundary to prohibit the shipment of Christmas trees and Christmas greens to the United States. The shipping of such trees or greens from the Vermont area to other parts of the United States has already been prohibited by state legislation.

The consequences which arise from this situation are important. In the first place there is the danger to our resources should the pest really gain a foothold in Canada and there is the immediate stoppage of the sale of Christmas trees and Christmas greens from this part of Quebec. No shipment from such area will be allowed entry into the United States of the following: spruce, fir, hemlock, pine, juniper, and cedar; and holly and laurel.

The importance of protecting our forest and other trees from such a pest as the dreaded gipsy moth has been appreciated by the Department of Agriculture for many years, and in addition to introducing into Eastern Canada large numbers of parasites of the insect, collected in infested areas in the New England States, Dominion officers have carried on scouting to a limited extent in the province of Quebec. Without going into details it may be explained that insects like the gipsy moth have their parasites which attack and destroy them, and the breeding of these parasites and the releasing of them in infested areas is one of the means used in fighting these pests.

In dealing with the present situation the Department of Agriculture will also place a domestic quarantine on the same area. In addition to the areas upon which the embargo will be placed, there will, it is expected, be a restricted area, also about 10 miles in width, immediately adjoining. Under the proposed regulation Christmas trees and Christmas greens may be moved from the restricted area provided the shipments are accompanied by a Dominion certificate of origin which states that the trees or greens were grown at some point within the restricted area or outside of the quarantined area.

The Entomological Branch of the Department of Agriculture will this summer and autumn, in close co-operation with the Department of Lands and Forests of the Quebec Government, conduct intensive scouting throughout southern Quebec. Federal and provincial officers will combine to form small crews to examine trees, fences, posts, etc., along roads, railways, in orchards, as well as scout other places where it is thought the gipsy moth may have become established.

Few insects have been so costly as has the gipsy moth. Millions of dollars have been spent in its control during the last fifteen years in the New England States, and it would indeed be serious if infestations are found in Canada. Important areas of woodland trees have been killed outright in areas where it has gained a foothold. Apple, oak, birch, alder, and willow are the favored trees upon which the caterpillars feed. Other trees such as beech, poplar, hickory, etc., have been seriously injured. In the New England States too, pine and other coniferous trees mixed with deciduous growth have suffered severely.

Citizens who desire to receive further information regarding this pest should communicate either with the Dominion Entomologist, Department of Agriculture, Ottawa, or the Provincial Entomologist, Department of Agriculture, Quebec.



Of Course They Have Wheels. Johnny—"Dad, have basebal coaches got wheels?" Dad—"Most of 'em have, John."

Oldest Handwriting of Man.

One small temple has been found in "Ur of the Chaldees" (whence Abraham sprang) containing the oldest works of art in metal yet known, says a recent British Museum "communiqué." There is also a marble tablet, in the old Sumerian language, giving a chronicle of kings and dynasties suggesting the date 4500 B.C. The report adds: "Even if that chronology has to be modified, we have now the oldest-dated example of man's handwriting and the oldest known triumphs of the art of Tubal-Cain." The marble tablet records the building of the temple of the goddess Nin, in the time of the third dynasty of the kings of Ur, after Noah's deluge. Tubal-Cain was "the man of might in the days when the earth was young" who "fashioned the first plowshare," as Charles Mackay points out in his commentary on Gen. iv, 22.

Kind Boy.

Acable Visitor—"Well, and do you do a good deed every day, Tommy?" Tommy—"Yes, sir. Yesterday I visited my aunt in the country, and she was glad. To-day I came back home again, and she was glad again!"

If London's soot for one year could be collected in a pile it would cover Westminster Abbey.

Hymn for a Household.

Lord Christ, beneath thy starry dome
We light the twinkling lamp of home,
And where bewildering shadows throng
Uplift our prayer and evensong,
Dost thou, with heaven in Thy ken,
Seek still a dwelling place with men,
Wandering the world in ceaseless quest?
O Man of Nazareth, be our guest!

Lord Christ, the bird his nest has found,
The fox is sheltered in his ground,
But dost Thou still this dark earth tread
And have no place to lie Thy head?
Shepherd of mortals, here behold
A little flock, a wayside fold,
That wait Thy presence to be blest—
O Man of Nazareth, be our guest!
—Daniel Henderson.

Unofficial Bird-Bands.

The Canadian National Parks Branch, of the Department of the Interior, which is keeping the file of Canadian Bird Banding Records, has recently received a band of a kind differing from the official bird-bands used in Canada and the United States, and an endeavor is being made to trace its origin. It is made of aluminum and has the number "57" stamped on it. Mr. Arthur Shuttleworth, of Plummer, Ontario, found the band on a young teal duck which he shot on Caribou Lake, District of Algoma, Ontario, on September 12, 1923. The band will be lent to responsible persons who consider that they may be able to furnish information concerning it. Application should be made to the Commissioner, Canadian National Parks, Ottawa.



The Reason.

"Ma! Gee, I hate t' git my face and hands and feet 'n' everything dirty."
"I'm glad you do child, and why?"
"Cause you always make me git in the tub."

City in the Abyss.

There is a quicksilver mine in Peru 170 fathoms in circumference and 480 feet deep. In this profound abyss are streets, squares and a chapel where religious worship is held.

Old Home Town Week.

Various villages, towns and small cities have been, are or will be holding old home town weeks this summer. Old boys and old girls, who have been away from the place which saw their birth, which attended to their schooling or gave them memorable years in their early days, return after absences varying from one to sixty years and from distances running in some cases to thousands of miles. Those who have been a long time away open their eyes with surprise at what they see. In the years that have intervened the rocking cradle has never been idle and in spite of the constant drain by large cities of the continent most of them have either maintained or increased their population. More than that the macadam roads and board sidewalks have given way to concrete pavements and cement walks, the back-yard pump and shabby stables to waterworks systems and garages. The trees, which were always beautiful, have grown higher, and as the old fences have gone with many other old things, life in the old town appears to the jaded eyes of the old-timer as a much better thing than anything he has come across outside it. But he recognizes the houses and physiographical features of the old town better than he does some of the old boys and girls. It is hard to discern in the stout body and rubicund features of one man the slim strapping one knew at school. While trees have grown in the town, hair has fallen off or grown white on many a head. Yet it makes no difference. The years fall away as though by magic and old times walk again for a space.

It is a good idea—a beau geste, as the French say—and blessings on the man who first thought of it. Altogether aside from the sentimental side of it, I do not think most towns and small cities could employ their money better in advertising their manifold attractions than in calling back those with most reason to love them, because these, seeing how much the old town has accomplished in their absence, will bruit it abroad without pay or thought of it.

These occasions have brought home to many people from the large cities that the small towns and cities have overtaken them in the matter of advantages. Except for theatres and concerts and the University these small towns offer to the dwellers therein every advantage that the city can and for less money. Land costs are lower and therefore rents and building costs are not so high. Taxes as a consequence on industries are lighter and workmen with better houses and larger gardens are more contented.—From Saturday Night.

Fully Equipped.

A disabled soldier had been so long in one hospital that it seemed like home and he was anxious to impress its merits on all callers.

"Why," he exclaimed, "it's the most complete in the country. They have an eye specialist, a throat specialist, a nose specialist, and they even have internes for internal diseases."



Competitors are shown in the hand-drilling contest at Cobalt, which was one of the many features of the Old Boys Reunion held in the northern mining town recently.

World's Fastest Trains.

The highest train speed, 120 miles an hour, is said to have been made by a train running from Fleming to Jacksonville, on the plant system, in the United States, a distance of five miles, in 2 minutes 30 seconds, representing a speed of over 115 miles an hour.

The record speed for a British railway was a run on the Great Western, in May, 1904, when, after passing through the Whitehall Tunnel, the Plymouth to Paddington mail train for a time ran at a speed of 102.3 miles an hour.

This run was properly clocked—that is, it was recorded by an expert taking the time with a split-second chronometer, which gives the exact speed within a decimal.

British railways hold the greatest number of habitually high speed runs over short distances, regularly clocked by experts.

Corn Grows High.

Corn grows near La Paz, Bolivia, at elevations of 12,000 feet above sea level.

Whales Kill Seals.

Thousands of fur seals are killed annually by killer whales.