

Conservation

A monthly bulletin published by the
Commission of Conservation, Ottawa, Canada.

VOL. VI.

OCTOBER, 1917

No. 10

Canada's First Model Town Is Mapped Out

Large Paper Company Acting under
Conservation Commission's Advice
is Fathering the Scheme

Canada's first model town will be built on the Upper Ottawa. A splendid site overlooking lake Timiskaming has been laid out according to modern principles of town planning by the Commission of Conservation, through its Town-planning Adviser, Mr. Thomas Adams, who has acted as consulting engineer. Building operations will be started shortly by the Riordon Pulp and Paper Co., who are to erect a large sulphite mill and paper plant nearby and for the accommodation of whose employees the town is intended. A contour map showing the levels of the site was first prepared and the streets were then laid out so as to secure easy grades, directness of route, and absence of sudden deflections. If the usual method of rectangular survey had been adopted, the most important streets would have had grades of from 10 to 18 per cent, but, under the plan, the maximum grades have been reduced to 3 and 5 per cent in most cases, with a maximum of 8 for short lengths.

Before any buildings have been erected the line of each street has been blazed through the forest so as to fix the best street locations and to secure the best aspects for the dwellings. Areas are being set aside for open spaces, social centres, churches, schools, etc., in advance. The main approach to the town will be by a street, 80 feet wide, passing through a square on which the stores and public buildings will be erected.

It is proposed to make the town a model of its kind, as it is recognized by the promoters that healthy and agreeable housing and social conditions are of vital importance in securing efficiency of the workers, and that large employers of labour have a direct responsibility in providing proper living conditions for their workers.

IT PAYS TO CONSERVE

In view of the failure of the sockeye run in Puget Sound and other points in the Pacific North-

west, the trade in New York looks forward to an advancing market with record prices before the snow flies.—*The Fishing Gazette.*

This, ultimately, is what the careless exploitation of natural resources always means. It is regrettable that most of us do not realize it until matters reach this final stage. This year the value of the Fraser River sockeye salmon run was \$7,000,000 less than the last "big year."

Farmers Expected To Take War Loan

They Are Prosperous and Public
Opinion Expects Them to Help

Farmers should subscribe for a substantial portion of the forthcoming war loan. Crops have been uniformly good throughout Canada, prices were never so high and the margin between selling price and cost of production has ensured a splendid profit. Mr. E. L. Pease, vice-president and managing director of the Royal Bank of Canada, in a recent interview, gave it as his opinion that an active campaign should be carried on among the farmers of the West. The farmers of that section of Canada and Ontario, according to Mr. Pease, are the best class to canvass for the loan.

The *Manitoba Free Press* also urges that an active campaign be carried on to get the farmers to invest. It suggests that the Minister of Finance send a letter to 100,000 Western farmers, personally appealing for their support of the loan.

Venereal Diseases a National Menace

Canada Must Face the Facts and
Adopt Preventive Measures

In Canada we are rapidly reaching a condition not much better than that in the old world, where venereal diseases have played such a prominent part in the degeneration of the race. Toronto General Hospital reports 12 to 14 per cent of public ward cases as syphilitic. This tells only part of the story. In these are included latent cases and those so far incapacitated by the disease as to be confined to bed.

It takes no account of the greater percentage of cases, with or without symptoms, which can only be definitely diagnosed as syphilitic by laboratory tests, nor of inmates of asylums, homes for incurables, and other institutions, who are afflicted.

Although the immediate effects of venereal disease upon the individual are serious enough, their great importance, from the standpoint of race conservation, lies in their delayed effect upon the individual or his, or her, offspring. Syphilis is a disease which is transmitted from the parent to the child before birth. The result is that either the mother miscarries or gives birth to a dead child, or, if the child is born alive, it may die early from the infection. The loss of child life through sterility, non-productive pregnancies, early death and mental deficiency is such that no country can afford to view these diseases with unconcern.—J.D.

SMALL FIRES MOST NUMEROUS

An investigation being conducted into fire losses in the United States by the National Board of Fire Underwriters has shown that 60 per cent of the fires cause losses of less than \$100 each, but that these small amounts represent a large proportion of the total.

Important New Use Is Found for Cobalt

Discovery of Great Interest to Canada
Which Produces Nearly All
Cobalt Used

Widespread interest has been aroused by the announcement of the discovery of a tool steel stated to be equal in durability and hardness to high-speed steel, but of which tungsten, always difficult to obtain, is not a component. "Cobaltron", as the new steel is called, is made by adding cobalt to chromium-carbon steel. Thorough tests of the new alloy have been made in a large number of important works in England.

The world's supply of cobalt formerly came from Germany and New Caledonia, but, since the discovery of the rich silver-cobalt ores of Cobalt, Ontario, that pro-

(Concluded on page 39)

Keep Water-Power For Public Benefit

New Order-in-Council Prevents Per-
manent Alienation of Powers
on Dominion Lands

A most important order-in-council has just been passed to preserve to the public the ownership of water-powers on Dominion lands. It provides that, when any Dominion lands are disposed of in future, that portion of them necessary for the protection of a water supply, or bordering on, or close to, a water-power and necessary for its development, will be conveyed only on a year-to-year lease. A provision to this effect is to be inserted in all letters patent.

This is in harmony with the principles which the Commission of Conservation has been contending for since its inception in 1910. At its first annual meeting in that year, it recognized the danger in the alienation of valuable water-power privileges to private corporations and individuals and laid down the following principles:

1. That in future, no unconditional titles should be given to water-powers, but that every grant or lease of powers should be subject to the following, among other, conditions:
 1. Development within a specified time;
 2. Public control of rates;
 3. A rental with the power to revise same at later periods."

Our Vital Statistics Are Being Improved

Dominion and Provinces Getting To-
gether to Provide Annual Returns
of Births, Marriages and Deaths

Canada is much in need of an efficient and uniform system of vital statistics, and the Census and Statistics Office, under the energetic control of Mr. R. H. Coats, the new Dominion Statistician, is making a strong effort to remedy existing defects.

"One province," says Mr. Coats, "has no vital statistics at all. In the others, legislation and methods differ in the widest degree. The statistical year is not uniform; only six of the provinces use a common

(Concluded on page 38)