Must Our Timber Industries Close?

Unless Forestry is Practised, They Cannot Possibly be Permanently Established

The effect of progressive forest exploitation, without provision for succeeding crops, is being felt in parts of the United States. At a hearing before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs in Washington, W.E. Haskell, of the International Paper Company, made the statement that "the Underwood Resolution, which provides for a commission to negotiate for the removal of existing export restrictions on pulpwood cut on the Crown lands of Ontario, Quebec, and New Brunswick, is the only measure yet presented to Congress which contains any assurance of a sufficient quantity of pulpwood to perpetuate the present production of our paper mills, to justify the installation of new machines, and to save the great pulp and paper industry of the United States".

This is not an accurate statement of the situation. The facts are: (1) The labour and manufacturing cost of converting pulpwood into pulp is very much less than the cost of converting pulp into paper. (2) The amount of water-power required to manufacture pulp is relatively high and, from an economic point of view, the benefit to the community would be increased if such power were used for other purposes. Further, it is notorious that, in the Northeastern states, this power is required for more important industries and its release would ameliorate the present coal shortage. (3) The paper mills of the Northeastern states can purchase pulp from Eastern Canada, the Pacific states, British Columbia or Alaska and with anything like present prices, can conduct their operations at a profit. Col. Haskell's statement, however, affords further evidence of the serious extent to which the forests of the Eastern states have been depleted.

A recent report of the Louisiana Department of Conservation shows that similar conditions exist in that state in regard to lumber, and points out that Louisiana should and must practise forestry, in order that she may not be obliged to pay $15 or $20 per thousand feet for freight on lumber brought from the Pacific coast twenty years from now, and because her vast unproductive areas of cut-over lands are a heavy drag upon her prosperity.

With these examples of the disastrous effects of such methods in the United States, Canadians should not wait until an actual shortage overtakes us before we learn the lesson so plainly demonstrated.

Re-creating a forest is slow and expensive, but its productivity can be maintained by comparatively inexpensive means. These consist of, first, protection from fire and, second, proper methods of cutting.

No single system of cutting is applicable to all conditions, any more than the growing of all kinds of farm crops, and technical knowledge of the requirements of the different species is necessary. Under some circumstances, more complete utilization of the mature timber will result in satisfactory reproduction. In others, seed trees must be left in order to secure the kind of forest desired.

The increasing quantities of British Columbia lumber being sold in Eastern Canada is evidence of the already growing scarcity of available timber in the East, and, if the immense pulp and paper industry which has grown up in the last decade is to be permanent, steps must be taken at once to make provision for future crops instead of leaving cut-over lands as barren wastes.—*R. D. Craig.*

Fire Dangers of Electric Irons

Legislation Should Require Safety Attachments on Electrically-Heated Appliances.

An electric iron left turned on . . . Two stores and a cottage completely destroyed.—*Winnipeg Free Press.*

Electrical appliances in the home are of great convenience, but they are, at the same time, a fire danger. Familiarity with their use breeds carelessness, which has resulted in heavy fire losses. From reports received by fire marshals, these are rapidly increasing.

From tests it has been found that fire will break out in from 15 to 90 minutes when the electric iron is left in circuit on a table or ironing board, the time interval depending upon the surface material.

Many devices have been invented to make electric irons fire-safe. Unfortunately, however, price has been a ruling factor in the sale of this convenience, with the result that cheapness necessarily eliminated the safety attachments. In the absence of public regulation requiring their use, there is little hope of their general adoption. Until the enforcement of legislation requiring fire-safe attachments on all electrically-heated appliances, freedom from fires due to this cause must, therefore, depend upon educating the public to a recognition of the danger.

Municipal Bird Houses in St. Thomas

The City of St. Thomas recently erected 3 large bird houses for the housing of Purple Martins. Each house will accommodate 80 pairs of birds. The cost of each structure was about $250. They are erected in different parts of the city and are all of the same design. On account of their size it was necessary to erect them on steel towers constructed of 1½ inch angle steel. The towers are 24 feet high each support being set into concrete abutments 4 feet deep. The base of the tower is 2½′ x 2½′ and 2′ x 2′ at the top.

Effects of Taking Immature Salmon

Estimated Loss of 10,000,000 Pounds Resulting from the Too Early Taking of Salmon

Prof. E. Victor Smith, Seattle, in a paper read at the meeting of the Fisheries Association at Vancouver, B.C., demonstrated the disastrous effects of the taking of immature salmon.

During the fishing season of 1919, which lasted 6½ months, American fishermen taking salmon on the feeding banks along the coasts of Washington and Vancouver Island, were responsible for very serious loss, by catching large number of these fish before they were mature. Not only did the loss run into millions of pounds, but the quality of the food produced was decidedly inferior.

A fishing fleet of 1,500 trawlers, operating off the mouth of the Columbia river, caught chinook salmon which, if left in the ocean until mature, would have weighed 5,000,000 pounds more than they did. Added to this, the same fishermen were responsible for a loss of 850,000 pounds of silver salmon, due to taking the fish before they were mature.

A fleet of 500 trawlers, with headquarters at Neah Bay, fished on the feeding banks along the Northern Washington and the Vancouver Island coasts. This fleet took chinook salmon which at maturity would have weighed 970,000 pounds more than they did, and the loss through their taking silver salmon before maturity was 600,000 pounds.

These two fleets were responsible for a total loss of more than 7,400,000 pounds of fish. In addition to this great loss was the loss caused by scores of purse-seine boats fishing on the same banks. Their season's operations were hard to follow, but an idea of the waste due to them may be estimated when, by actual record 12 of these boats in 10 days brought in from the Vancouver Island banks, fish taken before maturity that represented a loss of over 100,000 pounds.

Again, in the Puget sound, during April, May and June, many tons of silver salmon were taken that weighed from one to six pounds each, which would have weighed six to eight pounds if left until September of the same year. The loss from this source could not have been less than 1,000,000 pounds.

Besides the American fleets fishing on the feeding banks of the salmon there was also a considerable fleet of Canadian fishermen. A very conservative estimate would place the entire loss due to taking immature salmon on the coasts of Washington and Vancouver island at not less than 10,000,000 pounds.

The Canadian Collieries, at Nanaimo, B.C., has shipped a cargo of coal to Sweden, the first shipment of British Columbia coal to the European market.

The Forest's Tribute to the Newspapers

1,000 Square Miles of Pulpwood Forest Denuded Annually to Supply Newsprint

The newspapers of the United States and Canada consume 2,150,000 tons of newsprint annually. Stated in this way, it probably conveys little information to you respecting the effect upon our forests. You will better appreciate the situation when I say that it represents the denudation of the mature trees on an area of 1,000 square miles of forest land each and every year. This will give you an idea of the enormous inroads that newsprint manufacture is making upon the forests of North America.—*James White, in address to the Vancouver Rotary Club.*

Convention at Ottawa

Jubilee Meeting of American Fisheries Society

A joint Convention of the American Fisheries Society and the International Association of Fish, Game and Conservation Commissioners is to be held at Ottawa September 20 to 24 inclusive. The membership of both societies is international in character, including many of the leading authorities throughout Canada and the United States who are engaged in the administration and scientific investigation of natural resources. The annual meeting furnishes an admirable opportunity for the interchange of ideas and experience and for the co-ordination of effort in regard to such resources as are of mutual concern. The forthcoming Convention will be the semi-centennial meeting of the American Fisheries Society and a programme of exceptional interest and value is being prepared.

Pulverized Fuel

Lower Grade and Unmarketable Coals May be Utilized in this Form

Several months ago the Commission of Conservation published a pamphlet by W. J. Dick, M.Sc., on Pulverized Fuel, Its Use and Possibilities. The exceptional demand for this pamphlet, notably from fuel engineers throughout Canada and the United States, reflects the constant search that is being made for a low priced fuel of high efficiency.

Mr. Dick, formerly Mining Engineer to the Commission of Conservation, is a recognized authority on Canada's fuel and power problems, and his research work has gone far towards indicating the methods by which these problems must be solved. Extension of the use of pulverized fuel is one phase of the solution.

Copies of the pamphlet dealing with this subject are freely obtainable on request to the Commission of Conservation.