

Forests Support our Credit in the U.S.

Public Not Appreciative of Part of Forest Products in our Export Trade

For the first nine months of 1919 paper, wood and manufactures of wood were exported from Canada to the United States to the value of \$163,941,802. The total value of exports of Canadian goods to that country for the same period amounted to \$370,246,970.

With our forests supplying over 44 per cent of the exports to offset our purchases, it is not hard to realize what position our exchange would be in but for the forests.

The depreciated value of our money hurts the patriotic pride as well as the pockets of all Canadians. Those who have occasion to visit the United States realize the additional cost to them in purchasing with Canadian money, but it is hard to make the general public realize that the forests of Canada are carrying a tremendous load as the chief support of our credit in the United States. Every effort should be made to protect our forests from fire and to provide efficient forestry management, to enable them to continue in perpetuity the large part they are taking in our foreign trade.

Lantern—Cat—Fire

A farmer near Swift Current recently lost his automobile and garage by fire. A cat upset a lantern in the garage while the owner was carrying some parcels into the house.

In this case experience was a dear teacher. The farmer had probably heard and read many times that it is dangerous to place lanterns where they may be upset; but no doubt dismissed the suggestion as intended only for "the other fellow."

Too often such caution is unheeded, with the result that disaster occurs. Many barns and outbuildings are burned annually in Canada by lanterns being upset. By simply providing hooks on which the lantern could be hung up, this fire waste would be avoided.

The production of Canadian salt in 1919 amounted to 148,302 tons, valued at \$1,398,968. This was obtained almost entirely from the salt fields of southern Ontario.

Fuse Plug a Safety Device

Many people have the idea that when a fuse plug "blows out," it is merely that a weak link in the lighting system has given way. Perhaps the plugs frequently blow out, and the occurrence is each time looked upon merely as one of those annoyances which must be borne.

A fuse plug is a safety device, and is so adjusted that it will "blow out," or break the connec-

tion, as soon as the amount of electricity being used is greater than the wires can carry with perfect safety. Instead of simply replacing the plug—remediating the effect—the cause of the trouble should be sought.

Fuse plugs are usually placed near the meter, and the number of amperes to which they are fused is stamped plainly on the plugs. For instance, if the fuse plugs in your home are stamped "7½ A." it means that this amount of current can be used at one time on each circuit without danger; using more than this amount causes danger from over-heated wiring. The electric wiring in a house is usually divided into a number of individual "circuits," each carrying not more than 7½ amperes, or the equivalent of 15 to 20 ordinary lights.

A five-pownd electric iron, such as is generally used, requires five amperes of electric current. If 7½-ampere fuse plugs are in use, not more than five 50-watt lights can be "on" the circuit at the same time as the iron without the fuses blowing out. An electric toaster carries about the same amount of current as an iron. Under no circumstances is it permissible to use an electric iron and a toaster on the same individual ordinary lighting circuit at the same time. If fire, resulting from over-heating wiring, occurs when two such appliances have been used, insurance companies are justified in refusing to pay claims for damages.

If an early warning of fire danger is desired, fuse plugs which are fused to carry a fairly low amperage, say 7½ or 10 amperes, on your individual distributing circuits should be used.

Deer Farming

In Biological Survey Bulletin No. 36 and Farmers Bulletin 339, the United States Department of Agriculture sets forth the results of investigations into the rearing in captivity of animals of the deer family. The conclusions would very probably apply with equal force to Canada. The following is the summary of the former bulletin:

"The rearing of wild game mammals, both native and introduced, offers a promising field for experiment, as well as for the practical investment of capital.

"The Rocky Mountain elk and the Virginia deer can be reared successfully and cheaply under different conditions in regard to food and climate, as has been proved by many successful experiments. The complete domestication of either species is a possibility which, if realized, would be a source of lasting benefit to the world. With proper encouragement, the production of venison from both elk and deer can be made profitable industries on lands unsuited for cattle, horses, or sheep. The rearing of both species for stocking parks and game preserves would for a time be even

more profitable than the production of venison.

"Instead of hampering breeders by restrictions, state laws should be modified so as to encourage the raising of deer as a source of wealth to the individual and the state. Safeguards against the destruction and sale of wild deer for domesticated deer are necessary. For this purpose a system of licensing private parks or of inspecting and tagging or otherwise marking live animals or carcasses sold or shipped is recommended.

"It is believed that with proper encouragement much of the otherwise waste land in the United States may be made to yield profitable returns from the production of venison, and that this excellent and nutritious meat, instead of being denied to 99 per cent of the population of the country, may become as common and as cheap in our markets as mutton."

Unique Exhibition of Live Silver Foxes

More than 350 foxes, the very cream of the silver fox aristocracy of America, were displayed at the exhibition in Montreal, November 24th, 25th and 26th. It was easily the largest exhibition of its kind ever held anywhere and demonstrated that fox-ranching has become firmly established in Canada and the northern United States. Financial assistance was given by the Federal Department of Agriculture and the provincial governments of Prince Edward Island, New Brunswick, Quebec and Ontario, while the exhibition was managed by officials of the Commission of Conservation.

Prince Edward Island easily held premier place in the number of animals exhibited and also in the number of prizes won. However, foxes from northern Quebec and Nova Scotia captured some of the prizes and in many other instances received highly creditable scores. Foxes whose forbears were brought from Alaska made an excellent showing and, although few in number, carried off some of the leading prizes. Quebec foxes also made a good showing and, with the experience gained at Montreal, their owners will provide still stronger competition at future exhibitions.

Although exhibitors from the United States were admitted to the exhibition on practically an equal footing with those from Canada, the number of animals from American ranches was disappointingly small.

As a conservation measure, the exhibition was important. The rapid and seemingly inevitable depletion of fur-bearers in the wild state makes it essential that they be domesticated sufficiently to permit of their being bred in captivity. The exhibition will become an annual event and other fur-bearing animals, such as red fox, patch fox, mink, fisher, marten, beaver and muskrat, which are being "ranch-ed," will also be shown.—A. Donnell.

Migratory Bird Treaty Endorsed

Supreme Court Judgments in Prince Edward Island and United States Support Legislation

The Supreme Court of Prince Edward Island has rendered judgment, in an appeal from a decision by a local magistrate, upholding the jurisdiction of the Dominion Parliament in passing the Migratory Bird Convention Act, an enabling act to confirm the provisions of the Migratory Bird Treaty. The original decision of the magistrate was based on the opinion that the birds found in the province were the property of the province.

This Prince Edward Island Supreme Court decision endorses the opinion expressed by the United States Supreme Court in rendering judgment in the case of a similar appeal by the state of Missouri, to the effect that migratory birds-traversed many of the states and provinces in their flights, that they were the common property of the public, and therefore a national and not sectional responsibility.

The judgments of the Supreme Courts of Prince Edward Island and of the United States would seem to establish the fact that the provisions of the Migratory Bird Treaty are amply secured by the enabling acts of the two countries concerned.

Increasing Value of Wood Products

The appreciation in value of timber is shown in a recent transaction in second-hand material. Last year, at Bellevue, Ont., a wooden bridge on the Algoma Central railway was removed and replaced by a steel structure. The bridge had been built about twelve years ago, of Douglas fir. After being taken down and after twelve years use, the timber, 1,250,000 board feet, was sold for a higher price than that originally paid for it.

Newsprint, another product of the forest, that before the war sold at \$38 to \$40 per ton, is now selling at \$120.

If these products are worth so much more to-day than a few years ago, what must the increased value represent in the need of precautions for the adequate protection of our forests and for proper methods of cutting?

Some conception of the magnitude of the fish egg collection operations of the Dominion Fisheries branch may be gleaned from the fact that at the egg collecting station at Dauphin river, lake Winnipeg, 328,700,000 whitefish eggs were secured. These were deposited in the Dauphin River, Gull Harbour, Fort Qu'Appelle and Kenora hatcheries.

Hatching 70 to 63 per cent of the 26,261,400 Atlantic salmon eggs was the result secured by the Dominion fish hatcheries from the collection made in the autumn of 1919.