

## Defects Pointed Out in Forest Services

Anomalies of Federal and Ontario Services Should be Corrected

While Ontario has made rapid strides in forest fire protection during the past two years, she still lags greatly behind other provinces in at least two vital respects affecting the conservation of her forest resources. One of these is with respect to the utilization of men with technical forestry training in the actual administration of Crown timber lands.

The provinces of British Columbia, Quebec and New Brunswick maintain provincial forest services, with a considerable staff of trained foresters. In each case, the forest service is in direct, first-hand charge of all timber business on Crown lands, inspecting cutting operations and enforcing the regulations. Nova Scotia will, in all probability, organize a provincial forest service in the near future, with duties including not only fire protection but the general handling of the timber business on Crown lands. Similarly, the Dominion Forestry Branch is responsible not only for fire protection on Dominion Crown timber lands in the western provinces, but has full charge of the enforcement of technical cutting regulations in the Dominion forest reserves, exclusive of licensed timber lands.

As to all licensed timber lands, however, the Ontario Government and the Dominion Government are in the same unprogressive stage of development, in that, while each has a technical forestry organization, this organization does not, in either case, have any direct administrative connection with the enforcement of regulations calculated to ensure that cutting shall be so conducted as to leave the cut-over lands in the best condition to produce another crop.

In another respect, also, the situation in Ontario compares unfavorably with that in other provinces. This is with reference to the machinery provided for the selection of the forest personnel, particularly the ranger staff.

In both British Columbia and New Brunswick, a board or commission is appointed, on which both the Provincial Government and the timber owners are represented, and all forest appointments must receive the approval of this board or commission. As to the Dominion Forestry Branch, all appointments are subject to the approval of the Civil Service Commission. In all these cases, the influence of politics and patronage upon appointments is largely or wholly eliminated.

The rapidly increasing importance of our forest resources in the economic development of the provinces individually, and of Canada as a whole, makes it entirely logical, as well as highly necessary, that both Ontario and the Dominion Government should, at the earliest possible date, correct these administrative anomalies with respect to the perpetuation of their great forest resources.—C. L.



MONTREAL BABY WELFARE WEEK  
Booth in which babies were weighed

Cut No. 187

### Baby Welfare Week Held at Montreal (Continued from page 23)

months is shown in Cut No. 186, together with a group of mothers and babies who have already come under the educational influence of the committee. In Cut No. 187, is seen the nurse busy in the booth where the babies were weighed, and where she fully explained the correct method and the reasons for this important phase of the work.—C. A. H.

## Ontario's 1918 Forest Record

Revenue Largest since 1913 — Permit System works Well for Settlers' Clearing Fires

During the year ending October 31, 1918, the Ontario Government derived a forest revenue of \$1,756,085 from its Crown lands. Of this, nearly half was derived from timber dues and approximately \$190,000 from the fire tax of one cent per acre per year for lands under license. The total revenue for the year is the largest since 1912-1913, when the revenues closely approximated two million dollars. The area under license at the close of the fiscal year is reported at 16,888 square miles, or 574 square miles greater than for the previous year. These figures indicate the vital importance of Ontario's forest resources in furnishing revenue for the support of the provincial administration, as well as in furnishing supplies of raw material for the hundreds of wood-using industries of the province.

The permit system for regulating settlers' clearing fires is working out splendidly in practice. During 1918, 9,590 permits for the burning of slash by settlers were issued as against 3,486 for the previous season. According to the report of the Forest Service, the acreage covered by these permits amounted in 1918 to 39,683, as against 15,186 acres for the previous season. The permits are issued by members of the fire ranging staff, and the Provincial Forester reports that, generally speaking, the settlers cooperate heartily and appear to appreciate the wisdom of the new regulations.

The maximum number of rangers and supervisors was 1,190.—C. L.

## Slash Burning in New Brunswick

Rules that Other Provinces might Well Adopt or Imitate

The safe disposal of logging slash is one of the most important features of any really comprehensive and adequate scheme of forest protection. This is true whether the slash is from a lumbering operation or from the clearing for agricultural lands. The following rules, issued by the New Brunswick Forest Service, are equally applicable in other provinces:

1. Burn in the early spring and fall, preferably when the slash is dry but the soil damp. When the soil is very dry a fire will destroy the humus or vegetable matter which enriches the top layer of the soil, and also is much more difficult to handle.
2. If possible, have one or more neighbors assist in the burning so that the fire may be kept under control at all times.
3. Always make a light fire-break around the slash by throwing any brush or litter in for 50 feet, especially on the side adjacent to timber. This will help to confine the fire and let you get around it quickly should it start to spread.
4. If the slash adjoins timber, burn it if possible when there is a light breeze blowing away from the timber, and start the fire first on the leeward side. If the slash is on a sidehill, start the fire first on the upper side, and burn downhill. When a good guard has been burned along the top, fires may set at the foot of the slope and allowed to burn up.
5. If conditions are at all dangerous, never start a fire in the morning. The best time to start burning is after 5 o'clock in the afternoon of a calm day. The slash is then dry and burns readily, there is little danger of wind, and the fire burns out during the night, when it is least apt to escape.
6. Keep close watch on the area until all fires are completely out.

Be careful with that cigarette stub. The Germans won't pay for our fire waste.

## Wapiti Saved from Extermination

Permanent Close Season Now Established throughout Canada—Drastring Action Necessary

A recent act of the Saskatchewan legislature has established an indefinite close season for the elk or wapiti. This animal is now permanently protected throughout its entire range in Canada. This result has been achieved by the continued activities of an ever increasing circle of persons who take a keen interest in the conservation of our wild life. Various conferences of those interested have been held from time to time and their recommendations have been gradually adopted by the various provincial legislatures. Moreover, these conferences have done much to arouse and increase public interest.

The elk or wapiti, one of the largest of North American fauna, once ranged nearly the entire continent, its incredibly large numbers, but has now become so greatly reduced that to-day a few scattered bands along the Rockies between Colorado and the Brazeau river and some isolated herds in the forests of northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan comprise the entire wild elk left in North America.

Although now almost exclusively found in forests, the wapiti, which was originally an animal of the open plains and park-like regions, is unable to subsist on browse alone and is dependent, therefore, upon grass and weed range for its food supply. This peculiarity introduces an important element into the problem of its conservation, as the animal is obliged to expose itself more to the hunter than those species which never need to come out into the open. Consequently, only very drastic measures taken at one will save the wapiti from extinction.

## Wood Fuel Should Be Sold by Cord

Selling by Load is Injust to Consumer — Need for Using Less Coal

"The Dominion Government should be urged to require wood fuel to be sold only by the standard cord of 128 cubic feet, or fraction thereof, rather than by the load. The latter practice militates strongly against the most general use of wood fuel, besides constituting an injustice to the consumer."

The above is the text of a recommendation of the Committee on Forests of the Commission of Conservation. Wood has always been very important as a fuel in Canada. Last winter, on account of the scarcity of anthracite, its importance was greatly enhanced. Coal supplies for Ontario and Quebec come from the United States; wood fuel, on the contrary, grown at home, and there is therefore a national advantage in substituting wood for coal as far as practicable. The practice of selling wood by the load discourages the consumer, as he is never sure how much he will get for his money. Hence the desirability of enforcing the use of a uniform standard of wood measurement.