

Commission of Conservation CANADA

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CONSERVATION is published the first of each month. Its object is the dissemination of information relative to the natural resources of Canada, their development and proper conservation, and the publication of timely articles on town-planning and public health.

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LEARNING FROM MISFORTUNES

Like most misfortunes, the recent epidemic of influenza has not been an unmissed evil. It has served to draw attention to unsanitary and wretched conditions, especially in the larger cities, that must be eradicated.

Visiting nurses and others engaged in relief work found so-called homes where hygiene was as foreign as it is among the Eskimos. And the number of such homes was astonishingly large.

Already steps have been taken in these places to right these conditions, but it is a difficult task to reach the root of such evils. Education is, undoubtedly, one of the best and surest remedies, education in the art of house-making, in the need for community, industrial and personal cleanliness, in the causes and the prevention of disease. It may be a long process, but conditions should be such that individuals who insist on remaining in ignorance of these matters, or who disregard them should be punished, because they are a menace to the health and well-being of society.

Agencies, such as the medical profession, the St. John Ambulance Association, the Local Councils of Women, or other organizations of men or women which have at heart these problems of public health should be encouraged to renew and increase their efforts in spreading a knowledge of home hygiene and preventive medicine generally.—A. D.

CHILD CONSERVATION

The "back to the school" drive of the children's bureau of the Department of Labour, recently inaugurated, aims to accomplish that which will be endorsed by every thinking person in the country. Year's demands upon industry have increased enormously child labour to meet the requirements of the present, regardless of the future.

It is high time official notice be taken of the evil and drastic action begun to eradicate it before the latter portion of the coming generation is stunted and cheated out of its right to that measure of education in which is founded a proper conception of the duties of citizenship.

This task undertaken by the children's bureau is an attempt to induce children and parents to realize that training the children can obtain to fit them for after-the-war tasks of patriotic service. Orders issued for

some time past by the Labour Department have emphasized the fact that child labour is not considered necessary in essential war industries. But in spite of this effort of the government to suppress the evil it has grown apace and more rapidly than ever since the Supreme Court held the child labour law unconstitutional.

Out of the factory and into the school-room by all means for children of tender years. Investigations by the Department of Labour justify the demand which should be enforced by every sober-thinking and patriotic parent.

It has been shown that in some of the southern textile manufacturing states children between the ages of 5 and 14 years are being employed more than eight hours a day. The premature aging of young children through long and labourious hours of work also is going on in staid old New England and elsewhere. Let the people give their support to this laudable enterprise of the children's bureau and rescue these little ones from a fate that promises to make of them throughout their lives mere menials and servants instead of intelligent and independent American citizens.

—The Post, Washington, D.C.

IT PAYS TO TAKE CARE OF FARM MACHINERY

Farm machinery represents a financial investment. Taking proper care of it results in a monetary gain; leaving it exposed in the open at all seasons of the year must mean economic loss, not only to the farmer but to the whole country. It is generally recognized by authorities on agriculture that, if exposed in all sorts of weather, farm machines depreciate more than they do from fair wear and tear. That is to say, the farmer, who is careless in this respect, pays for more than twice the number of implements that he actually requires. At the same time great manufacturing plants and small armies of workmen have to be kept busy replacing these losses, which, in thousands of instances, are purely and simply the result of carelessness and neglect.

To house implements properly, it may not be necessary to have a special implement shed. Many farmers can utilize an unused barn floor, or a part of some other building. Poultry or other live stock should never be allowed access to the building, or part of a building that has been set aside for machinery. On most farms, however, a special implement house is desirable. A suitable building, if carefully planned to conserve space, can be built at a reasonable cost. Plans can be obtained from the Central Experimental Farm at Ottawa.

Before implements are stored for the season they should be carefully cleaned and oiled. It is a good plan, after removing all dirt, to wipe the entire machine with an oil rag and to grease all wearing parts with tallow or axle grease. Further, it pays to renew the paint on the machinery at regular intervals. Paint of good quality, applied to well-cleaned surfaces, is an excellent protection, as well as improving the appearance of the

machines. Then, too, it is an advantage to attend to all necessary repairs during the winter when the machines are not required. This will save much time and annoyance in the busy seasons.

To sum up: Proper care of farm machinery necessitates a suitable building where the implements will be protected from the sun, wind, rain, snow and live stock, when not in use. In addition, it should be kept clean, well oiled (painted, if necessary) and in good repair.—A. D.

INFLUENZA REQUIRES CAREFUL WATCHING

The recent epidemic of influenza stands out as one of the most severe that has ever swept over America. On no previous invasion of this disease did the mortality resulting from the affections of the respiratory organs, brain and digestive system reach that of the recent scourge. Unfortunately, although influenza is by no means a modern disease, comparatively little was known of its epidemic form until after the ravages it made in 1889-90, and the nature of the infection is even yet, not clearly understood. Studies of the epidemic of 1890, however, are proving of great value in the present instance. For example, it is well known that the epidemic of 1890 was followed by many local epidemics as reflexes of the main scourge. In the city of New York, the local epidemic of 1891 did almost as much damage as the general one of the year before. Further, if the present experience is to be analogous to that of 1890, it may also be expected that the number of cases of tuberculosis and pneumonia will be above normal for some time.

All of which indicates the need for more than ordinary precaution against the disease and its consequent affections or sequelae, for many months to come. It is devoutly to be hoped that the recent epidemic has enabled students of medical science to arrive at more accurate conclusions with respect to the causes and the remedies for influenza, so that, if the recurrence of pandemics, or even of epidemics, cannot be entirely prevented, their disastrous effects may be greatly lessened.

APPRECIATES FORESTRY WORK OF COMMISSION

The following appreciation of the work of the Commission of Conservation in laying a permanent scientific basis for the regeneration of cut-over pulpwood lands has been received from Mr. W. Gerald Power, Chairman of the Woodlands Section of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association:

"The Woodlands Section of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association beg to thank your Commission for its co-operation in studies of the reproduction on cut-over land in Eastern Canada which has been carried on, in co-operation with the Laurentide Company, Ltd., and the Riordon Company, Ltd., for the past two seasons.

"We consider this work of the utmost importance and we trust that the

Commission may continue to co-operate with us along these lines. As you know, sample plots have been laid out and are under investigation. As this work will take a number of years before completion, we hope that your Commission will continue the work and put it on a permanent basis.

"We enclose a resolution which was passed at the last meeting, and trust that you will see fit to continue your work with us in the future."

The resolution referred to is as follows:

"Resolved that the firms represented in the Woodlands Section of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association be asked to subscribe to a Fund for the continuance of various investigations and that the Commission of Conservation be asked to continue its work, and that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Premier, Sir Robert Borden, asking that the Government make the necessary appropriation to carry on such work."

HAVE YOU A SHORTAGE OF HOUSES?

A Suggestion for Boards of Trade

How a Chamber of Commerce may go about systematically to discover for the city the actual extent of its housing facilities, or lack of them, is demonstrated in the methods pursued by the Chamber of Commerce of Beaver Falls, Pa.

Following the reorganization of the Chamber last fall, reports of a house shortage were received by its officers. In order to determine the accuracy of these reports, a survey of industrial plants was conducted by a committee appointed for the purpose. Circular letters were placed in the hands of all employees. Those who had come to the city recently and were unable to secure suitable housing accommodations were asked to communicate their needs to the committee on the return coupon attached to these letters. This circularization of the manufacturing establishments was supplemented by a distribution of the same blanks to public school children, with the request that they be taken home to their parents.

Although the results indicate that the actual house shortage had been exaggerated, enough information was placed at the disposal of the committee to convince its members that the city really had a housing problem. Acting on this assumption the committee is proceeding to interest the manufacturers and other business men of the district in a co-operative community building plan.

The committee is confident that those called upon will respond to this appeal after the housing experts, who are to be brought to the city, place before them the experience of other manufacturing communities in providing homes for the men who have been attracted to them during the recent period of augmented industrial activity.