

Conservation

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Forest Research

Economic Life of Canada Demands Conservation of Forests

The developments of the war have demonstrated that in any intelligent plan of preparedness for either war or peace, the basic industries are of vital importance. The necessity for close co-operation between science and industry has become recognized as never before.

The development and perpetuation of basic industries necessarily implies not only far-reaching plans for the conservation of the raw materials, but also the conduct of scientific research that new uses and the most efficient methods of utilization may be determined.

The raising in Canada of several Forestry Battalions, for the cutting of timber overseas, emphasizes the vital importance of forest resources in connection with war operations. In Canada, we must recognize that, whether a war or peace basis, the lumber and pulpwood industries are essentially basic industries, that upon them depend a host of secondary industries of vital importance to the economic life of the country, and that the best utilization of our forest resources, including the development of new uses and new markets, both domestic and foreign, will offer a wide field for industrial research. We should be able to increase the intelligent use of wood by learning more about its qualities. This, in turn, means more and better business for Canada and an increased capacity, from both direct and indirect returns, for the payment of the great war debt with which the country will be confronted.

An excellent beginning has been made in such investigations by the Forests Laboratories maintained by the Dominion Forestry Branch, in co-operation with McGill University at Montreal. Particularly valuable are the investigations of pulp and paper manufacture which promise results most important to the industry.

In many cases scientific research may pave the way for vastly increased markets for Canada's surplus forest products. In addition to such opportunities, there is need

for research to determine methods for better utilization of wood waste. Under present conditions, only about one-third of the solid contents of the tree is utilized in the form of lumber, the balance going to waste in the form of sawdust, slabs, edgings, tops, stumps, etc. Ultimately, it should be possible, with proper methods, to use to advantage at least a considerable proportion of this waste material.

Summer Fires

Grave Danger from Stoves in Summer Kitchens Without Chimneys

A serious fire hazard is the summer kitchen or lean-to. Frequently there is no chimney attached, yet stoves are moved out for the warm season, and a stovepipe put through the wall or roof. This is a very dangerous practice, and should not be permitted.

Stoves should be at least eighteen inches from any wooden wall or partition. The floor should be covered with zinc or iron beneath the stove to catch any live coals, the covering should extend beyond the stove for eighteen inches in front and on the side on which the fire door opens. Where pipes pass through partitions, proper thimbles with air spaces should be provided. Brick chimneys should be used, and these should be at least eight inches thick, and start from a foundation on the ground. If chimneys be lined with tile forms made for the purpose, a single brick thickness is satisfactory. This is the only safe way, and, while more expensive, the reduction in the fire danger more than compensates for the added cost. Again, as insurance companies will not knowingly insure a building where a stovepipe passes to the outside through a wall or roof, the insurer risks being unable to collect the amount of his insurance policy.

School children should be taught fire prevention.

To avoid having to stop while street cars take on or discharge passengers, motorists frequently drive at excessive speed to overtake the cars. This dangerous practice should be dealt with severely.

Saving the Waste Paper

Enormous Quantities are Lost Which Might be Again Utilized

All available sources of information report shortage in raw material for woodpulp. Recruiting for the forestry and other battalions has taken many woodsmen out of the country, and during the past season the cut of wood has been very much below the average.

The demand for Canadian woodpulp is rapidly increasing. One of the more important factors is the cutting off from the United States of the supply from Norway and Sweden, owing to lack of shipping. The heavy sale of newspapers, with news of the war, has also greatly increased the demand for paper.

The Canadian and United States governments have enabled the newspapers to secure their supply of paper at a price which they can afford to pay. Without this action, many of them would no doubt have been compelled to cease publication.

Canadians are wasting an enormous amount of paper daily. Very small, indeed, is the supply available for reclamation compared with the amount distributed daily by the newspapers alone. All of this paper, if saved, could be used again for other purposes, such as the making of building papers, box-board, roofing felts, filling for pasteboards, etc., thus relieving the shortage of new materials.

With the scarcity and increased cost of pulpwood, the public should make every effort to assist. Much can be accomplished by saving waste paper, and various organizations have had good results. In one day, eight schools in Winnipeg turned in 5½ tons of old paper to the Red Cross Society. This achievement can be repeated all over Canada. In many of the smaller places, schools could combine their collections. Boy Scout or Girl Guide troops could collect and deliver to a headquarters, or collecting boxes could be placed at street corners where the public could deposit parcels of old papers. Through the use of collecting

boxes in Ottawa the Daughters of the Empire are securing 35 tons per month. All qualities of paper can be used: newspapers, books, magazines, manilla or kraft wrapping, cartons, etc.

Numerous organizations could with advantage undertake this work, looking after the gathering, packing and shipping of the material. A large revenue could be derived from this source, and valuable service thus rendered to Canada in relieving our forest resources of a heavy strain.

Replacement of War Losses

Protection of Child Life Must Receive Greater Attention

The importance of infant welfare work at this stage in the nation's crisis is daily becoming more generally recognized by all classes of the community. For many years our public health authorities have been sowing on what seemed very barren ground, but the outpouring of the nation's blood, the willing sacrifice of thousands of the best and most virile of the race, has caused the apparently lost seed to germinate, and there are now prospects of an abundant harvest. Had we looked after our infant life during the last forty years there ought to have been to-day between the ages of 18 and 40 another 1,300,000 men available for the fighting forces. In other words, we have allowed, through our blindness, thousands of men to die in their infancy, male babies born often healthy and in all respects capable in due time, if proper attention had been given them, or if their home conditions had been better, of growing up and doing their full duty to the nation as our splendid sons to-day are doing in the battlefields of the world. Because of ignorance which is curable, because of improper conditions around them which are removable, thousands of these fellow citizens of ours whom we shall 'too late' wished we had saved, now die within twelve months of their arrival in the world.—W. H. Edmunds, in *Journal of the Royal Sanitary Institute*.