

# Conservation

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## Exterminate the House-fly

Attack Filthy, Disease-carrying  
Pest in its Breeding-grounds.  
Campaign for a Clean City

The house-fly is the dirtiest of all vermin. It visits the filthiest places imaginable and then distributes the filth over our food. It carries the germs of typhoid, infantile diarrhoea, and other intestinal diseases, and, probably, assists in the spread of tuberculosis.

Hence, it is not merely very dirty but exceedingly dangerous as well. Means of protection against flies are common; doors and windows may be screened, fly papers, traps, 'swatters', and poison may be employed to kill those that do enter the house. But these purely defensive measures are not enough. The war must be carried into the enemy's country; the fly must be exterminated.

To wage war with the adult fly is to go into a ceaseless battle that can never be decisive in man's favour. The flies form such a numerous host that it is impossible to kill them all in a single season and a very few survivors are sufficient to propagate an equally numerous host the season following.

The only way to exterminate the fly is to attack it in the larval or maggot form. Flies lay their eggs in manure or garbage; ten days from the time of hatching the maggots emerge as winged insects, fully equipped for distributing disease-breeding bacteria. But a city with clean backyards and clean stable premises would be a flyless city, for it would have abolished the flies' breeding-grounds. The plan of campaign against these annoying and dangerous pests is thus plain: we must clean up, not once or twice a year, but all the time. City by-laws should require all owners of stables to keep manure in a fly-tight, covered box and to have it removed at least twice a week. A similar law should apply to the disposal of garbage. Persons with dirty back-yards should be prosecuted.

Privies should be ashed wherever possible and, where allowed, should be kept continually disinfected and be cleaned twice weekly. The piling of refuse in disgusting and unsight-

## Municipal Sanitation

Proper Facilities for Destruction of  
Refuse Should be Provided

A garbage 'dump' is a disgrace to any city or town. Of what advantage is it to remove the numerous private rubbish-heaps to build a gigantic communal rubbish-heap? Is the unsightliness or the dangerous filthiness in any wise reduced by piling all the refuse into one vast, festering, disease-breeding mass? It may be some advantage to those parts of the town remote from the dump, but only at the expense of some other portion of the city and it is grossly unfair. No true citizen from a high-class residential district could feel satisfied if the cleanliness of his particular portion of the town were achieved by the utter spoiling of some other portion. Any man who is proud of his city would feel as much shame that there should be a filthy civic backyard as that his own backyard should be dirty. The only satisfactory method of removing refuse is to burn it in an incinerator or, failing that, to have it buried.

ly "dumps" should never be permitted. If the town cannot afford an incinerator, the refuse should be buried.

Experiments conducted by the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture have shown that the fly larvae in manure and other refuse may be killed by treatment with borax, one pound of borax being sufficient to treat 16 cu. ft. or very nearly 13 bushels of manure. If used in larger quantities, the borax may prove injurious to plants. The borax should be sifted over the manure, particularly near the edges of the pile, which should then be sprinkled with four gallons of water. This treatment will kill 98 to 99 per cent of all the larvae in the manure. At 11 cents per pound for borax, it is estimated that the cost would be 2 cents per horse per day. This cost could be very greatly reduced by employing calcined colemanite instead of borax, if the former were imported in large quantities. One pound of colemanite will treat 11 bushels of manure and its larvicidal action is as effective as that of borax.

## Weeds on City Lots

Drastic Action Demanded to  
Eliminate this Menace to  
Agriculture

At the last annual meeting of the Commission of Conservation special stress was laid upon the increasing prevalence of weeds. Earnest pleas were made for action to overcome this detriment to agriculture.

While farming interests are exerting themselves to eliminate this serious handicap, they have just cause to complain of the prevalence of weeds on city lots and subdivided land upon the outskirts of cities and towns. This land, once farming some of the best farms, offers ideal conditions for the growth of weeds, and they flourish in great luxuriance. The owners in many cases are non-residents, and, consequently, do not appreciate the condition of their property.

Municipal officers and roadmasters should be given the authority, and be compelled, to have weeds cut upon vacant property, the cost of doing the work to become a legal charge against the land. The majority of owners would be willing to pay the cost of weed cutting, and would appreciate the service. It is hoped that action will be taken, so that vacant urban property may no longer be regarded as a dangerous weed menace.

## CANADIAN TIMBER VALUES

According to a recent Commerce Report the values of the various classes of timber produced in Canada in 1914, together with the values of the forest products, total \$176,672,000, being divided as follows: Lumber, lath and shingles, \$67,500,000; fire wood, \$60,500,000; pulpwood, \$15,500,000; posts and rails, \$9,500,000; cross ties, \$9,000,000; square timber exported, \$4,000,000; coopeage, \$1,900,000; poles, \$700,000; logs exported, \$850,000; tanning material, \$22,000; round mining timbers, \$500,000; miscellaneous exports, \$300,000; miscellaneous products, \$10,000,000.

## Preservation of Wood

Use of Paint or Other Protection  
Greatly Increases Life

From the standpoint of the average consumer, more has been expected of wood and less done to help it serve a great variety of uses than almost any other building material. It is a comparatively modern conception that proper preservative treatment is practical and economical on the farm and around the home. Good paint is a good friend of lumber, and, while not usually considered in that light, is the one protection against the natural progress of decay which has been universally used. Yet the well painted house has unprotected floor beams in moist walls, door steps on wet ground, and many inside surfaces and timbers which are continually exposed to conditions favorable to decay. The wonderful service which wood has given during all the years, with little or no consideration of the factors which destroy, brings into greater prominence the possibilities of preservative treatment under the present day desire for permanence and elimination of waste. No one expects unprotected steel to do anything but rust, concrete is waterproofed and its surface protected from abrasion and disintegration, fabrics are shielded from the elements, white wood has largely been left to shift for itself. The application of wood preserving methods to the every day uses of lumber, where it needs protection from decay, is in keeping with modern ideas.—

Steering.

## FOREST PROTECTION

The state of Maine makes an annual appropriation of \$71,400 for forestry work. Of this, \$69,400 is expended on fire protection, \$1,000 on nurseries and reforestation work, and the balance on investigations and publications. In Massachusetts, the annual forestry appropriation is \$83,000, of which \$33,000 is for fire protection, \$10,000 for nurseries and reforestation work, and \$20,000 for the purchase and maintenance of state forests. The remainder, \$20,000, is expended for administration, publications and investigation.