

## One Cause of Power Shortage in Ontario

Chicago Diverting Nearly Twice Authorized Amount of Water from the St. Lawrence System

Closely allied with the power shortage at Niagara, as well as at all water-powers of the St. Lawrence, is the question of water diversion through the Chicago Sanitary canal. One feature, which has perhaps not been sufficiently emphasized in connection with this scheme, has been forcibly brought out in recently published figures respecting the power plant, which evidently is a very important feature of the project. The figures show that the disposal of sewage is only a secondary consideration when compared with the financial aspect of the hydro-electric power development. This is further accentuated by the fact that the estimated profits from the extensions now under construction would be about 100 per cent. Figures showing the growth of the power plant give the development as 15,278 h.p., with earnings of \$130,936 for the year 1908, while, in 1915, these figures had reached 55,640 h.p. and \$932,566, respectively. Although the authorized diversion is but 4,167 cubic feet per second, it is notorious that about 8,000 cubic feet per second is actually flowing through the Chicago river.—*Eighth Annual Report, Commission of Conservation.*

## Rural School Fairs in Dundas County

Boys and Girls Strongly Influence the Older Folks to Farm Better

The school fairs held this year in Dundas county, Ont., where the Commission of Conservation is conducting an agricultural survey, were a decided success. The whole county is now organized for this work and a fair was held in each of the four townships. Splendid weather prevailed and large crowds were in attendance. The exhibits of vegetables, grains and fruits were, in each case, far ahead of that seen at many regular township fairs. It is a noticeable feature that the exhibits are improving from year to year in quality and in the manner in which they are displayed, which demonstrates that the children are profiting by their experience in past fairs. Selected seed of standard varieties is supplied to the pupils to awaken an interest on the home farm in seed selection, and, as this seed multiplies, the whole farm is sown with the improved varieties.

The fair affords a pleasant outing for parents as well as for the children, and many old acquaintances are renewed. The children are benefited in many ways. They learn to give and take among their fellows. A spirit of loyalty to their

school is aroused. They taste the joy of success and learn to accept defeat gracefully. The mere winning of a prize is only an incident; the fact that the child has tried hard to win is well worth the effort. It means better work has been done and the child's capabilities have been increased thereby.

### How One Farmer Kept His Boy On The Farm

A drainage inspector in a Canadian province once visited a certain farmer and found him not only in possession of a good house, with modern sanitary equipment, but he and his family were enjoying the occupation of the best rooms in the house. On being asked why he did not live in the kitchen like his neighbours, and why he looked so much after the comforts of his home, he replied that he wanted to keep his boy on the farm, and that he could not expect to do so if he did not provide him with home comforts equal to those enjoyed by people of equal means and rank of life in the city. There is more sound philosophy in the method of that farmer than is met between the covers of many text books on rural depopulation.—*From Rural Planning and Development.*

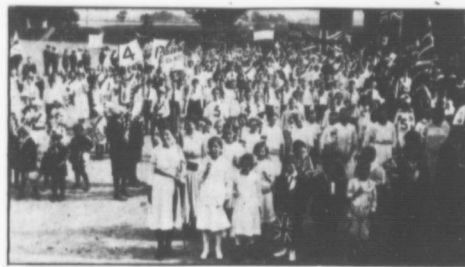
## Potash Now Being Made from Sea-weed

Plant for This Purpose Has Been Erected in British Columbia

When the war broke out, the fertilizer supply, especially that of potash, was badly disrupted. Until then, Germany had been the principal source of supply. Attention was immediately directed to several possible materials from which potash might be obtained. Among these was kelp, a water-plant growing in great profusion along the sea-coast. Especially is this the case on the British Columbia coast, where, owing to the many indentations, the kelp beds are of large area.

After careful investigation a plant for making potash from kelp has been installed at Pacific, on Moresby island, one of the Queen Charlotte group. It will have a capacity of 1,000 tons of wet kelp daily, and will get its supply from Cumshewa inlet. The kelp is reaped by knives suspended below scows, which cut the standing growth as they pass over the beds. The kelp then rises to the surface, where it is gathered up.

The company, in addition, proposes to extract oils from non-edible fish and to make fertilizer from the fish refuse.—*W.J.D.*



SCHOOL FAIR AT SOUTH MOUNTAIN

Happy faces of children who are being trained to get the most out of rural life in pleasure and profit. *Cut 164*

### FIGHTING VENERAL DISEASES

The Health Department of Baltimore, Md., is posting placards in hotels, bath houses, railway stations and other public places warning the public against quacks, advertising doctors and patent medicines in the treatment of venereal diseases, and pointing out that expert medical advice can be had free at several dispensaries throughout the city. Many factories, stores, barber shops and theatres are also displaying these placards.

The staff of the Commission of Conservation have formed a co-operative society through which they will purchase household supplies and foodstuffs.

### QUEBEC WILL EXTEND ITS FOREST NURSERY

During the past year, more than 500,000 forest tree seedlings have been shipped from the Quebec forest nursery at Berthierville, P.Q. The provincial forester, G. C. Piché, reports that of these, nearly 200,000 were white pine, 180,000 Norway spruce, 82,000 Scotch pine, 20,000 Douglas fir, 8,000 red pine, 7,000 white spruce, and 6,000 tamarack, the balance being made up of relatively small numbers of other species, mostly hardwoods, to supply the demands of farmers. The great bulk of the demand was, however, for the reforestation of burned-over non-agricultural lands. The Laurentide

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Company, and the Rfordan Pulp and Paper Company were heavy purchasers of plant material from the provincial nursery, in addition to supplies secured from their own nurseries. The Perthurb signiory also has purchased a large number of small trees from Berthierville annually during the past seven years.

To date, the provincial nursery has shipped a total of more than 1,500,000 trees since its inception of these, more than half have been supplied during the past two years. The demand for planting stock has become so insistent that the provincial forester announces the proposed extension of the capacity of the Berthierville nursery to 3,000,000 seedlings annually. Of these, the majority will be Norway spruce, which is believed to be the most suitable species for pulpwood production.—*C.L.*

### RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The report on *Rural Planning and Development* just published by the Commission of Conservation is an epoch-marking work and should be in the hands of all public spirited citizens interested in the important problem of national policy.

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