

# Conservation

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## Bird Protection in Canada

Splendid Educational Work of  
The Canadian Society for  
the Protection of Birds

In past years, one of the greatest obstacles encountered in the effort to secure proper protection for the wild life of Canada has been the lack of strong, organized endeavour, independent of official connection. The work of the Canadian Society for the Protection of Birds, incorporated in 1915, promises, in large measure, to remedy this difficulty. The objects of this society, stated generally, are as follows:—

(a) To instruct the public regarding the importance of protecting bird life in the interests of the country by holding meetings, lectures and exhibitions.

(b) To publish and distribute literature relating to birds, and cooperate with the Federal and Provincial Governments and regularly organized natural history societies throughout Canada in this respect; also to acquire and maintain a library.

(c) To secure legislation in behalf of bird protection in addition to existing legislation and to assist in enforcing the same.

(d) To forward the study of migration and all other matters relating to the nature of birds.

From the foregoing it will be seen that the work of this society is mainly educational. It has already organized and undertaken a thorough-going campaign for the promotion of nature study in Canadian schools. The concentration of effort in this direction will, it is hoped, inculcate in the minds of the rising generation a deeper and fuller appreciation of the values, both material and sentimental, which attach to bird life than has characterized the Canadian people heretofore.

Forest planting has been carried on by the Japanese for probably a much greater period than 400 years, and it is this work that gives Japan credit for having practised forestry before any other nation. As a matter of fact, however, the forests of Japan have been under real forest management less than thirty years.—Ex.

## Drinking Fountains

A Necessity for Horses and Dogs  
During Warm Months

A small and yet an important matter, which has been overlooked in many of our cities and towns, is the provision of drinking fountains. Fountains are especially necessary for horses, dogs and birds. The general public can usually find a place to quench thirst, but not so the dumb animals. The supplying and placing of fountains is not an expensive matter, and should be undertaken by the community. In municipalities which place a tax upon horses and dogs, the supplying of drinking fountains would in a small way justify this tax.

Drinking fountains would also encourage birds to remain in the cities. Much money has been expended by municipalities in fighting insect destroyers of shade trees, when not the slightest effort has been made to protect the birds—the natural enemy of insects.

## PRACTICAL RESULTS OF TOWN PLANNING

In giving his experience as a resident of a town-planned garden suburb, Mr. George Phelps, now of Toronto, at the preliminary conference to form a Civic Improvement League, said:—I had the privilege of living in a garden suburb a few years ago, and from having lived in it and taking part in the life there, that very fact has fired me with an enthusiasm for town-planning and housing I cannot get rid of. I know the project from the inside, and I also know that the place where I lived was one of the most beautiful places anywhere—the Hampstead garden suburb in England. Anything I can do to forward a movement to improve conditions in the way that the town-planning movement has been carried on there I will do to my very utmost ability, simply because I know, from living in it and being connected with the movement, what a tremendous benefit it is, not only in beautifying the town but in uplifting the people who live there.

## Slaughter of Shade Trees

Glaring Cases of Neglect in  
Some of Our Cities—Trained  
Arborists Required

To sustain life at all under urban conditions, trees do as much as can reasonably be expected. In some cities so little value is placed upon shade trees that they are not only given no care whatever, but are exposed to all the ill-treatment which the malicious and thoughtless can bestow.

A particularly glaring instance of neglect may be seen in Canada's metropolis. Montreal has long been noted for its handsome old trees. They have been an attraction for visitors, and one of the beautiful features of that city. Without the trees, Montreal's residential streets would be bare, indeed, and yet along these thoroughfares may be noted many aggravated cases of abuse of the trees. A correspondent calls attention to this condition as follows:

"Referring to an article which appeared in your March issue respecting the treatment of shade trees in cities, may I—with the hope that the matter may thus be conveyed to proper authority—draw your attention to the beautiful trees of Upper Mountain street, Montreal, and others in the vicinity of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel on Sherbrooke street.

"Some of these trees are certainly over 100 years old and tower high above the surrounding houses. Very few streets indeed in any city can boast of such a fine avenue. Yet, nobody seems to care about them, and visitors passing opposite the Hampton Court Apartments, between St. Catherine and Sherbrooke streets, are shocked to see the milkman's horses, as well as those of the baker, the scavenger, etc., biting and eating away the bark of these giants until several square feet of the trunks are now entirely denuded, and therefore exposed to rot and decay.

"Further up beyond Sherbrooke, a great many fine trees have been entirely neglected. Broken limbs are to be seen at every step, caused by glazed-frost at different

times; no tree-surgeon ever passed there. Again on Sherbrooke street, fine big trees have seen their roots cut and trimmed to be tightly enclosed in concrete sidewalks and asphalted streets.

"It is high time that tree-surgeons should be appointed by the city of Montreal to attend to such trees which are one of the finest ornaments of that great city."

Canadian cities have been slow to appreciate the value of shade trees, but it is a hopeful sign that some are now realizing what shade trees mean to their streets and are taking measures for their protection. With this growing interest has come the appointment of specialists in the care of trees under civic conditions. These trained arborists look to the saving of the trees, their proper planting and their protection from the ravages of insects. Tree butchers in the employ of public service corporations are guarded against, and conditions are made such as to preserve and strengthen tree life.

The great service of trees in shading and beautifying our streets and in providing a refuge for the wild birds entitles them to every care and protection, and it is hoped that our Canadian cities which have not done so, our metropolis especially, will appoint thoroughly efficient arborists to supervise their valuable shade trees.

## POTASH AND FELDSPAR

Dr. Frank D. Adams, speaking at the recent annual meeting of the Commission of Conservation, said: "A question of great importance is whether we cannot find deposits of potash in Canada. It is practically impossible for us to find deposits of potash similar to the German ones, but, locked up in the rocks of the northern Laurentian country, where we have these great granites, we possess enormous deposits of silicate of potash and feldspar. These are now awaiting the arrival of some one who will invent a method to get supplies from the old granite rocks. Whenever that can be done we will have in the northern country an enormous and inexhaustible supply of potash."