

**Commission of Conservation  
CANADA**

**Sir Clifford Stovon, K.C.M.G.**  
Chairman  
**James Wherry**  
Assistant to Chairman and Deputy Head

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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**THE UNNECESSARY CAT**

Nature has provided in the form of bird life a means to counteract the action of agents destructive to plant life. While artificial means may, to a limited extent, hold the multiplication of insect life in check, no human agency can accomplish the results which are secured by the birds.

Man, by his own action of inaction, is responsible for the causes which restrict the increase in the number of our birds. Slaughter and the robbing of nests by men and boys and the treacherous family cat have made such inroads on their numbers that the balance provided by nature has been destroyed.

By the recently consummated Migratory Bird Treaty, the protection of migratory birds from destruction by men has been provided for. No attempt has been made, however, to remove the menace of the unnecessary cat. The elimination of it must, therefore, be left to the good sense and the public spirit of the individual citizen. The number of these prowling destroyers, and their predilection for birds as their prey, cause the loss to Canada of vast numbers of our best food conservators every year.

**A Comedy of Errors**

The Fire Marshal of the state of Wisconsin has issued a bulletin which terms a "Comedy of Errors." It should have been called a tragedy. It says:

He looked for a gas leak with a match, and found it.  
He lighted a match to see if his gasolene tank was empty. It was not.  
He smoked while filling his auto tank, but will do so no more.  
He smoked in bed; so did the bed clothes.  
He threw the matches into the waste paper basket. He is wiser now.  
He threw a cigarette stub into some rubbish.  
He saved his oily waste and oily rags and they burned the shop.  
He washed his hands in gasolene near the stove. The doctor washes them now.  
He did not worry about fires as he had "plenty of insurance," and forgot the safety of his wife and children upstairs.  
He stuffed up the chimney holes

with paper and rags.

She cleaned her gloves with gasolene and saved fifteen cents, but paid the doctor and druggists fifteen dollars.

She poured kerosene into the lamp while the wick was burning.

She put gasolene into the wash boiler on the stove to make washing easier.

She dried clothes too near the stove.

She used the wrong oil can.

She larned sulphur all over the house to fumigate.

She used the wood-box back of the range as a waste paper receptacle.

She gave matches to her children to go out to burn leaves in the yard. The cotton dresses burned easier than the leaves.

She was "coming right back," so left the electric current on in her iron.

She swung the gas bracket too close to the curtains.

She fixed up a fine tissue paper shade for the lamp.

She filled the tank of her gasolene stove while one burner was going.

The comedies have turned to tragedies; many of the scenes of action were in ashes and too many of the actors are maimed or dead, more will follow, no doubt, as they are prone to ignore the advice and experience of others instead of profiting by their errors and sufferings.

**CONSERVATION NOTES**

"Very concise and complete" is the comment J. Macgregor Smith, Professor of Agricultural Engineering in the University of Saskatchewan, makes on the Farmer's Account Book, published by the Commission of Conservation.

Since the outbreak of war, France has lost 2,600,000 head of cattle. Those remaining are greatly reduced in weight and increasingly larger numbers of them have to be killed to produce the same weight of dressed meat.

There is great activity in oil and gas production in Southwestern Ontario. Successful drilling has been done in West Dover township, Kent county; near Aylmer in Elgin county; near Thamesville, Kent county; Glencoe, Middlesex county; Long Point, Norfolk county; and near Stevensville, Welland county. Most of the wells are slightly over 3,000 feet deep and are in the Trenton geological formation.

The lady bug is one of the gardner's best friends. It is an inappreciable enemy on all forms of plant lice.

A number of Mexicans have been imported to pull flax and look after he sugar beet crop in Lambton county, Ontario. They are said to be good workers.

President Wilson says the coal shortage is the most serious danger now facing the United States. That is the country from which we get our

anthracite. Have you got your coal bin filled yet?

To forestall any shortage in fall wheat seed, the Ontario Department of Agriculture is importing, from New York state 50,000 bushels of a variety similar to Dawson's Golden Chaff. It is being assembled and cleaned by the Shredded Wheat Co. at Niagara Falls and will be distributed through the millers at \$2.50 per bushel.

The Alberta Department of Agriculture acting in conjunction with the Dominion authorities have taken steps to equalize fodder and, cattle conditions in Alberta by arranging to winter cattle from the southern drought-affected districts in the north where early frosts have increased the supply of fodder.

The seven trawlers operating in Canadian waters bring in 1,000,000 lbs. of fish weekly.

Seager Wheeler, the noted Saskatchewan wheeler, has developed a variety of wheat that is claimed to mature ten days earlier than the famous Marquis wheat, and is, therefore, practically immune from rust and early frost on the prairies.

Cresote oil, a product of the distillation of wood, has been found by the Forest Products Laboratories to be an efficient substitute for Southern pine oil in the flotation process of separating minerals.

Reconstruction after the war will rely largely on co-operation. Co-operation of men and women in kindred industries, of those in agricultural pursuits with those engaged in manufacturing, of capital and labour. It is of first importance, therefore, to remove the causes for suspicions and mistrust between all classes, in order that the social revolution that will come at the end of the war, may be a peaceful and beneficial one.

Can nothing that can be kept without canning. Dry such vegetables as corn, string beans, navy beans, lima beans, etc. Store mature potatoes and other roots in bins, cellars or pits.

Can everything else.  
"Every time you fill the tank of your auto or tractor by lamp or other open light, you are inviting an explosion."

British Columbia canned herring is meeting with a growing demand. It is estimated that 250,000 cases will be backed this year, an increase of 15 per cent over 1917.

**LITTLE THINGS**  
It was only a little camp fire, but it blackened that beautiful spot;  
It was but a little match that burned the farmer's lot;  
It was only a cigarette, so the tourist says;  
It was only a little spark, but you and I had to pay.  
**PUT IT OUT—PUT IT OUT.**  
—U.S. Forest Service.

**HINTS ON STORING COAL**

During the present year, consumers are storing coal as long in advance of winter as possible. It is important, therefore, that they should take precautions in the storage if loss through spontaneous combustion is to be prevented. There are certain simple methods of handling coal that experience has taught are necessary to obviate such a misfortune, especially where considerable quantities are to be stored. Thus, coal should be so piled that air can circulate through it freely to carry off the heat, or so closely piled that air cannot enter the pile. Low piles are preferable if space permits and alleyways should be provided to facilitate moving the coal quickly. Occasional ventilation pipes are ill-advised, but the practice of placing such pipes close together has been tried in Canada with effective results. Different kinds of coal should not be mixed in storage.

In quenching fire in a pile, water should only be used if there is an ample supply; a small amount is ineffective and very dangerous.

Where available, under-water storage is recommended as it entirely eliminates spontaneous combustion. The preparation of a suitable pit for this method of storage is sometimes costly, but old quarries, clay pits and even prairie sloughs have been used. Deterioration of coal stored under water is negligible and it absorbs very little extra moisture.—L. G. D.

**Letters to the Editor**

**MOVIES AND THE ORPHAN**

Editor of CONSERVATION:  
It has become a popular thing in motion picture plays to depict the orphan child as cruelly and harshly treated in a wretched foster home, and whenever these pictures are shown, as they frequently are of late—the audience is quick in its expressions of pity and horror. Such cases do happen occasionally but they are becoming increasingly rare as our child protection work advances in more efficient organization. They are well advertised and often overshadow completely the great and beneficial work that is done in foster homes. Evil is always so much more in evidence than good! It may interest the public to know that many adopted children have graduated from our universities and ladies' colleges, become teachers in our public and high schools, soldiers, trained nurses, and clever business men; while thousands fill less pretentious but equally useful positions in society. Justice should be done the people who freely give their time and means in the care and training of these children. We have high ideals in this work and only desire to place children in homes where they will be sure of loving and sympathetic care, and the whole community should be interested. If at any time a mistake is made those who know of it should report without delay.

J. J. KELLO.  
University Avenue, Toronto.

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