

**Commission of Conservation
CANADA**

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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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PLAYGROUNDS

If the men of to-day in our cities and towns could be persuaded to look back to the days of their boyhood, and realize what the open air meant to them, there would be no need to plead for their support on behalf of playgrounds for our boys.

It is said that in "Who's Who in Canada," a compilation of the prominent men of this country, eighty-five per cent of the names are those of men born on the farm. Only one valid reason can be given for this large proportion of country-born Canadians reaching prominence, and that is the healthy conditions under which they started life. Born beyond the crowded streets of our larger towns and cities, with plenty of good pure air and ample room for healthful play and recreation, they commenced their careers under conditions almost ideal for the building up of strong bodies and active minds, and in the strain of business cares, this great handicap has told in their favour.

Conditions have changed, however, in this country, and we now have in our cities many thousands of lads without the opportunities that were available to our to-day leading men. Crowded streets, tenements, apartment blocks, and tenements are accumulating, and in such unhealthy surroundings many children are reared. No space is available for their games except the street, and the long list of street accidents demonstrates the use that is made of them by the children in answering the call to the open.

The establishment of playgrounds for the children is one of our greatest social needs. True, some cities have opened playgrounds, and their popularity demonstrates how great is the need.

The expense of fitting up playgrounds is not great, and should be met by public appropriation. Healthful play to build up the body is as necessary as schools to educate the mind, and should receive a due proportion of attention.

The Duke of Wellington gave credit to the playing fields of Eton for the winning of the battle of Waterloo, and in this he paid a

tribute to healthful play and emphasized the need of playgrounds that the boys of our cities—our coming men—may have the advantage of healthy exercise under safe and sanitary conditions.

**Heavy Destruction
By Rats and Mice**

Australia Suffers Heavily—Loflic Habits of These Animals

On no occasion have the destructive powers of mice been more strikingly demonstrated than during the past year in Australia. Owing to the lack of ocean transportation, vast quantities of grain destined for export have accumulated in New South Wales and Victoria. A plague of mice developed and the destruction to the stored grain has been enormous. In some places, the ravages of the mice were so great that huge stacks of grain were reduced to what resembled heaps of debris in a few months. The Wheat Board in New South Wales organized a campaign of destruction. In one place, the catch for two nights totalled seven tons of mice. In another place 56,000 mice were caught in four nights. This was an exceptional outbreak, but it serves to show the destructive power of these small creatures in the mass. Everywhere everywhere there is greater need than ever for the conservation of every bushel of grain and every pound of food.

When the prolific habits of rats are taken into account the extent of the menace they constitute will be made still clearer. The brown rat begins to breed when about three or four months old; they breed from six to ten times a year and produce on the average ten young in a litter. If we imagine a pair of rats breeding at this rate

for three years without any deaths among their progeny at the end of that short period the number would be increased to over 350,000,000 rats.—Dr. C. Gordon Hewitt in Ninth Annual Report, Commission of Conservation.

**FEEDING GRAIN TO WILD
FOWL IS PROHIBITED**

One of the chief methods employed to secure large bags of ducks and other wild fowl is to attract them to the places where shooting "blinds" are placed by scattering broadcast grain of various kinds. The ducks are attracted in greater numbers to such food and they are thus killed more easily than by other methods of hunting. Early in the war the feeding of grain to game birds was prohibited in England as a conservation measure. In order to conserve grain of all kinds in this country, the use without a written permit from the Canada Food Board, of any wheat, barley, oats, rye, Indian corn, buckwheat or peas for the purpose of feeding or decoying migratory wild fowl has been prohibited on the recommendation of the Board. This will result in the saving of a considerable amount of grain that is generally wasted, as the amount actually eaten by the ducks that are decoyed by such methods is but a small proportion of the quantity used, and the grain that is actually eaten does not contribute to the production of meat to an extent that justifies its use in this manner. While this prohibition may reduce the sizes of the "bags" in certain localities, where this method of decoying is employed, it will not prove a serious handicap to legitimate duck-hunting and it will result in a saving of food supplies to the production of which the country is bending every effort.

BUY YOUR WINTER EGGS IN MAY AND JUNE

Eggs laid in April, May and early June keep better than those laid later in the season. If properly treated, they will keep in perfect condition from eight to twelve months. If the eggs are to be boiled, the larger end should be pierced with a needle point before putting them in the boiling water.

The eggs, to begin with, must be fresh and clean, not washed clean, but laid clean. If the shell of an egg is not clean, use it at once. If there is a spot of soil on the shell, the water glass does not come in contact with the shell and the egg will decay.

A quart of water glass in a five-gallon crock or agate-ware container will suffice for 15 dozen eggs. Clean the crock thoroughly, scald till hot, wipe dry and stand in the sun, if convenient.

Boil 9 quarts of water, allow it to cool thoroughly, then add the water glass and stir well in the crock. Stand the crock in a cool dry place and do not move unnecessarily after the eggs are packed. Put the eggs loosely, but carefully, in the solution, leaving a depth of two inches or more over the top layer of eggs. Tie heavy oiled paper over the crock to prevent evaporation. For more than 15 dozen eggs, two crocks are preferable to one larger one. After using the water glass once, it must be thrown away.

If water glass is too expensive or is unobtainable, add 3 pounds of unslacked lime to 5 gallons of water. After the lime has dissolved and settled, carefully dip off the clear water and pour over the eggs as with water-glass.

DO NOT POUR THE WATER GLASS OR LIME WATER OVER THE EGGS TILL IT HAS THOROUGHLY COOLED

**New Brunswick Has
New Forestry System**

Patronage Eliminated and Well Qualified Men Appointed—Ample Funds Provided

Through the recent enactment of the new Forest and Forest Fires acts, the province of New Brunswick has aligned itself with the most progressive governmental agencies on the continent in forest conservation. The administration of the Act will be under the Minister of Lands and Mines. A provincial forester will be in charge of the administration of scaling, enforcement of cutting regulations on Crown lands, continuation of the forest survey, forest fire protection, and the enforcement of the laws and regulations concerning fish and game. The organization of the staff is now under way.

The merit system of appointments will be strongly promoted through the appointment of a Forestry Advisory Commission, consisting of the Minister and Deputy Minister of Lands and Mines, the Provincial Forester, one prominent lumberman selected by and representing the licensees of Crown timber lands, and one other lumberman or forester associated with the ownership or management of Crown-granted forest lands. This Commission will supervise appointments, which are to be based upon a practical examination, written and oral, designed to test the knowledge and ability of the applicants to perform the duties of the office which they seek.

The provisions relative to forest fire protection are based upon the most advanced legislation in the several provinces and states. The organization will cover Crown timber lands, licensed and unlicensed, as well as the larger bodies of timber land in private ownership. A fire tax of one-half cent per acre per year is to be collected from licensees, supplemented by an allotment from the wild land tax and by an annual appropriation which will bring the Protection Fund up to \$100,000 per year.

It is to be anticipated that the consolidation of all these lines of forestry activities in a single organization, under a technically-trained head, will make most decidedly for efficiency in results and economy in administration.—
C.L.

**PLANTING NOVA SCOTIA
LOBSTERS IN U.S. WATERS**

During 1917, the Massachusetts Fish Commissioner planted 37,000 Nova Scotia "short" lobsters in state waters from Cape Cod to Provincetown. These lobsters were all below the minimum length prescribed by the laws of Massachusetts and had been seized by the state authorities for infraction of the law. In addition, thousands of other "short" lobsters died in transit and had to be buried.