

**Commission of Conservation
CANADA**

SA CLARENCE SURVOR, K.C.M.G.
Chairman
JAMES WATTS
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. The newspaper edition is printed on one side of the paper only, for convenience in clipping for reproduction.

OTTAWA, JUNE, 1919

MENACE OF THE TRASH PILE

"Mobile fire-swept, and 1,500 people homeless. Trash pile origin of \$500,000 property damage." Thus read the newspaper headings of a despatch describing a destructive fire, which ought never to have happened. From one side of Canada to the other, the sort of carelessness which provokes similar destructive blazes is encountered. Only one thing is lacking, a glowing match, cigar or cigarette stub or a spark from a chimney, and the favourable conditions for a big fire lead to disastrous results.

How close some of our towns and cities are to a conflagration is not recognized by those responsible for public safety. Any minute, day or night, piles of trash dumped in yards and vacant spaces may provide the initial blaze that will wipe out our home, our workshop, or perhaps the lives of our family.

Is it too much to ask of our people that the dangerous trash pile, composed of packing boxes, waste paper, cotton rags, etc., be removed and that such material be no longer permitted to accumulate?

DANGERS OF SPECULATION

With the war over, and with easy financial conditions among farmers and certain classes of workmen, the seductive temptation to speculation is again brought into prominence by the slow advances ready to supply the means.

All kinds of highly speculative stocks are now being offered for sale. The prospectuses are composed of enticing arguments showing how a stock at a few cents per share may return the investor many hundred per cent.

It is only necessary to ask the question: If these stocks are so valuable and so promising, why does it require so much effort to dispose of them? Further, some of these stock jobbers are offering to accept—and would be very glad to do so—Victory Bonds in exchange for their stock certificates, although Victory Bonds draw but 5½ per cent interest. These adroit manipulators are wise enough to know that is really a good investment; they have no faith in the stocks they offer for sale.

It is of great importance in these days of reconstruction that the people should practise thrift and not throw their money away on worthless enterprises. By thrift is meant, not hoarding, but the wise investment of

surplus capital. There are plenty of gilt-edged stocks and bonds earning 6 per cent or better. For example, cities, which have had to curtail their expenditures during the war, are now floating loans to catch up with arrears of necessary public improvements. These loans are offered at attractive rates of interest and the man with money to invest can, besides profitably placing his funds, thus aid in one necessary branch of reconstruction work.

Even very small sums today can be advantageously invested by buying War Savings Stamps which give a return of 5 per cent per annum for five years. Left in a savings bank for the same period at 3 per cent compound interest, \$4.00 will only amount to \$4.63 at the end of the 5th year, in place of \$5.00 as offered by the plan of buying the Government's stamps.

MATCHES AND CHILDREN

"Another death due to carelessness is recorded in the Kunnymede district, and this time, it is matches which were the cause. Little Annie Nowiski, aged six years, while playing with matches, lighting them and burning straws on the kitchen floor, set fire to her dress, then ran upstairs and hid in bed fearing her father would give her a spanking. By the time she got under the bed clothes she was in flames and set fire to the clothes and mattress, causing such a volume of smoke that she was suffocated."—*Regina Leader.*

Children will play with matches when given the opportunity. Fire has a fascination for them. They know not the dangers.

Can your little girl secure matches? If so, she may be the next to lose her life from this cause.

CLEAN THE SLUMS

Don't forget health work in the slums, for "a better housing scheme" is not an immediate cure-all for this disease of modern town-life.

We cannot clear people out of the slums all at once but we can create the desire on the part of the slum-dweller for cleaner and more healthy surroundings. The great field for work here must not be forgotten or passed over. A house is like a garment; it may be old but it can and should be clean. It is the duty of the health authorities to see that every home and its environment are clean.

All this work is preparatory for the better housing scheme, for large numbers of our people are as yet unprepared for the new surroundings which the future has in store for them.

MORE-FARMERS KEEP ACCOUNTS

The beneficial results of one phase of the agricultural survey of the Commission of Conservation are already being noticed. Investigators sent out over the same ground, namely, the county of Dundas, by the Ontario Department of Agriculture have observed a higher percentage of farmers who keep a complete set of accounts. Exact figures are not available, but there is undoubtedly a distinct improvement.

Farming is a fairly complex business, as a farmer's income comes from

a variety of sources. It is, therefore, essential that he should know which departments of his business pay him best as well as the income from the whole farm. He should also be able to arrive at his own labour income as distinguished from return on capital invested.

To encourage farm book-keeping, the Commission of Conservation drew up a "Farmer's Account Book" which is simple to follow and sound in principle. Any *bona fide* farmer can have one by applying for it. The investigators state that the improvement noted in Dundas country is undoubtedly due to the use of this publication.

SEE CANADA FIRST

"Distance lends enchantment to the view." This proverb probably explains the annual exodus of so many Canadians to the United States and European countries at vacation period.

Holiday time is again at hand. Many are considering where they will spend their period of relaxation, and to these we would make the appeal to "see Canada first." Within our borders we possess scenery and climate which cannot be excelled by any country. The sea coasts of the east and west, for example, the refreshing coolness of the gulf of St. Lawrence and the lovely fiords of British Columbia with their grand setting of forest and sierra, the lake districts of Muskoka, the Rideau lakes, lake of the Woods, the Thousand Islands and the peerless Great lakes, as well as the awe-inspiring ranges of the Rockies and the Selkicks, invite the seeker for rest and quiet or the jaded traveller seeking further excitement.

Sunny France has long been before the public mind in Canada as a tourist centre. Many of our soldiers saw the fair regions of Normandy, of Artois and of Picardy, parts of which are still unspoiled by the hand of the Hun; many had leaved to Paris and some even to Nice and other places far afield. Ask our returned men if they can't have as good a time in Canada. The unanimous answer will be, "Much better."

Last year, a young office girl said to the writer: "I spent sixty dollars to visit the Adirondacks in New York state. I could have had as fine scenery close to home at one-tenth the cost." She would, at the same time, have kept her money in Canada.

Many are the regrets over wasted summer vacation periods which might be avoided were less heed paid to flowery advertisements of foreign resorts and more attention given to studying the advantages of our own country. For this season, get acquainted with Canada.

In the United States, our dollar is at 3 per cent discount. National pride would suggest that we limit our spending there and confine it as much as possible to Canada.

The G.W.V.A. of Windsor, Ont., has passed a resolution condemning the practice of some landlords of discriminating against families which include children. Perhaps soldiers returning from Germany have remarked that this condition does not obtain there. They are naturally indignant at meeting it in Canada.

**Duties of Fathers
Little Understood**

Work accomplished in the Education of the Mother Should be Supplemented by Teaching her Life Partner

The work of those who, for the past couple of decades, have been appealing to the mothers of the Empire on behalf of the baby has slowly won general recognition. The schools for mothers and other institutions for infant welfare, each of which has for its object the lessening of infant mortality, are daily gaining the confidence of the mothers of our country. The results are not so apparent in figures as are the facts that many thousands of those mothers whom we are striving to reach come voluntarily day after day and week by week to receive instruction and professional advice in motherhood. The figures do, however, indicate that the death-rate during the first year of life has shown a decline during the present century.

This work had to overcome much of prejudice and still more of ignorance on the part not only of the public but of the medical profession. The instruction of mothers on infant hygiene and the care of their own health during pregnancy and lactation by doctors and nurses was a new departure and presented great difficulties. These have, fortunately, been partially overcome and no one now doubts the good that can be accomplished or the untold benefits which would follow the general adoption of systematic education regarding motherhood and child life.

A good beginning has thus been made in the instruction of mothers, but what can we say of the fathers? We wish each father to learn that he too has a responsibility—a twofold responsibility relating to both mother and baby. It is not for one moment suggested that the responsibilities of the mother are diminished but it is his province to co-operate with and assist her as a joint partner in the duties of parentage.

How many married men clearly understand and recognize the responsibilities of fatherhood? We fear but few; their number today is certainly less than the number of women who possess a modicum of knowledge in respect to motherhood.

It is clearly the duty of each man to possess sufficient information to permit of his discharging the duties of this important and sacred trust. How can he obtain it? Certainly it should be the duty of some organization to provide it, since it cannot be obtained by chance or intuition any more than any other kind of knowledge.

What is required is the specialist qualified in physiology, medicine and hygiene, who will, by tactful handling, in a practical manner, impart to the fathers and to the young men the facts they should know and the duties they must meet and should discharge, in co-operation with their mother, in all that relates to the birth and upbringing of their offspring.

Fatherhood is the highest and best of all the duties of citizenship and happy and prosperous indeed will the nation be when each man knows his duty to his progeny and faithfully discharges it.—C. A. H.