Commission of Conservation
CANADA

SIR CLIFFORD SIFTON, K.C.M.G.
Chairman
JAMES WHITE
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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ARE FARMERS LACKING IN BUSINESS VISION?

"If I were manager of the Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association, I would move heaven and earth to get an appropriation of money for the purpose of showing people that cranberry sauce tastes about as good at other times as on Thanksgiving Day, and fits roast chicken about as well as roast turkey.

"Now, while I believe advertising would be a good thing for the cranberry or strawberry growers of Cape Cod. I would not relish the job of trying to extract from them the money it would require to do it. Farmers are pretty 'set' in their ways, and the profits of farming do not look large enough for them to see much of it go for co-operative efforts along lines that do not yield pretty easily seen returns.

"Some years ago, through the efforts of a young lawyer in a certain Kentucky town, the growers of Burley tobacco organized an association, and, by means of it, forced the tobacco trust to pay better prices for tobacco. I think the returns for one year, at least, were something over $1,000,000 better than the year before. The young lawyer charged the association $10,000 for his year's work. These days a man who could increase the selling price of a firm's product $1,000,000 a year for that salary would be classed as a Simon-pure philanthropist, but not so with those Kentucky farmers. To them this young lawyer's salary looked too big and they fired him. He probably shortened his life several years just getting them organized. —*H. H. Hannah, in Report of Mass. State Board of Agriculture.*

DANGER IN THE GRASS

A patch of ground grown up to grass or weeds may look harmless, but an unextinguished match, cigar or cigarette stub carelessly thrown aside, or children playing with matches in the vacant area may lead to disastrous results. Fire will run very rapidly in this dry material, and surrounding wooden fences or buildings may easily become ignited.

FORESTS AS A FACTOR IN WAR

Victory is with the army whose country has the greatest iron mines and smelters, the largest areas of waving grain and an abundance of wood. Of all the products of the soil upon which the very life of a nation depends in times of war, wood is the only one that cannot be rapidly increased under necessity and by the employment of adequate labour. Therefore, provision for adequate national defense necessitates the maintenance of vast reserves of timber throughout the nation, reserves from which billions of feet can be drawn in a single year if necessary to meet the needs of the army and navy.

A sane and conservative development of forest resources to meet the needs of the nation in times of peace necessitates a constantly increasing intensity of management of all absolute forest land and the building up and maintenance of an enormous forest capital. Please remember this forest capital can be drawn upon in times of war and may determine the fate of the nation.

For generations, England has obtained most of the wood used in her buildings and industry from beyond the sea. The stress of war found her with a meagre forest capital, and the sons of England and Canada are to-day felling the remnant of the forests of that proud country that the empire may live. When the sombre clouds of war are lifted from Europe's battlefields and peace again rules over the earth, England's lesson learned in this bitter strife, will be taken to heart by her people and forests will clothe her idle lands. A forest capital, far beyond that of former days, will not only add to her economic development in times of peace, but be developed and maintained to better insure her against vital needs in times of possible future strife.—*Prof. J. W. Toumey.*

Reduce Waste in Lobsters

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designed for handling all the lobster catch within the limits described. The station should serve the following important purposes: (*a*) receive all consignments for Boston; (*b*) impound all egg-bearing female lobsters as well as the immature specimens, thus protecting them till they reach the legal size for export. The Government policy in the past has been to preserve in this manner the "breeders." The method could be extended to the shorts, to be kept in a separate compartment of the pound.

5. Adjoining the pound, there should be a lobster-hatchery, so that the collecting of eggs might all be done at one place, thus saving time and expense, besides enabling the management to deposit the eggs in the jars immediately on their removal from the mother-lobster. This is an advantage which no other lobster hatchery in the Maritime Provinces can show, and it should not be under-estimated.

6. The takes of lobsters on the designated section of coast (or a more limited one, if more convenient) to be collected by gasolene well-smacks, boats of about 20 tons each, the well having a carrying capacity for 14,000 lobsters. These craft would receive the lobsters unculled and just from the floating cars where they were deposited on being caught; and by this means of conveyance, the lobsters, big and small, whether intended for export, breeding or impounding for growth, could be brought to the central receiving station from the section boundaries, even, without being out of the water half an hour. This would completely eliminate the usual hugh loss from lobsters dying in transit.

7. There should be direct steam connection between the said receiving station and Boston, the customary port of consignment for all shipments through Yarmouth (and formerly by the Plant Line from Halifax, all forwarding now focussed at Yarmouth), by a boat of sufficient size, specially planned for carrying fish stuffs, and equipped with refrigeration to keep a suitable even temperature in the cold-storage space both for live lobsters (crated), and all other mercantile fish put up fresh. The lots arriving in Boston, say fifteen hours in transit, could be put on the market in as good condition as when gathered from the floating cars, and thus effect a saving of $200,000 annually on goods that go to waste.

FUTURE FOR WATER-POWER

Many authorities believe that the use of cheap hydro-electric power in making iron will eventually bring about a commercial revolution in the leading nations, and that all industries which consume large amounts of mechanical energy will be forced to emigrate to countries where water-power is abundant. What a future there is for Canada when this comes about!

The establishment at Shawinigan Falls of an electrolytic process for recovering metallic magnesium from magnesite has stimulated the production of this metal. Magnesium is used in connection with the war for the manufacture of star shells and flares and as an alloy with aluminum for the manufacture of aeroplane parts.

Saving Ammonia By Storing Natural Ice

Scarcity of Ammonia May Cause Shortage in Artificial Ice Supply

Ammonia, which is used in the manufacture of ice, will likely be scarce during this coming summer. The United States Food Administration reported recently that 'the Government cannot give assurance that there will be a sufficient supply of ammonia, nor that the manufacture of the customary amount of artificial ice will be possible. There is danger of serious shortage of ammonia and steps are being taken to have as large as possible a harvest of natural ice to meet any possible shortage of artificial ice.'

Dealers in artificial ice, as well as operators of packing houses, dairies and others who use it in Canada, should take all possible precautions against such a shortage, by storing natural ice. It would be a great misfortune if the food supply should be decreased during the hot months of summer, owing to a lack of proper refrigeration.

Saskatchewan to be Fire-proof Province

'An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.' The old proverb is as applicable to the problem of fire waste as it is to scarlet fever, or small pox, or any other disease. Carelessness with fire long ago assumed the proportions of an epidemic in Canada and there are no signs that it is being controlled. In spite of the world shortage of food and the fact that the Empire is fighting for its very life, Canada permits to be burned, millions of dollars worth of food and other vital requirements each year. The problem of greater production is of first importance, but not less important is that of conserving products already in existence. By far, the larger percentage of fires occuring in Canada are the direct result of carelessness, which, in time of war at least, should be punished as a criminal offence.

In an effort to stamp out the fire evil in Saskatchewan, the fire commissioner, Mr. Arthur E. Fisher, is carrying out a vigourous campaign to 'make Saskatchewan fireproof.' By means of bulletins, pictures in movie theatres and with the assistance of the press, Mr. Fisher is pointing out the way to ban the fire fiend from that province. Such work, especially in the rural sections of Canada's greatest grain-growing province, will doubtless be the means of saving large quantities of food products from the all too common fate of destruction by fire. The effort is a commendable one and should receive hearty support from every organization and from every person who is able to lend a hand.—*A.D.*

Conservation—use without abuse.