MAGNIFICENT NATIONAL RECREATION GROUNDS

Dominion Parks unsurpassed in Natural Beauty and offer Wonderful Facilities for Outdoor Pastime---Extracts from Annual Report.

The following are the extracts from a report of the Dominion Parks Commissioner, Parks Branch, Department of the Interior, and refer to the Dominion National Parks:

National Parks are in reality national recreation grounds. They are set aside because it is being recognized more and more that recreation where fresh air, sunshine, beautiful natural scenery are combined, means an uplifting of spirit, a renewal of strength of body, a stimulation of mind. National Parks provide the means of recreation in the great out-of-doors for all who wish to take advantage of them; they stand out as a national recognition that recreation in the out-of-doors is essential for the physical, mental, moral health of the people, and consequently emphasize to the public the suggestion of such recreation, even if it has to be sought elsewhere than in the National Parks. The spirit of the National Park idea cannot be more effectively crystallized than by the following extract from John Muir, the American writer, known throughout the continent as the lover of the mountain, the wilderness and all nature:—

The tendency nowadays to wander in wildernesses is delightful to see. Thousands of tired, nerve-shaken, over-civilized people are beginning to find out that going to the mountains is going home; that wildness is a necessity and that mountain parks and reservations are useful, not only as fountains of timber and irrigating rivers, but as fountains of life. Awakening from the stupefying effects of the vice of over-industry and the deadly apathy of luxury, they are trying as best they can to mix and enrich their own little outgoings with those of nature, and to get rid of rust and disease.'

WORTH-WHILE PARKS.

In its parks and, for that matter, outside its parks, Canada has the impressive scenery and the other natural attractions to justify and compel pride of country. Most of the Dominion Parks so far established are in the Rocky mountains. To show that their outstanding charm and attractiveness are recognized by those whom the world recognizes as having the right to speak with authority upon the subject of mountains and scenic attractions, the following extracts are given:—

The Reverend James Outram, a well-known English climber, and author of "The Heart of the Canadian Rockies":

"But the wondrous glacial fields, the massing of majestic ranges, the striking individuality of each great peak, the forest areas, green pasture lands, clear lake and peaceful valley are nowhere found harmoniously blended on the western continent until the traveller visits that section of the Rocky mountains which lies within the wide domain of Canada."

Extract from "Climbs and Explorations in the Canadian Rockies," by Prof. J. Norman Collie and H. E. M. Stutfield, of London, England, pioneer climbers and explorers:—

"On the other hand, they have a very remarkable individuality and character in addition to special beauties of their own which Switzerland cannot rival. The picturesque landscapes in the valleys; the magnificence of the vast forests, with their inextricable tangle of luxuriant undergrowth, and the wreck and ruin of the fallen tree trunks; the size, number and exquisite colouring of the mountain lakes; in these things the new Switzerland stands pre-eminent. In the Alps we can recall only one lake of any size surrounded by high glacier-clad mountains, namely, the Oeschinen See; in the Rockies, they may be counted by the score—gems of purest turquoise blue, in matchless settings of crag and forest scenery, glacier and snow, storm-riven peak, and gloomy, mysterious canyon."

T. G. Longstaff, the distinguished English alpinist, in an article in the London *Field* recently, said:—

"In the Canadian Rockies and the Selkirks there is a country waiting for recognition which I believe is destined to become the playgrounds of the world, just as the Alps have been for one short century the playground of Europe. In no other mountain region of the globe do peak and cliff, snowfield and glacier, alpland and forest, lake, cataract, and stream form such a perfect combination as is to be found, not in one, but in hundreds of places in these glorious ranges. Mere questions of altitude are beside the mark. Though I hold that no one can fully appreciate mountain scenery who has not actually come to grips with the peaks themselves, yet the fascination of the Canadian mountains is such that merely to travel through them and camp amongst them is sufficient reward for any one who is not blind. On the whole it must be admitted that the average difficulty of the climbing does not attain the European standard, but there are many peaks whose ascent has only been accomplished with great difficulty, and there are certainly a far larger number of such peaks which have never been seen by any mountaineer."

Prof. Coleman, of Toronto University, author of "The Canadian Rockies," and ex-president of the Canadian Alpine Club, says:—

"None of the mountains of North America can be measured against the Himalayas or the higher Andes in altitude, and to climbers familiar with these giant peaks the Canadian Rockies may seem quite insignificant; and yet some of the most famous workers among the Himalayas, the Andes, the Caucasus, the Alps, have later become so enamoured of the Canadian Rockies as to come back season after season. To draw experienced British climbers from the French or Swiss Alps, only a few hours' journey from home, to Banff or Laggan or Glacier, five thousand miles away, implies rather potent charm.

"Much the same is true of the skilful American climbers, who flock to British Columbia instead of spending their summers a few hundred miles to the south among the mountains of Colorado, which are thousands of feet higher. Why should the Canadian Rockies prove more fascinating than Pike's Peak or Mount Whitney? It is evident that the cause is not to be found in altitude alone.

"The beauty and attractiveness of mountains depend, of course, on various factors, of which absolute height is only one. Relative height above the surrounding plains or valleys counts for more, and permanent snowfields and glaciers are needed to give the true Alpine charm and these may be found on peaks of only nine thousand feet among the Selkirks . . . . On the other hand, the much higher mountains of Colorado rise from a plain seven thousand feet above the sea and have so feeble a snowfall that they are bare before the end of the summer.

"Except in the short extension of the Canadian Rockies into Washington and Montana, there are scarcely any glaciers to be found south of the international boundary. The dryness of the air and the strong and more nearly vertical sun of summer prevent the formation of glaciers on most of the high American mountains and on all those of Mexico, robbing them of the most thrilling and seductive features of the Alpine peaks, the gleam of snow, the blue of crevassed glacier tongues, the wildly heaped moraines, and the white glacial torrents in flood on a sunny afternoon.

"The famous canyon of the Colorado three hundred miles long and five thousand feet in depth, with a breadth of ten or fifteen miles, is out of the running as compared with the valley of the Upper Columbia at Surprise rapids, which is more than eight thousand feet below the nearer Rockies and Selkirks, the opposite summits standing fifteen or twenty miles apart. Probably five times as many cubic miles of rock have been carved from this valley and disposed of as in the Colorado canyon."

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF CLAY PRODUCTS

EXPORTS.

Calendar Year.	Building Brick. M.	Building Brick. Value.	Manufactures.	Earthenware.	Total.
1910	390	$ 2,762	$ 9,061	$ 9,240	$ 21,063
1911	394	3,977	2,071	6,101	12,149
1912	694	8,493	256	10,001	18,750
1913	977	8,579	27,201	16,553	52,333
1914	1,486	11,871	26,866	9,336	48,073
1915	1,155	9,089	25,202	11,281	45,572
1916	1,746	13,942	58,550	7,620	80,112
1917	4,464	40,039	83,600	14,504	138,143

IMPORTS.

Calendar Year.	Brick and Tile.	Earthenware and Chinaware.	Clays.	Totals.
1909	1,249,450	1,781,759	216,330	3,247,539
1910	1,755,773	2,283,116	292,508	4,331,397
1911	2,369,761	2,516,536	270,247	5,156,544
1912	3,209,190	3,094,956	288,394	6,592,540
1913	3,121,592	3,314,870	324,290	6,760,752
1914	1,986,790	2,192,222	288,128	4,467,140
1915	1,301,359	1,460,010	237,096	2,998,465
1916	2,048,259	2,180,414	325,494	4,554,167
1917	3,599,046	2,595,582	416,209	6,610,837

MORE OAK IMPORTED THAN OTHER TIMBER

Home Supply Negligible and 60 percent of Consumption purchased in U.S.

More oak is imported into Ontario in a year than any other hardwood or softwood. About sixty per cent of the annual consumption, or a total of about 36,000,000 feet was reported as having been purchased in the United States, as stated in the bulletin entitled "Wood-Using Industries of Ontario," issued by the Forestry Branch, Department of the Interior (1913), and which contains an account of the quantity, value and source of supply of the different kinds of woods used in the industry. This leaves an apparent amount of 24,000,000 feet purchased in the province. The cut of oak lumber in Ontario in 1911 was only a trifle over 6,000,000 feet, and the difference is probably made up of material purchased in the log or in billet, or forms other than lumber, and also of material purchased from dealers in Ontario who themselves imported their stock from the United States.

The cut of oak is steadily decreasing and the price increasing in the province, the supply being restricted to small groups and isolated trees in farmers' woodlots. There are so many cases where oak is used because it is the best and often the only material suitable for a particular purpose, that it is a wonder manufacturers have not realized the fact that the species in Ontario is now commercially extinct. The importations from the United States now come chiefly from Tennessee, but the centre of production is constantly shifting and the supply there is being also rapidly exhausted.

The most valuable species of the genus is undoubtedly white oak (Quercus alba) and this forms the greater part of the oak used. Next in importance comes red oak (*Quercus rubra*), and small quantities of scrub white oak or "blue" oak (*Quercus macrocarpa*). In addition to these three, there are a number of other species occasionally used for lumber, but of no commercial importance.

The general qualities of white oak are well known and its value as a wood has long been recognized. It is strong, hard, heavy, tough, dense and durable, and possesses a fine even grain and texture. It is, however, rather difficult to season. Red oak is neither as strong nor as durable as white oak, but it is more easily worked. Its density is much less than that of white oak, and its porous nature prevents its use for the better classes of tight cooperage. Scrub white oak, or blue oak, is the hardest and toughest of the three species, but is scarce and has only a limited use in the industries. Oak is one of the most expensive native hardwoods in Ontario used in quantities of over a million feet, board measure. Wood distillation uses oak in greater quantities than any industry, but does not use much of the timber-sized material. The bulk of the lumber is used by the manufacturers of house-trim and household furniture.

POPLAR USED FOR PULP AND FOR BOXMAKING

The different species of poplar other than the cottonwoods are usually mixed indiscriminately on the market. The most important species in Ontario are balm poplar or balm of Gilead (*Populus balsamifera*) and aspen (*Populus tremuloides*). These woods are used chiefly for pulp, but balm poplar is cut into lumber in Ontario and used for rough box-work and slack cooperage. The wood is soft, light, weak and very perishable, but is fairly tough, easily worked and is both tasteless and odourless. If properly seasoned it could be substituted in many cases for the rapidly disappearing basswood and the expensive imported tulip or whitewood, which is often called "yellow poplar." The supply of poplar in Canada and in Ontario is enormous, although some of the standing timber is defective. It is highly probable that new uses will be found for this wood when the prejudices against it are overcome, as stated in a bulletin issued by the Forestry Branch, Department of the Interior.