

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 the proper conservation of the same, together with timely articles covering town-planning and public health.

The newspaper edition of CONSERVATION is printed on one side of the paper only, for convenience in clipping for reproduction.

OTTAWA, JULY, 1916

Canada's Contribution to Carelessness

Annual Fire Loss Exceeds the Interest Charge on her War Expenditure

In war time, and while many interests are urging thrift and economy, the Canadian people are burning up their created resources at a much greater rate this year than last.

During the first five months of 1916, the fire loss in Canada has exceeded that of January to May, 1915, by approximately \$3,000,000, or \$600,000 per month. At this rate of increase, our fire loss will exceed that of 1915 by \$7,200,000.

Canada has need of all her financial resources. She is borrowing money to carry on the war, and is paying 5 per cent interest thereon. The additional fire loss of 1916 would therefore pay the interest charge on the recent war loan of \$100,000,000 and would pay \$2,200,000 of the principal. Canada's average annual fire loss, of over \$23,000,000, would pay 5 per cent interest on approximately half a billion dollars. Our fire loss is, however, something for which we are receiving no value, either financial or patriotic; it is simply a tax, due in great part to carelessness, which Canadians appear willing to pay, and which they, as a whole, are doing little to avert.

Don't permit rubbish, paper or greasy rags to accumulate.

Don't fill an oil or gasoline stove after dark, nor do so while the stove is lighted, as the flame might set fire to the vapour in the air, causing an explosion.

Conservation of Halibut Fishery

Valuable Pacific Coast Industry Requires Prompt Protection

In February last a bill "to protect and conserve the halibut fisheries of the Pacific coast and to establish closed seasons in halibut fishing in certain waters thereof" was introduced in the United States Senate. The object is, in part, to prohibit the catching of halibut during the spawning months of December and January. Such a measure, while ensuring the propagation of the fish, would impose small hardship on the fishing interests, as the winter months are unfavourable for fishing operations, and in spawning season the halibut is in poor condition for food purposes. In view of the obvious necessity for international co-operation, the proposed bill, if carried, will become operative only when Canada enacts a similar measure.

Those interested in the halibut fishery are convinced that prompt protection is essential. The evidences of approaching exhaustion are mainly the greater time and trouble required to secure a catch and the scarcity of fish on banks where they were formerly plentiful. Aside from the immense annual catch, the fishery is rendered peculiarly susceptible to depletion by the small extent of the banks, the large size of the fish, its slow growth and the late maturity of the females.

Effective measures to conserve any fishery must be based upon complete knowledge of the habits and life history of the fish concerned. Canadian authorities have accordingly undertaken a thorough study of the halibut and, when the results of the inquiry are available, it will be possible to decide upon the most effective method of preserving this valuable fishery as a permanent asset.

Rubbish Heaps

Many Serious Fires Traceable to Such Accumulations

More fires originate in rubbish heaps than from any other source. To permit rubbish to remain in the building not only invites a fire to visit your home or place of business, and render your family temporarily homeless, or cripple your business at a time when you can least afford it, but also endangers the lives of your family or employees. In addition to destroying an average of \$23,000,000 in property value in Canada each year, fire caused the death of 141 persons last year.

The home is built to protect our loved ones, and we want to do

everything to insure absolute protection to those who live in it.

That rubbish heap in the attic, storeroom or basement is a menace to your household, because there is always a possibility of fire starting in it, and it may start when least expected.

Consider what might happen, and then, without delay, eliminate the menace of the rubbish heap.

After-Harvest Cultivation

Illustration Farmers Speak Highly of Results Secured Thereby

The following extracts are from the report on Illustration Farms given at the annual meeting of the Conservation Commission in January, 1916:

Five of the farmers chosen to conduct illustration work had been practising after-harvest cultivation previous to the visits of the Commission's instructor. Since his visits, twenty of the farmers have adopted this practice. Eighteen state that it has helped to keep down weeds, and that it has increased their yields and the profits from their farms.

George R. Barrie, (Galt, Ont.): "Our experience with after-harvest cultivation has proven to us that it helps greatly in keeping down weeds and the land is in a better condition to withstand the drought next year."

W. T. Hands, (Perth, Ont.): "Excepting clover seed production and seeding this is in my opinion the most important illustration. We find it pays from every standpoint and as proof that this part of the work has been noticed many of the farmers in this district are demonstrating its value for themselves and the acreage increases yearly. Three years ago this was not done."

Thos. Hall, (Brooklin, Ont.): "If one wants good crops he has to gang plough and cultivate after the harvest."

Thomas McDowell, (Shawville, P.Q.): "After-harvest cultivation was not practised in this community until three years ago and now many farmers are doing quite a lot of it and find it very profitable for it usually insures a good catch of grass and clover, leaving the land quite porous and fertile."

Albert Schurman, (Central Bedouque, P.E.I.): "I notice many of my neighbours are taking up this practice."—F.C.N.

Agriculture in the School

Many Opportunities Available for Correlating Farming Interests With School Work

In the public schools of most of the provinces of Canada, nature study and agriculture are included

in the prescribed course of work, but the opportunity of correlating school subjects with practical life on the farm is not always fully utilized. In rural and village schools, particularly, the interest of children in their school work should be aroused and held by its intimate contact with agriculture. A few suggestions are offered herewith for impressing upon the pupils the utility value of the subjects taught.

In connection with the teaching of arithmetic the following topics might be used as a basis for problems and general instruction: Neat methods of compiling farm records, e.g., milk and egg production, receipts and expenses, time sheets, etc. These records will form the basis for numerous problems.

Cost of production, rent, labour, wear and tear of machinery; marketing of farm products; computation of profits; measurement of fields, wood-piles, lumber, ice-houses, etc.; invoices, cheques, receipts and commercial forms; taxation; mortgages.

The teaching of reading and the study of literature offer exceptional opportunities for arousing the interest of the pupil.

The best literature is replete with selections calculated to inspire a love of outdoor life and an interest in the plants and animals with which the country child comes in daily contact. Whittier's *The Barefoot Boy*, Burns' *To a Mountain Daisy*, and Lowell's description of a day in June are examples, and every teacher will be able to pick out scores of other pieces of merit.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION HEARING

E. T. Allen, forester of the Western Forestry and Conservation Association, representing 13,000,000 acres of standing timber, presented the case of the timber owners to the Federal Trade Commission at Washington, D.C., on March 14. Mr. Allen contended that, unless conditions improved, timber owners would be unwilling to carry their holdings. He declared that only a general reorganization of the entire industry could save the situation. Elimination of profits of too many middlemen was suggested by Mr. Allen. Timber owners, he contended, have given up all idea of holding timber for speculative purposes. The increased carrying costs are mounting faster than stumpage values. Mr. Allen contended that the carrying of raw material for the lumber industry has become a project of such vast magnitude and difficulty that it is a great factor in the situation and must receive equal consideration with manufacturing problems.

—Timberman.

Don't throw away lighted matches, cigars or cigarettes.