

## Street Trees—How Citizens Can Help

Improvement of Home Surroundings will Exert Influence on Neighbourhood

Over 29,000 trees have been planted in the parks and on the streets of Calgary since 1912 by the Parks Board of that city. What these trees will mean in comfort for the pedestrian and in the appearance of the city in a few years can hardly be appreciated. In the meantime, however, these trees must be cared for if the best results are to be secured. In commenting on this phase of the work the Calgary Herald says: "Many of the most thoughtful of the citizens assist in the work by watering the trees in summertime, keeping the weeds down and doing all they can to strengthen the hands of the parks department, and to hasten the time toward the city beautiful. It is also true that there are many that do not take the trouble that others do, and allow the weeds to grow, do not bother about watering, and generally adopt the attitude of leaving it to the parks department. True, it is their work, but the point is that the city is something that all have an interest in, and to a certain extent a share in, and a little work of this kind should not be dodged."

The support and co-operation of the individual citizens are a tremendous incentive to those who are labouring in their interest. A little effort in maintaining or improving home surroundings, including boulevards, streets and sidewalks, assists to enhance the general appearance of a district, and to induce others to do likewise.

## Farmers Pay Dearly For Experience

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of Agriculture, Olds, Alta., speaking at the Soil Fertility Conference of the Commission of Conservation at Winnipeg in July last, showed from records of 36 years duration that during this long period the average precipitation at Medicine Hat for what is known as the growing season, May, June and July (the period covered by the Hatfield contract) was 6-14 inches. This average includes the three dry years, 1917, 1918 and 1919. *Water-Powers of Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta*, published by the Commission of Conservation, in 1916, states that the average precipitation for the same three months for a period of 29 years preceding 1914, was 6-35 inches.

Hatfield, in securing such a contract from the Medicine Hat farmers, is therefore gambling on fifty per cent better than an even chance.

Well may Monseigneur Choquette appeal for protection for the farmers from those who, with nothing at stake, gamble against the savings of the farmers with loaded dice.

## Power Progress in Canada

While the increase in power development in Canada in 1920 was substantial, in many portions of the Dominion new installations and developments have not yet caught up with the ever-increasing demand for hydro-electric energy. Increase in power development naturally accompanies expansion of industries. The pulp and paper industry has undoubtedly attracted the greatest attention during the past year, but a large number of smaller industries and the ever-increasing uses of electricity for power and domestic purposes, both in urban and rural communities, are important factors in the increasing power demand. While the total water-power installation of the Dominion at the commencement of 1920 was some 2,500,000 h.p., the ultimate capacity of undertakings, either completed during the past year or under actual construction, will increase this total by some 840,000 h.p. This figure includes the 500,000 h.p. Chippawa development of the Ontario Hydro-Electric Power Commission. Additional projects aggregating some 360,000 h.p. are also under consideration.

The Province of Ontario leads with some 650,000 h.p. in undertakings, which are either under construction or completed; Quebec shows 140,000 h.p.; the Maritime Provinces, 30,000 h.p.; Manitoba, 20,000 h.p.

Undertakings which are projected for the near future aggregate some 200,000 h.p. in Quebec; 15,000 h.p. in Ontario and 20,000 h.p. in the Maritime Provinces, while one project alone in British Columbia involves some 125,000 h.p.—L. G. Denis.

## Karakul Sheep

"Persian lamb" is a fur which needs no introduction to Canadians. The sheep from which it is obtained is not so generally known.

The best skins do not come from Persia, but from Bokhara, a country which lies between Persia and Siberia and formed part of the former Russian Empire. The breed of sheep which has made this country famous is the Karakul. The lamb of this breed, when newly born, is covered with a black, glossy, tightly curled wool, which yields the highly prized "Persian lamb" of commerce.

Bokhara is an isolated territory and its inhabitants do not like to sell their sheep to foreigners; in fact, the export of the live sheep has been prohibited. Notwithstanding great difficulties, however, a few of these sheep have been brought to America and have formed the nucleus of flocks now in existence in Canada and the United States. It has been found that satisfactory crosses can be made with our long-wooled sheep, like Leicester, Lincoln and Cotswolds. By employing a few good Karakul rams, it is, therefore, possible to grade up a flock of

almost pure-bred Karakuls by crossing with certain well established breeds.

The mutton of the Karakul is said to be of very good quality and flavour. The wool of the adult sheep is coarse and is classed as carpet wool.

The Karakul is a very hardy animal and can live outdoors in the hardest winter weather. It is, of course, necessary to supply the sheep with food when the ground is covered with snow.

An advantage of keeping Karakuls is that the skins of still-born lambs can be utilized and there is, therefore, no loss from this cause.

There are known to be at least five Karakul sheep ranches in Canada at the present time. One rancher in southern Alberta reports very considerable success.

## Care of Leather

Will give Greater Service if Properly Treated

The proper drying of boots and shoes after they have become soaking wet has much to do with their lasting qualities. The use of the proper kind of oil or grease will greatly increase the wear of shoe leather.

When leather is wet, it is soft and therefore readily stretches out of shape. The stitches cut through the wet leather easily and wet soles and heels wear away rapidly.

Great care must be taken in drying wet boots and shoes, for they often burn before it seems possible; moreover, if dried too fast, the leather becomes hard and the boots shrink out of shape. To dry wet shoes properly, first wash off all mud or grit with tepid water, and if they are heavy work boots, oil or grease them at once. Straighten the corners, toes and uppers to the proper shape, and stuff the toes with crumpled paper to hold the boots in shape while drying. Set the shoes in a place where they will dry slowly; wet leather burns very easily, and if it is placed where it is hotter than the hand can bear, it is almost sure to burn. The shoes should not be worn until thoroughly dry.

Before oiling or greasing boots, brush them well, warm them carefully, apply warm oil or grease, and rub in with the palm of the hand. Work the grease well in where the sole joins the upper and along the edges of the sole.

Neat's-foot, cod and castor oils and tallow and wool grease, or mixtures of them, are the best. Castor oil is the most satisfactory oil for use on polished shoes. If applied lightly, the shoes may be polished at once, if necessary, but it is better to wait a few hours.

A good mixture for waterproofing leather is: neutral wool grease, 8 ounces; dark petrolatum, 4 ounces; paraffin wax, 4 ounces. This should be heated, thoroughly mixed, and allowed to cool. Before using, it should be warmed to blood heat. Care must be taken when warming that it does not catch fire.

## Carcasses Were Piled up Like Cordwood

Of Canada's Millions of Antelope but Few Remain—Special Preserves Provided for Them

Half a century ago countless antelope roamed the prairies of Canada, the United States and Mexico; to-day it is doubtful whether there are 15,000 of these graceful little animals in all this vast area, though in past years reliable observers have seen several thousand in a single day.

Mr. Thompson-Seton has estimated that, at the time of first settlement of the west, the range of the antelope covered two million square miles, and that there were no less than twenty million of these animals.

The rifle and the advance of agriculture have done their work. One writer, in describing the antelope herds of the "seventies," says "the prairie seemed to vibrate with the galloping of these swift little creatures, and they were slaughtered to such an extent that their outstretched carcasses were piled in heaps like cordwood."

The antelope is one of our most graceful animals; it is scarcely more than three feet high at the shoulder, and is fleetier than the swiftest greyhound. It is feared, however, that, while the antelope is absolutely protected in the western provinces, it is too late for the species to recover. The Dominion Parks Branch is endeavouring to save the antelope in preserves. In but one of these, however, is success reported. A herd of the little animals was discovered near Memiskam, Alta., and these were surrounded by a wire fence enclosing eight sections. As the land was eminently suited to the purpose, and unfit for agriculture, it has been created a national preserve for the preservation of the antelope. At the time of capture the herd consisted of forty-two animals, and this number has now increased to about one hundred. This, unfortunately, is the only record of increase of antelope in captivity, and is undoubtedly due to the fact that they are enclosed in their natural range.

Dr. W. T. Hornaday says: "The chief difficulty encountered in trying to afford protection to the antelope is in its own nature. It is delicate, capricious and easily upset. It is so sensitive to shock that it literally 'dies at the drop of the hat.' Owing to the extreme difficulty in maintaining this species in captivity, its total extinction at an early date seems absolutely certain, unless it is fully and permanently protected in its wild state, on its native range, for a long period."

Canada's action in giving universal protection and providing natural ranges for the antelope will undoubtedly prolong the existence of the species, but it is only a question of time when the advance of civilization will entirely absorb the free natural ranges and complete its extinction.