

Conservation

Published monthly for eight months in the year
by the Commission of Conservation, Ottawa, Canada.

VOL. 11

APRIL, 1913

NO. 3

Creosote and Cross Ties

Waste of Creosote in Canada—Large Consumption of Ties Would Warrant the Use of Preservatives

One million, four hundred thousand gallons of creosote could have been produced in Western Canada in 1910 if the coal that was converted into coke had been coked in by-product ovens. With the exception of the creosote produced from the by-product ovens at Sydney, N.S., and at Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., no creosote is produced in Canada. This valuable wood preservative is imported from Britain and the United States, but the high cost of the imported article has restricted its use very materially. In view of the steady and even rapid rise in the price of almost all classes of wood products, the importance of creosote is readily seen.

For example, there is the problem confronting Canadian railways in obtaining timber for cross ties. There were 13,683,770 ties purchased in Canada in 1911, an increase of 48.5 per cent over the figure for 1910. When it is considered that the annual replacement of ties on existing lines amounted to about 10,000,000 it is evident what enormous quantities of tie material are required in order to supply the demand. This demand will not remain stationary but, on account of the increased mileage of railways being constructed in Canada will increase each year.

Owing to the other demands for lumber and wood products, the price of cross-ties has been steadily increasing. The cost of tie maintenance is now a large item of expense and the higher prices of the better grades of wood have forced the railway companies to use inferior woods.

The diagram shows that, in 1908, cedar ties constituted 40 per cent, and jack pine (an inferior wood) 10 per cent, of the total used on Canadian railways. In 1911, the proportions were, cedar, 5.3 per cent, and jack pine 39.9 per cent.

In order that the lower grades of wood may be economically used for ties it will be necessary to creosote those species that fail through decay. In order, also, to utilize ties of the softer woods, it is necessary to use tie-plates.

When it is remembered that the average life of an untreated tie is seven years, while the life of a treated tie is seventeen years, the importance and value of creosote is readily seen.—W. J. D.

Canadians Not Good Fish Eaters

Exhibition of Fish to be Made by Dept. of Marine and Fisheries at Toronto Exhibition, 1913

While the assistance in the transportation of fresh fish that the Department of Marine and Fisheries has been giving during the past few years, has resulted in a very rapid development in the trade, there is room for a still more rapid expansion and extension of the business. There is no question that people in the interior portions of Canada could, with advantage to themselves physically and financially, consume much larger quantities of fish than they are doing. No doubt, the reason for the present condition is then that fresh fish have not been offered for sale in an attractive form, notwithstanding that, with the express and cold storage services now available, it is possible to place such fish in excellent condition and at moderate prices, in practically all the markets of Canada. Much could be done to expand the demand by suitable exhibits of fish at the more important exhibitions in the interior of the country; but it is realized that such exhibits would cost more than individual persons or firms would care to expend. The Department of Marine and Fisheries has, therefore, decided to give a thoroughly comprehensive fisheries' exhibit at the Toronto fair this year. It is the intention to make this exhibit representative of all kinds of Canadian commercial fish, both in fresh and cured conditions. The Department will be glad to receive suggestions from those interested in the industry as to the arrangements, special features, etc. of the exhibit.

Dominion Parks a National Asset

Expenditure for Current Year—Revenue from Tourists Growing

The seven Dominion Parks in Western Canada administered by the Parks Branch, Department of the Interior, aggregate over four thousand square miles. Plans now made contemplate the expenditure of \$486,000 during the coming year in the protection and development of these important areas. The construction and improvement of roads, trails, and bridges constitute the principal features of the proposed development.

These parks are "for the benefit, advantage, and enjoyment of the people of Canada." The extent to which their facilities are utilized is indicated by the fact that during the year 1912, it is estimated that one hundred thousand people visited the Rocky Mountains park alone. Aside from the advantages in health and recreation, the importance of the tourist traffic to a country from the standpoint of revenue, is indicated by the estimate that, from this source alone, France derives an annual revenue of \$500,000,000, and Italy \$100,000,000. Tourists spend seven million dollars each year in the Adirondacks.

Great care is being taken to prevent destruction of the natural beauties of the parks by forest fires. The preservation of the game is another feature of great importance in the handling of these vast playgrounds of the people.

The scenic grandeur of Canada's parks is unexcelled. That this fact is becoming widely realized is proved by the constantly growing stream of travellers who are taking advantage of the opportunities thus offered.—C. L.

Civic Cleanliness

Town Dumps a Discredit to Canadian Towns and Cities—Better Scavenging Regulations Essential

Civic cleanliness has not advanced very far in Canada. The town dump, with all its tin-cans, waste-paper, old rags and ash conglomerate is frequently as much a public institution as the town hall or the town council. For the sake of economy in cartage the dumps are frequently placed much too close to residential districts, and civic apathy permits them to remain there, and to grow in bulk and unsightliness.

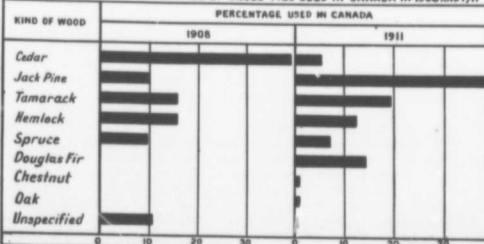
Garbage must be disposed of, but why our civic authorities should not insist upon the burning up of much of the house waste upon the premises, either in the furnace or the kitchen stove, is something to be marvelled at. If there were more domestic tidiness in Canadian towns and cities in the way of destruction of many articles of house waste by home cremation, the gross saving to the municipality would be considerable and the town dump would be less in evidence.

Then, too, the "dump" should be supervised, and men should be employed in burning all such materials as paper, cardboard and other boxes, discarded matting, etc. This would result in the saving of space and prevent the scattering of the lighter materials by wind. Further the destruction by fire of as much as possible of the material brought to the dump would prevent to some extent the fly nuisance from that quarter. On the completion of the burning operations, the health department should insist that all garbage should be covered first with a layer of lime, and then with clean earth, the latter for the depth of at least three feet. Of course in cities and large towns incinerators should be installed and the dump should only be used as a repository for ashes and clean earth. Scrap should be sold.

The spring time is a good season to declare war on the town dumps and on filthy back yards and lanes. If the citizens can be aroused to demand action, the civic officials will very soon supply it.

During eleven months April 1 1912, to March 1, 1913, 357,331 immigrants arrived in Canada, consisting of 133,711 British, 124,398 from the United States, and 99,222 from other countries.

DIAGRAM SHOWING PERCENTAGE OF CROSS-TIES USED IN CANADA IN 1908 AND 1911



Commission of Conservation