

Conservation

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Effect of Fires on Hardwood

Surface fires open the way for worms and rot—Consequent deterioration is source of great loss

A recent investigation by the United States Forest Service shows that, contrary to the popular supposition, surface fires in hardwood timber cause very material damage and loss. This takes place in three ways: (a) By producing fire scars through which worms enter; (b) by opening a passage through the bark and sapwood for rots to reach the heartwood; and (c) by weakening trees with hollow butts till they either burn down, die from fire girdling, or are blown over by strong winds.

Every fire, therefore, only increases the damage by making possible a new crop of worms in the trees and by giving another chance for rots to enter through the new fire scars, thus increasing the quantity of unsearchable material and decreasing the amount of money received for the timber. This deterioration in the standing timber is the source of a tremendous loss to the entire community. It can be avoided to a very considerable extent by the exercise of proper care to prevent the occurrence of such fires. This situation is particularly applicable to farmers woodlots.—C. L.

Milk Will Keep Sweet Longer in Bottles Made of Red Glass

That light is detrimental to the conservation of milk is well known; lately, however, it has been discovered that the violet rays are the most detrimental, while the red rays are beneficial. Sterilized and unsterilized milk, if in plain glass bottles, "turn" equally quickly when exposed to sunlight.

The claim that the use of red glass or red paper wrappings is of advantage in conserving milk, could

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS

Canadian Municipalities should offer their citizens free bathing privileges

It is an admitted fact that in Canadian cities and towns civic money is often expended in ways which bring in no adequate return for the expenditure. A very small portion of the money thus spent would serve to establish public swimming baths. The advantage and popularity of such baths are undoubted and, where they have been established in Canadian cities, they have almost invariably been successful. In many places where

there are no civic baths, the Y. M. C. A.'s throw their tanks open to free public use during the hot months of summer, and every week hundreds of people take advantage of the opportunity thus afforded. Surely the citizens of Canadian cities should not be forced to depend upon the charity of the Y. M. C. A., particularly as the establishment of public swimming baths is such a simple matter.—W.L.C.

Aluminum Cooking Vessels are Safe

An investigation has been carried on by the laboratory of the London *Lancet* into the extent and way in which various aluminum cooking vessels were affected by the usual articles of food and flavoring materials used in cooking. The only case in which a derogatory result worthy of consideration was obtained was in the use of baking soda, and this should therefore be avoided. However, a warning to this effect is frequently issued when aluminum cooking vessels are sold. It appears therefore that the use of pure aluminum cooking vessels need occasion no misgiving as to possible evil effects.—W.L.C.

Fire Protection in Minnesota

Previous to the organization of the State Forest Service of Minnesota in 1911, the timber destroyed by fire each year exceeded the annual cut; this risk has now been reduced about 40 per cent. In addition to the system of special patrols maintained by the State, the lumber companies have, in accordance with law, expended \$300,000 during the winter of 1911-12 in disposing of the slash resulting from their logging. The expenditure during the winter of 1912-13 on this account has been still greater. Minnesota has 28 million acres of forested land and there are millions of acres of young growth which, if protected, will provide a vast revenue in the future.—C. L.

Train Accidents From Carelessness

Railway brotherhoods should further the Safety First movement

Train accidents are practically the only accidents brought to the attention of the public at large. Although only 15 per cent. of the railway employees killed and 5 per cent. of the employees injured suffer from this cause, yet these accidents are blazoned forth on the pages of the public press and attract attention which they scarcely merit, when compared with those other accidents to which the great loss of life and efficiency is due.

Carelessness on the part of employees is, in almost every case, responsible for the train accidents as well as for a large percentage of the other accidents incident to railway operation, but it is difficult to point to any manner in which such carelessness can be done away with by regulation alone. The railroad brotherhoods should realize their responsibility in this matter. It is incumbent upon them to make "safety first" a cardinal principle of their doctrines.—W.L.C.

Eighty thousand acres in North Central Wisconsin have been purchased by a Minneapolis capitalist, who will spend \$5,000,000 in the establishment of an agricultural community, with the chief object of helping young Scotchmen to independence.

Badly Ventilated Nests Prove to be a Drawback to Fur-Farming in the East

The increase in the number of black foxes this year in the Maritime Provinces has been somewhat of a disappointment. A radical defect in ranching practice has been the use of improperly ventilated nests, and as a result of this a hot wave in the spring killed a number of young pups, the number

dying from this cause in Prince Edward Island being estimated at 150. In spite of this, however, a majority of the fox companies have earned a substantial dividend on the capital invested, although there are some companies that have lost money.—M.J.P.

THE OLD STORY

Zarco and Vas, the Portuguese mariners, who, early in the fifteenth century, discovered the island of Madeira (wood) gave it that name on account of the forests with which the island was covered.

When they first began to clear the land for colonization and cul-

tivation, they started a forest fire, which, so the old chroniclers assert, they tried for seven years to extinguish, but without success. At the end of that period the island became noted for, and was handicapped by, the very lack of that commodity from which it derived its name. This is an early illustration of the old proverb that prevention is better than cure.

TO NEWSPAPERMEN

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