

THE EVENING TIMES-STAR, ST. JOHN, N.B., THURSDAY, MAY 22, 1924

The Evening Times-Star

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ST. JOHN, N. B., MAY 22, 1924

THE DANGER PERIOD.

With two public holidays coming, May 24 and June 8, the Crown Land Department issues a most timely warning with regard to forest fires.
The dry season is here, and already one or two fires have been reported. For the next few weeks the danger will be very great, and all reasonable people who have occasion to go to the woods on pleasure or on business must do so with a full sense of their responsibility to avoid causing fire.
More than seventy-five per cent. of forest fires, the department reminds the public, are preventable, and ninety per cent. are attributed to the carelessness of those who go to the woods for purposes of recreation. Automobile travel and camping have increased the fire hazard. One of the most important points to be remembered is that it is necessary to choose with care the place in which a fire is to be built along the stream or in the woods for cooking purposes, and that it is criminal not to make absolutely sure that such fires are extinguished beyond all doubt before the campers leave the place.

The public is reminded, too, that motor parties, who throw burning matches, cigarettes, or cigars from a car are very likely to cause destructive fires, although they might carelessly assume that the practice is harmless. It is anything but that. In asking everybody to do his part as a good citizen in the matter of saving the forests the Crown Land Department makes a request which is both necessary and reasonable, and which should have an earnest response, because that carelessness which destroys the forests strikes directly at the very life of the province by endangering and diminishing the greatest asset we have.

One single act of carelessness may result in tremendous losses. Only by spreading among all classes the conviction and understanding that common prudence as well as patriotism demands increasing precautions can the great danger of forest conflagrations be held in check.

NATIONAL POLICIES.

If Canada should decide not to prevent the export of pulpwood from private lands the decision would not be founded on the fear that the United States would cut off shipments of American coal, although a contrary view is held by many Americans and is now directly asserted by the New York Commercial. That journal predicts that there will be no interference with the supply of either pulp or pulpwood from this country, because of the fear of retaliation. It goes on to say that "Canada has coal supplies, such as they are, but mainly she is dependent upon the States for all the good coal she burns. Her own coal is so charged with sulphur that it neither ships nor keeps well."

The Commercial is wrongly informed both as to Canadian sentiment and as to the quality of Canadian coal, but its discussion of the matter serves one good purpose in reminding Canadians how much the national interest may be advanced by making a much greater use of the coal of which Canada has so abundant a supply and much of which is of a high quality. This country is already beginning to work out more promising transportation arrangements for handling both Alberta and Nova Scotia coal, and, moreover, the enterprise of converting our coal into coke for many uses is one which promises success on a large scale in the near future.

We may be reasonably certain that the United States will not place an embargo on either soft coal or anthracite, but if they did, while some parts of this country would be at a disadvantage for a time, there is no doubt that Canada could fuel itself, and one result of such an American policy would be our ultimate independence in the matter of fuel. It is not to be forgotten that during any period of transition we could draw even more freely upon the supply of British coal than we do at present.

Incidentally the Commercial draws attention to the extent of Canada's natural resources, and it says that the people of this country could not be blamed "if they took a leaf or two from the American book" in the matter of embargoes or of tariff reprisals. It points out that the development of Canada's immense water power resources will certainly reduce the sale of American coal in this country, and it predicts that Canadian railways which use a great deal of American coal will gradually be electrified to a great extent. Whatever action is taken in the near future, the Commercial is convinced that ultimately Canada will prohibit the export of both pulp and pulpwood, and because of that anticipation it argues strongly in favor of a reforestation policy in the United States, which is very sound counsel if very much belated.

There is no expectation at Ottawa that any action will be taken under existing conditions to prevent the export of pulp, and with respect to

pulpwood from private lands no decision is in sight at the moment. The matter of exporting raw wood is primarily one of national conservation, and is not at all the same sort of issue as an American embargo against shipments of coal to Canada would be. If the American supply of coal were limited, or if there were not sufficient for domestic use, the question would be different. The Americans could even prevent the export of raw cotton as a pure measure of retaliation, but they are unlikely to do so, as they very much need all the markets they can find for both cotton and coal.

The statement that this country depends upon its neighbor for all of the good coal it burns is so far astray that its appearance in a journal usually so well informed as the New York Commercial is difficult to understand. A far greater use of Canadian coal, like the increasing development of our other natural resources, is the sort of policy which will speed up national progress. It is probably safe to count upon American coal except in times when the supply is interrupted by strikes, but we are coming to recognize that we do not really require so much American fuel as is commonly supposed. With better transportation arrangements for the movement of coal, and the development of the coke industry, Canada will make a long and wise step towards independence in the matter of fuel.

TOURIST MONEY.

It is estimated that the total return on American investments in Canada amounts to more than \$100,000,000 a year, the amount not being confined wholly to interest on securities. An Ottawa correspondent of the Financial Post is convinced that American tourists are now spending in Canada for transportation, hotel accommodation and sightseeing generally, an amount equal to about eighty-five per cent. of the great total which Americans derive from their Canadian investments.

He points out that, according to the Dominion Parks Branch, tourist traffic in all Canada last year meant an expenditure by visitors of \$136,000,000, and it is thought that some \$90,000,000 of this was spent by Americans. It may be assumed that these figures are approximately correct. At all events the already immense expenditure by tourists seems certain to grow very largely from year to year. One proof of this is seen in the official returns concerning touring automobiles. The foreign cars coming into Canada in 1923 for a period not exceeding twenty-four hours amounted to 1,622,200, which was more than double the number for 1922. The cars coming in for one month numbered 278,444, which was about 100,000 more than in 1922.

Figures like these serve to stimulate sharply interest in tourist traffic for New Brunswick. The increased efforts that are now being made to enlarge tourist travel in our direction are surely entitled to vigorous support from a great many who have not hitherto realized how much the distribution of the visitors' money means. There is no enterprise in sight which promises better returns than this one.

MASONIC TEMPLE CORNER-STONE LAID

Halifax Structure May be Finest in Eastern Canada—To Cost \$200,000

Halifax, May 21—A Masonic demonstration unequalled here in the last fifty years marked the cornerstone laying at the corner of Salter and Granville streets this afternoon where the new Masonic Temple will stand on the site of the present home of the Masons in Halifax, which was built fifty years ago. The ceremony was carried out with all the dignity and solemnity laid down in the Masonic ritual and was witnessed by a crowd of people that choked the streets in the immediate vicinity.

An interesting feature of the occasion was the fact that Samuel M. Brookfield, who was the contractor for the original building, heads the contracting firm which will erect the new structure, and holds office of grand superintendent of works in the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia. Several other members present this afternoon were at the laying of the cornerstone of the first building half a century ago. The new structure is expected to be the finest Masonic temple in Canada east of Montreal, and will cost about \$200,000.

AVIATOR KILLED IN AN AUTOMOBILE

Melbourne, May 21—Captain Andrew Lang, former holder of the world's airplane altitude record, was killed this morning when an automobile which he was driving crashed into a fence during a dense fog. Lang was driving in a 24 hour test. He was a nephew of Andrew Lang, British author.

Press Comment

THINGS NOT TO WORRY ABOUT

(Toronto Star.)
Twenty-five years ago the question of bicycle costumes was agitating the fashionable world. Even Lord Salisbury, as prime minister of Britain, referred in an address to the "ungraceful appearance of the cycling skirt and bloomers, so inartistic that they should be relegated at once to a place low and warm."

A few years previously, the leg of mutton sleeve had been denounced; a few years later there were other fashions which caused comment. There always are. No sooner had more recent critics said their worst about short skirts than they found, in short hair, a new objective for their wrath. The particular mode under discussion is always "indicative of the decadence of the times." The world is always going to be ruined by it; but the world never is. The fact is that the world has seen more changes in fashion than anyone can now recall; it has become inured to them, and they never give it anything worse than a slight fever.

Those who criticized bicycling costumes when cycling was "the rage" little realized how infinitely unimportant a bicycling costume would appear in the eyes of succeeding generations. THAT SILENCE. (Toronto Star.) The legend about President Coolidge's disinclination to talk is being built up again. Here is a story given in Current Opinion: "One day he sent for a friend to come to his office in the White House. Thinking he was wanted for his counsel, he hastened to answer the summons. He was ushered in from the waiting-room. "How do you do?" said the president. "Sit down." "The friend sat. The president sat—and looked out the window. After fifteen minutes of silence, the friend rose to go. "Don't go. Sit down," said the president. "After twenty more minutes of silence the friend rose to go. 'Don't go. Sit down,' said the president. "Another twenty minutes of silence. The friend arose: 'I guess you didn't want me for anything, so I'll be going.' "The president's reply was: 'Thank you for coming. I wanted to think.' "The story is rather unsatisfying. Was the thinking done worth the trouble taken to superinduce it? If the incident occurred at all, was Coolidge thinking or musing? It is said that he seems by choice to surround himself with vivacious and loquacious persons, but does not care to say anything himself. Yet, after Harding's death, when he entered the presidency, the newspaper men declared that the story of his silence was a myth—that he had just as good a stream of small talk as any of his predecessors. Of late he has been living up to his reputation again.

It is probable that if he is to be elected president he will have to come out of his silence, and lay before the nation the fruits of all this famous thinking he has been doing.

KEBO

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FOLEY'S PREPARED FIRECLAY FOR LINING YOUR OWN STOVE Sold by Hardware Dealers.

THE WILLOW DAM

Just the right touch of beauty needed here In this flat meadow of the close-cropped grass Is that swayed group of willows leaning near A little brook, like pagan dancers caught In some old mood of quiet ecstasy. Swaying their flowing hair above a glass Of gliding magic, soon to tire of thought And dance again.

The farmer said to me "One rainy spring the brook, there on the right Cut deep into the land and so I turned The water off by building up a pile Of sods and willow poles. I made it tight Enough to hold washed soil. The current churned A deeper channel where it ought to be, And I forgot the dam till after while I saw each willow pole turned to a tree." —Glen Ward Dresbach in "The Enchanted Mesa."

The steamship William McKinnon was recently sent to Lake Nyanza, central Africa, from England, by parcel post.

IN LIGHTER VEIN

She Explains "How is it you can't find work?" "Well, I'm an upstairs maid, and now everybody is living in flats."—Kansas Times-Journal.

Who Would Think It? A bill lasts about six months, says a United States Treasury statement. How do they manage to do that?—Arkansas Thomas Cat.

England Jazzes Just the Same It is stated that there are five million people in the United States who can not read or write. Perhaps that accounts for some of their songs.—The Humorist (London).

An Open Mind "We have called to see you about organizing a new party," said the spokesman of the delegation. "Are you in favor of the idea?" "That depends," answered Senator Sorghum, "on which of the regular parties it is able to take the most votes away from."—Washington Star.

Clerk—"These are the best oysters we've had for a year." Customer—"Let me see, some you've only had for six months."

JURY SUSPICIOUS IN N. S. DROWNING

Yarmouth, N. S., May 21—The coroner's jury investigating the death of John Slavin, colored, whose dead body was found floating in the harbor a week ago after he had been missing since known to have taken part in a drinking party at Cribbs Stables here last November, concluded its delibera-

tions today by giving a verdict of drowning under circumstances which look suspicious but that, owing to insufficient evidence, the jury was unable to indicate the guilty party.

The Clandestine Past "I suppose, grandfather, you look back with regret upon the good old days." "Yes, my boy, and in the good old days we talked of the good old days just as we do now."

TWO TAXES YIELD \$58,956,708 IN YEAR

Ottawa, May 21—The gross income tax collected for the year ending March 31 last was \$54,204,027. Business profits tax was collected to the amount of \$4,752,681, making a total collection from the two taxes of \$58,956,708. The cost of collections was \$1,835,274.

With Rod, Reel and Fly on the 24th

Everything for the angler, including Rods in steel, lancewood and bamboo; trout reels, flies, dip-nets and fishing baskets await you in the Sporting Department of

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That you ALWAYS put out your CAMP FIRES AND EXTINGUISH BURNING MATCHES, ASHES OF PIPE, LIGHTED CIGARS, CIGARETTES before throwing away.

That YOU REGISTER before entering FOREST LAND.

That YOU BURN YOUR SLASH in the FALL when SAFE

DID YOU KNOW THAT

NEGLECTED CAMP FIRES OF FISHERMEN AND PICNIC PARTIES have caused \$1,500,000 DAMAGE to our FORESTS in five years.

UNCONTROLLED SLASH FIRES have burned out THREE VILLAGES and destroyed \$1,250,000 OF PROPERTY during the past five years.

Use your telephone to locate the nearest Fire Warden in case a forest fire occurs. Central will help you find him. Your co-operation in many little ways helps considerably and is always highly appreciated.

Attractive Forest Fire Prevention Booklet Free on request to the Dept. of Lands and Mines, Fredericton. 14929-5-23

Good-bye to Jammed Car Rides

"THANK GOODNESS! I'm through with that," exclaimed Tom, as he wheeled past the crowd struggling to get on the street car.

"It's much pleasanter sitting on my comfortable saddle than hanging to a strap in a jammed, stuffy car."

Tom is right. It certainly is a pleasure to ride a sweet-running C.C.M. Bicycle to work these fine mornings.

There is health in every breath. And the gentle exercise of cycling is just enough to stir up the circulation and put pep into the system. You feel fit to tackle the day's work.

You can ride home at noon, too, to a hot lunch if you desire. And, after the day's work is done, what a comfort to spin home on your smooth-running C.C.M. while pavements are trudging along the hard pavements or waiting on the corner for a crowded street car.

It will not take long to pay for a C.C.M. Bicycle. You can do it with the car-fare you'll save, or with the shoe leather you'll save instead of walking on hard pavements. Your time is worth money, too, and a bicycle will save you lots of time.

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Drop into the C.C.M. dealer's and see the new models. From the Standard model—the Special—the Sport model and other designs—it will be easy to pick out one that suits you to perfection, and at from \$15 to \$20 less than the "peak" prices. A Big Dollar's Value for every dollar you invest in a C.C.M.

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