

Our Timber has Been Wasted

Present High Prices for Wood Products Emphasize our Previous Disregard for our Forests

Owing to the low market prices in the earlier days of the lumber industry only the better grades of timber could be removed from the forest with profit to the operator. This fact coupled with the very general belief that the forest supplies were inexhaustible led to logging methods that would now be considered wasteful, even profligate. Giant pine and spruce were felled and only one log taken, the rest of the tree remaining to decay in the bush. Often trees were felled and entirely discarded because of slight imperfections.

The earlier lumbering operations very materially reduced the forest capital stock of the country by wasteful methods. With the present high prices and with a well reasoned doubt that the forest supplies are inexhaustible, the economic pressure for raw materials is so great that there is danger of reducing the forest capital to the point of exhaustion by too extensive cutting.

Most of the timberlands of reasonable accessibility in Eastern Canada have already been cut over several times. There are thousands of square miles of such lands. A large portion of the future supply should come from these areas. Will they ever furnish a future supply; if so, what kind, how much and when? These are questions which the Commission of Conservation of Canada is attempting to answer through its forest regeneration surveys. The work is being carried on through the co-operation of the Provincial Forest Services of Quebec and New Brunswick and various pulp and paper companies, the latter being represented by the Abitibi Power and Paper Company in Ontario, the Laurentide Company and the Rirdon Pulp and Paper Company in Quebec, and by the Bathurst Lumber Company in New Brunswick. It is planned to extend the investigation over a sufficient number of representative districts throughout Eastern Canada, so that general conclusions as to growth conditions on cut-over lands may be reached. So far as the investigations have gone, however, applying them only to the areas studied, the indications are that the original white pine has not reproduced itself on cut-over unburned lands. Extensive areas that yielded large quantities of white pine timber are at present practically without young trees. The results of the forest regeneration surveys also indicate that spruce is being crowded out of the forest by balsam fir. In some cases there are only one third as many young spruce trees to make the future crop as were removed by the logging operations. The young balsam fir trees usually out-number the young spruce trees 4 to 1 and in some cases 20 to 1.

If our valuable spruce is to be maintained in the forest in its former quantities some change must be made in the present logging operations, for they apparently encourage the reproduction of the less valuable balsam fir.—Dr. C. D. Howe.

Our Fire Losses

January-May, 1920	\$11,557,944
" 1919	10,026,419
Increase in loss this year.....	\$ 1,531,525

Canada's fire loss for the current year bids fair to exceed any thus far recorded, with the exception of that of 1918, when heavy losses were entailed through the destruction of munition plants. If the average of the first five months of the current year is maintained, our fire loss for 1920 will reach almost \$28,000,000.

Canada cannot afford this waste and the consequent destruction of money and effort. The Government is earnestly seeking new revenue; there is a shortage of help for building purposes and many factories are hard pressed to supply the market for manufactured goods; yet we are burning up our capital at the rate of 2½ million dollars per month.

According to the *Monetary Times*, from which the above figures of fire losses are taken, 103 residences were damaged or destroyed. The serious shortage of houses is thus accentuated by the fire waste.

The toll being taken by fire is a charge which must be met by the people of Canada. In 1919, insurance companies collected \$40,000,000, or over \$22 for each family of five members. Had the Minister of Finance, Sir Henry Drayton, announced in his budget speech that to replace the fire loss, a direct tax of \$22 would be levied upon each family there would have been a storm of protest from one end of Canada to the other. We are, however, silently paying this tax, which includes the loss by fire, \$15, and the charges of the insurance companies to cover business costs, dividends, etc., \$7. Everything we buy carries its percentage of this tax, and will continue to do so as long as we allow our national wealth to be burned up at its present rate.

A proposed Winnipeg factory will manufacture boxes from a wood fibre. The fibre will be made of pressed waste paper and wood screening, reinforced with metal.

From 32 liters of silver black foxes, Mr. George Calbeck, of Summerside, one of the leading fox farmers of Prince Edward Island, secured 156 living pups. The breeding season has been very satisfactory on the island.

Electricity for the Farm Home

Concerted Action by Municipalities Would Provide for Wide Distribution of this Convenience

The necessity for a more adequate supply of electric energy to the smaller communities, particularly in the Prairie Provinces, has often been pointed out by the Commission of Conservation. Concerted action would bring this most beneficial utility to every town, village and practically every farm within reach.

The middle west of the United States is very aggressive in this respect. Central stations are building lines as rapidly as possible, and are planning more for the immediate future. Regarding the construction and cost of these the *Electrical World* states:

"In general the construction is of two sorts for two very different purposes. The first consists mainly of 33,000-volt and 66,000-volt lines, interconnecting generating stations and taking on new towns or industries. The second consists of 2,300-volt and 4,600-volt lines, designed to serve groups of farmers and small villages.

"While it is difficult to generalize on prices when the metal markets are so unstable, it may be said that farm lines cost at present from \$600 to \$800 a mile and the 33,000-volt and 66,000-volt lines cost from \$3,500 to \$4,500 a mile. Moreover, the cost factor seems at present to be one of the most important items in determining how long this era of construction may last. Certainly the demand for service will not limit the activity for some time to come, especially in the farm-line extensions."—L. G. Denis.

Co-operative Surveys

Commission of Conservation Experts Assist the Provinces

Mr. G. H. Prince, Provincial Forester, in the Annual Report of the Crown Lands Department of New Brunswick for 1919, in referring to the work of the Commission of Conservation in that province says:

"Before dealing with the different details of the survey work (forest survey of the Crown Lands of New Brunswick), I would respectfully call your attention to the able assistance rendered by the Conservation Commission of Canada to this Department both in the matter of advice and actual investigation of the various problems that have come up from time to time. Most especially do I wish to acknowledge the aid given through their Forestry Division in directing growth study and regeneration work in connection with the determination of the annual growth on the Crown Lands, while the advice and instruction rendered by their Agriculturist in soil classification work in his two trips to this

province has been highly appreciated. Much credit is due the Commission, as they have shown this Province every consideration and have personally taken a keen interest wherever scientific investigation and expert advice would further the development of the Forest Survey in any way. We look forward with much satisfaction for the continued co-operation of the Commission in the future."

The volume also contains the report of "Forest Regeneration Surveys," by Dr. C. D. Howe, and "Soil Survey," by Mr. F. C. Nunnick, of the Commission of Conservation.

Diseases of Fur-Bearing Animals

The more common diseases affecting fur-bearing animals are enteritis or inflamed intestines, pneumonia, diarrhoea, and degenerated kidneys, all of which may largely be prevented by judicious care in housing and feeding. Pneumonia results from exposure, and is likely to attack animals that have recently been trapped or shipped. It rarely occurs when they are kept in dry and well-ventilated quarters. The symptoms of pneumonia are loss of appetite, dry nose, and rubbing of throat and chest on the ground. Very little can be done for animals suffering with this disease beyond giving them clean, dustless bedding and keeping them in pens that are warm and airy but free from direct draughts.

Diarrhoea is caused by improper feeding. It should be the invariable duty of keepers to take note daily of the excreta of animals under their charge, and to change the diet of any showing signs of disease. An excessive proportion of vegetable food, fats, and impure water, fermented or putrid food, and over-feeding are among the causes of this malady. A diet of milk, eggs, and fresh lean meat, given in moderate quantities, if begun promptly, is usually sufficient to correct any kind of bowel trouble.

Animals that are allowed to become fat and remain so are almost certain sooner or later to die from degeneration of the kidneys. In its later stages this disease is characterized by emaciation, nervousness, and a bloodless appearance of the tongue and gums. When an animal has reached this condition there is very little chance of saving its life. This disease may be avoided by not allowing animals to become fat and by keeping those showing a tendency to do so mainly on lean meat, fish, and milk.—Dr. Ned Dearborn.

It is proposed to establish a whitefish canning industry in northern Alberta. It is said there is no finer fish in fresh water than the whitefish of the far north rivers and lakes.