

# Comission of Conservation

## CANADA

SIR CLIFFORD SIFTON  
Chairman

JAMES WHITE  
Assistant to Chairman and Deputy Head

CONSERVATION is published about the first of each month. Its object is the dissemination of information relative to the natural resources of Canada, their development and the proper conservation of the same, together with timely articles covering town-planning and public health.

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The training of children in fire prevention and safety precautions is one of the first duties both of the parent and teacher.

The increase in consumption of "Made-in-Canada" goods will mean decrease in cost of production. This decrease will enable Canadian manufacturers the better to meet competition in foreign markets.

The housing problem is business. City planning is business. Sanitary science and public health are business. These are questions for every employer and employee to consider, for only under favourable living conditions can the human unit reach the maximum of efficiency.

Canada is a large importer and borrower. In order that she may continue to buy abroad what she requires, and pay interest on her borrowings, she must sell. European countries will require all Canada can produce, and to take advantage of this opportunity, Canada should greatly increase her production, especially of live stock and farm produce.

Discussing from an American standpoint the situation created by the European war, Mr. George Otis Smith, Director of the United States Geological Survey, emphasized the essential requirements of American industry. As his remarks are also applicable to Canada, they are quoted herewith: "Coming down to bottom facts, the United States will profit by the European war only as the nation makes larger and wiser use of its mineral resources. Foreign markets in the main can be won and held only as the quantity or quality of the "Made-in-America" product rivals that of the goods offered by the other producing

nations. The buyer, whether he be in the Far East or in South America, wants the most and the best for his money. Yet it would seem a safe rule of national conduct that industry should begin at home, and therefore every industrial opportunity in America should be improved! If these opportunities are recognized and grasped every one of us can indulge in optimism."

## ACCIDENT PREVENTION

That accident prevention is largely a matter of education has been clearly demonstrated by carefully compiled statistics of some United States railways, recently published. On one railway, during a period of fifty-three months of operation since the formation of safety committees among the employees, a reduction of 371 is shown in the number of persons killed and of 11,258 in the number injured.

At the same time, despite this favourable showing, in three years there were registered 17,781 accidents, of which 99 out of every 100 could have been prevented.

While no statistics of the accidents occurring throughout Canada, are available, it requires only a casual glance at the newspapers to show that the number is large. In view of this fact, it is very evident that there is great need of an extension of the "safety first" educational movement in Canada. The subject is one which should not be left entirely to private interests to develop; it is in the general interest of Canada at large that the number of her disabled and injured citizens should be greatly reduced.

A fertile field for the propagation of the "safety first," or accident prevention, movement is the public school. The need of care should be taught the child, as lasting impressions can be made upon the young mind. The pulpit also has an influence which should be directed towards education along accident prevention lines. This work may rightly come under the head of social service, in which some churches are taking an active interest.

Canada owes it to her people, municipalities owe it to their citizens, schools and other organizations owe it to their scholars and members that attention be faithfully directed to the matter of safety and accident prevention, both public and personal, and that they be made to realize that it is better to be careful than to be a cripple.—D.

## NATIONAL CONTROL OF NATIONAL RESOURCES

Few nations have set out on their courses with such a magnificent national domain as that which was placed in possession of the United States.

The experience gained by the republic and the policy followed

in the administration of her wonderful resources have been noteworthy, while the result is one of deep interest. To the average American citizen the policy has been costly, to the foreigner, instructive. The final outcome has been that, in a land originally permeated by the gospel of state rights, there has now grown up a vast and potent public opinion favouring national control of national assets. State administration has, in actual practice, resulted in lack of uniformity in legislation, in interstate competition and in the vesting in the few of the property rights of the many. The ever increasing sentiment advocating central control of natural resources has had its practical manifestations in the national conservation movement inaugurated under Mr. Roosevelt, and in federal legislation respecting forests, coal deposits, water-powers, and migratory birds.

At the present time, a further measure of this nature is awaiting the attention of Congress—a measure which aims to place migratory fish under the protection of the Washington government.

## PLOUGHING MATCHES

There was a time in Ontario and Quebec when the ploughing match was an event of importance in many localities. Later, interest in the matches decreased greatly, especially among the younger men. As a result, good ploughing and good soil cultivation have fallen back some points since the old days, except in the few districts where the matches have been continued. As the first-class ploughman is likely to be a good cultivator of the soil, agriculture, in general, has suffered. On the other hand, the farmer who regards ploughing merely as a process of turning over land, the sooner done the better, will not, and can not, be a good cultivator of the soil. Unless the soil is well ploughed, it is impossible to give the land the best of preparation for the seed.

It is encouraging to note, however, that the ploughing match is being revived, and that the Prairie Provinces also are taking a keen interest in competitions of this kind. If they are beneficial as an aid to better farming on the virgin prairie they are of even greater value in the older parts of the country, where the land needs more careful working to maintain soil fertility and increase crop production. Good ploughing is a matter of good ploughmen as well as of good ploughs and, as these matches encourage good workmanship, they are worthy of support by all interested in better farming. As they have an educational value and often give the boys the needed encouragement to remain on the farm, ploughing matches might well form one feature of the work of the Farmers' Club, Farmers' Institute, or Agricultural Society.—F. C. N.

## VALUE OF SCIENTIFIC FORESTRY

The aim of forestry is to bring the forest up to its highest state of productiveness and keep it there. In the United States, where forestry is not practiced except on Government and State lands, the estimated annual production is 12 cubic feet per acre.

In Canada, the average rate of growth is undoubtedly materially less than this, the climatic conditions being, on the whole, less favourable.

In Saxony, where forestry has been practiced for many years, the annual production is 93 cubic feet. According to experts, the rate of growth in Canada, as well as the United States, could undoubtedly be multiplied several times over by the adoption of proper scientific methods, of which the most essential at the present time is efficient fire protection.

## Fireproofing Shingles

The Use of Paint Greatly Reduces Their Danger

Building conditions in Canada are such as to make the use of shingles for roofing houses, stables, etc., almost universal. Their general use, in an unprotected condition, adds considerably to the ordinary fire risk, as well as to the conflagration hazard, and, consequently, increases the insurance rate on the buildings concerned. To overcome this disadvantage, numerous investigations and experiments have been and are still being made with the object of discovering a material the application of which will render the shingle roof fireproof, or, failing this, to secure a process of treatment of shingles whereby they may be included in the category of slow-burning structural material. Thus, it has been demonstrated that the use of a good quality of linseed oil carrying a suitable pigment will materially reduce the hazard. By the application of paint, the shingles are protected from the weather, thus preventing warping and the formation of pockets in which hot cinders may lodge; irregularities in the surface are also filled up by the paint.

Experiments have demonstrated that, under a one-minute exposure to flame, painted shingles are barely affected while unpainted shingles are badly attacked. Under a three-minute test, the unpainted shingles were severely burned while the effect upon the painted ones was such that the actual burning was limited to the portion directly exposed to the flame, the paint retarding the spread of the fire and the charring of the wood. In the absence of any positive fireproofing material, the results obtained from the use of paint upon exposed shingles may be considered one of the best means of reducing the fire risk on shingle-roofed buildings.—D.