

## Getting the Most Out of the Woods

Examples of Close Utilization of Timber—Finding Markets for Hardwoods

The emphasizing of the wasteful lumbering methods of the past is of little service unless the practicability of better measures can be shown. Where economical logging methods are being used they should be given full recognition by all conservationists, and given earnest consideration by operators. An instance of close utilization is evidenced on the limits of a company operating in a modest way in the Parry Sound district. This company secured a block of timber, consisting of mixed hardwoods and conifers, situated near the mill of another company. The first mentioned company let out its woods operations to a sub-contractor and is proceeding to log the area very cleanly. The thoroughness of the operation is shown in the disposal of the products. The softwood logs go to the neighbouring mill; the hemlock ties (hewn) to the railway company; the spruce and balsam pulpwood to a pulp-mill at a considerable distance; the basswood logs, as also any good balsam-gleed logs, go to New Jersey for match stock; the birch logs go to Montreal for export to Europe, for use as veneer, and the other hardwoods, including white oak, ash and elm, are also disposed of. In addition, cedar poles are taken out, the hemlock bark is shipped to tanneries near Toronto, and hardwood waste is used as fuel in its camps. This operation, therefore, may be said to represent the maximum of close utilization. This timber license, of course, is close to a railway, but there must be many opportunities for other such intensive operations throughout Ontario.

Close utilization is also adopted by some of the chemical companies. They operate saw-mills in conjunction with their wood distillation plants, and have logging railways, one of which is 13 miles long. They saw both softwoods and hardwoods into lumber, carbonize smaller hardwoods for chemicals, and use inferior cordwood and slabs from the mill for fuel to heat their ovens. One company at least is about to experiment with the carbonizing of hardwood slabs.

These examples include the logging of hardwoods, which is necessary to solve present forestry problems. It seems probable that more companies could be operating logging railways and removing hardwoods, when the present prices of finished products are considered. If logging railways are not feasible further experiments with driving hardwood logs might be carried out. Many companies have already successfully driven hardwoods for short distances, after leaving the logs in the bush for a year to dry out.—A. V. Gilbert.

## Latent Value of our Straw Stacks

Increasing Values of Products Made Utilization of Western Straw Feasible

Burning straw-stacks are a familiar sight to the western traveller. At present there is seemingly no other method of disposing of this by-product of the grain harvest.

Investigations as to the possibility of using the straw as a raw material in manufacture were undertaken some years ago by different interests, but the same conclusion was reached in each case. The cost of transporting the straw to a central point was more than the traffic would bear, the cost of manufacturing precluded competition in the open market, and, consequently, the use of the western straw under the transportation handicap was not a commercial proposition. This was especially the case in the manufacture of strawboard. In 1913, strawboard prices range from \$25 to \$26 per ton. There was little demand for this product in the west, and, at the above price, it could not compete in the east. One leading eastern paper industry, which, some years ago, carefully considered the possibilities of establishing a strawboard mill in the west, recently stated that, under present conditions, with strawboard selling at \$85 to \$90 per ton, such a factory could be made a profitable industry.

The rising cost and the necessity for conserving our pulpwood supply suggest that any material capable of being used as a substitute should be developed. Strawboard is a short-fibred material and is unsuitable where strength or folding qualities are required, but there are many uses for which it is entirely satisfactory. In 1918 Canada imported 4,850 tons of strawboard, equal to the output of a mill producing 15 tons per day.

Non-Canadians manufactured the strawboard we imported; we paid them for doing so, while we burned our own straw.

## Building Bylaws Should be Enforced

In most of our cities and towns a building code exists. The ostensible purpose is the regulation of building, prevention of fire danger to life and property, and the conservation of health.

It is interesting to note, from the report of the last annual meeting of the Dominion Association of Fire Chiefs, the efforts which are made to evade the provision of the building code and the success which attends these efforts. Many of these fire chiefs, experts in fire prevention, gave their experiences.

One fire chief said: "Your municipal council will sit for hours and draw up building and fire prevention by-laws, and, in the next 24 hours, when they meet again the by-laws are all cast aside

that some building may be erected in contravention of the by-laws. . . There are lots of aldermen who do not want to break these by-laws, but simply because Mr. Smith or Mr. Jones is a friend of theirs, they do it." Another ex-chief said: "There was a rooming house that I did not approve of. The aldermen even said they would not sleep in the building, but, before my time, a license had been granted, and they said if I did not approve of it, it would bankrupt the man who built it. I pointed out that they were putting dollars ahead of lives. I was then dismissed from the city for not approving of that."

In interpreting the amendment to the Criminal Code passed at the last session of Parliament, Mr. G. D. Findlayson, Superintendent of Insurance, speaking at the meeting of the Dominion Fire Prevention Committee, said: "Under the first clause, any person upon whose premises fire occurs is deemed to have caused the fire by negligence if he has failed to comply with any regulations designed to prevent fire. Non-compliance is the proof of negligence, and this is a question of fact to be determined by a jury. Notification of a breach of the law is not provided for, as every person is presumed to be familiar with the law."

In view of the experience of the fire chiefs above noted, well may it be said, as expressed by Mr. W. H. Shapley, Chairman of the Fire Prevention Committee, that "the change that has been made in the Criminal Code should have a good effect if we can find anyone loyal enough to the interests of the Dominion to enforce the law."

## Canning of Whale Is Discontinued

The commercial effect of the war and its cessation is strikingly exemplified in the whale fisheries of the Pacific coast. Due to the food shortage and the demand for oils and fats, whale fishing was actively carried on. During the 1918 season, over 500 whales were taken by three fishing stations; the catch of one station alone was 246. During the same year 30,000 cases of whale meat was canned and met a ready market.

The close of the war, however, meant the complete cessation of the whale-canning industry; no whale meat was put up in 1919. Only one whaling station was in operation, and but 166 whales were taken.

Whale-meat is a nutritious food product, in taste being similar to beefsteak. It was placed on the market at a price of 20 cents per pound tin, and filled a requirement for a food supply at low cost. As a war measure the taking of 500 whales in one season could be justified, but a continuance of killing on this extensive scale would result in the annihilation of this great mammal.

## Natural Resources

A California dredging company is placing a large plant on the Peace river to conduct placer mining operations for gold.

The Province of Quebec, in 1919, had 518 lakes and 49 rivers leased for fishing purposes, providing a revenue of \$76,248.

It is reported that a British company is to establish an iron and steel industry in British Columbia to utilize the native ores of the Province.

Investigation of the Dauphin oil field may be undertaken by the Manitoba Government, if the reports of experts on its possibilities are satisfactory.

The demand for furs and the slaughter of fur-bearers necessary to meet this demand may be judged from the fact that at the London April fur auction sale 8,780,582 pelts were offered.

British Columbia crabs are again being canned and offered on the local market. It is some years since this industry was discontinued, California and Japanese competition rendering the British Columbia industry unprofitable.

In 1919 Quebec produced 12,353,667 pounds of maple sugar and 1,470,275 gallons of maple syrup, the whole estimated at \$6,396,535, taking as a basis the sugar and the syrup converted into sugar, at an average price of 25 cents per pound.

The Imperial Oil Co. will spend \$2,000,000 for oil explorations in Alberta this year. One well will be drilled south of Pincher Creek and one each at Fort Norman and Great Slave Lake. A well is being put down in the Czar district and the Brazeau region may be examined.

The Gouin (La Loutrre) dam, on the upper waters of the St. Maurice river, Quebec, has a storage capacity of 160,000,000 cubic feet and a water area of 300 square miles, forming the second largest storage reservoir in the world. It is exceeded in size only by that of Gatun lake, on the Panama canal. The storage at Gouin will permit a regulated permanent flow of over 12,000 cubic feet per second at Shawinigan, rendering 1,000,000 horse power now available on the St. Maurice.

In the fiscal year, 1918-19 12,723,000 pelts were imported into the United States from Canada. These imports included large numbers of rabbit skins from Australia and New Zealand and also about 250,000 sheep skins from Australia, New Zealand, India and Peru. These figures demonstrate that Canada is exporting more furs than ever before in her history, and that the number of fur-bearers taken in 1918-1919 was in excess of the annual increment, thus trenching upon our capital stock.