

## Fisheries Protection in British Columbia

Important Points in Evidence of J. P. Babcock Before Royal Commission

Mr. J. P. Babcock, Assistant Commissioner of Fisheries for British Columbia, and a member of the Commission of Conservation, gave the principal evidence before the commission appointed to investigate the fisheries problems of British Columbia. Of special importance was his reference to the need of protection for the fish on the spawning grounds. Mr. Babcock said:

"When, as in 1916, it is demonstrated that the beds of the Skeena, Rivers and Smith Inlet or other watersheds were inadequately seeded, the Department should take steps to afford the fish hatched in those years a greater measure of protection upon their return four or five years hence than was afforded their parents, because the Skeena and Rivers Inlet fish mature in the fourth and some in the fifth year. A greater measure of protection therefore should be given to the runs of 1929 and 1921, than was afforded the run of 1916.

"This should be done for every year's run when the spawning beds are shown not to have been abundantly seeded. Regulations to be effective must be made to fit the known requirements of each particular year's run. Blanket regulations for a series of years, that treat all years alike, are no longer adequate for waters that show evidence of depletion.

"The need and efficiency of just such measures as are here suggested are made manifest from the facts in the life history of the sockeye, which the Province has scientifically ascertained. It is a forcible illustration of the necessity for knowledge as to the life history of the species which it is desirable to conserve.

"With this object in view the British Columbia Fisheries Department retained the services of Dr. C. H. Gilbert, of Stanford University, for a study of the salmon, and William F. Thompson, of Stanford University, for a study of the halibut. Without the work of Dr. Gilbert and Mr. Thompson we could not intelligently legislate to conserve the supply of either salmon or halibut. We can now act on known, scientifically ascertained facts, and with some promise of accomplishing results."

Mr. Thompson contributed a very able paper to the annual report of the Commission of Conservation for 1916, on "The Problem of the Halibut."

"The use of motor boats for fishing purposes has been an exceedingly live topic on the Pacific coast. Mr. Babcock gives it as his opinion that:

"If it be provided that cannery or fishing concerns engaged in canning or freezing salmon shall

not furnish motor boats to fishermen engaged in fishing for salmon, I personally can see no objection to their use by independent white fishermen.

"Motor boats used by Japanese would, I am convinced, have a catching capacity in excess of the boats now used. The Japanese are persistent fishermen. If they had motor boats they would keep their nets in the water longer than at present is possible.

"A Japanese using a motor boat and having his net in the water would hesitate to take it up and replace it in other nearby waters where he saw evidence of moving fish. This is frequently done by Japanese on the Fraser.

"In considering the motor boat question, I submit that consideration should be given to the use that Japanese would make of them. The Japanese fishermen of the Fraser own their own boats and many own their own nets. The 'off' years on the Fraser are no longer profitable. In consequence, if they were permitted to use motor boats in District No. 2, cannery men desired to use them, in connection with their plants, would have no difficulty in getting them to take them into District No. 2. Once this is done other cannery men follow.

"View this question as one may, it must, I think, be conceded that a motor boat will enable the energetic fishermen to catch more fish. If, therefore, their use is to be permitted, the fish must be given a compensating measure of protection."

### To Classify Land

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cannot be impressed by the need of this. In Ontario, in the Trent watershed, there are to be found to-day pitiful cases of disappointment, the settlers having expended their energy for years on land that will never be anything more than patches of gravel and sand. In places in New Brunswick, settlers are merely existing on land which is not suitable for agriculture and should have been kept in forest. In one part of southern Saskatchewan, there is an area known locally as 'the burnouts' where settlers have been forced out because they could not make a living. Other provinces have similar difficulties.

Various excuses may be made as to why these errors have happened in the past, but none can be offered for their continuance. Whether the Crown land in a province be under provincial or Dominion control, it is the duty of the government having jurisdiction to see that it is properly classified, and that settlers are allowed only on land suitable for agriculture and where there is reasonable assurance that a decent living can be made.—F.C.N.

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## DANGER OF GASOLENE IN PRIVATE GARAGES

The increasing use of the automobile has caused many out-buildings to be converted into private garages. This conversion, in many cases, carries with it the storage of more or less gasoline. In almost all municipal regulations this storage is held to be objectionable. It is highly dangerous, and constitutes a risk, not only to the garage itself, but to adjoining property.

Gasoline will give off 130 times its bulk in vapour, and, when vaporized, will convert 1,560 times its volume of air into an explosive mixture, which will ignite from a blaze or spark. Five gallons of gasoline will generate 8,000 cubic feet of gas, or enough to fill a room 20 by 40 feet and 10 feet high. When ignited, it immediately expands to 4,000 times that space. In a built-up area, this would cause a most destructive explosion, with probable loss of life. The temptation to keep a rather large supply of gasoline on hand is great, and garages should, therefore, be inspected by local fire departments for dangerous conditions.

### St. Lawrence Power

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make use of the Cedar rapids has developed a very large amount of power estimated to be about 100,000 h.p. Of this amount so developed purely from Canadian waters the company has sold and delivered to the Aluminum Company of America an amount varying from 50,000 to 74,000 h.p. Indeed, it has been authorized by a permit issued on April 1, 1916, to export up to 100,000 h.p. This enormous quantity of energy is being sent out of Canada and is of no benefit whatever to Canada except in so far as the profits thereon represent dividends to a few shareholders. Whatever the power situation is in Montreal, there can be no shortage which is legitimately due to lack of power development.

In Ontario, the question of fuel has become an increasingly serious one, and the time will come very soon when electric power will be largely used for the purpose of operating the railways in that province and for other purposes for which coal is at present employed.

It is, therefore, unwise and imprudent to allow large Canadian water-powers to be developed with the object of exporting the power to the United States. The time will undoubtedly come when the power will be required upon the Canadian side of the line and the creation of vested interests in the United States will give rise to serious embarrassment and international complications when it is withdrawn for use here. A situation similar to this has already arisen at Niagara Falls.

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## Part the Church Can Play in Country Life

Massachusetts Man Thinks It Should Lead in Social Welfare Work

What a wonderful opportunity organized agriculture presents to train and direct the push and energy of youth! If agriculture will keep at home in the country which can be done in the country but which as now organized at located in the city, these backward—the farm, rural-life, crowded—the and depleted-race questions will be solved. In accomplishing this do not forget that a social department is a vital thing to a country business organization. Man is a social being craving the society of men and he prefers those of his own experience and ideals; he wants entertainment, but unknowingly will chose that best fitting into his life, and his amusement will naturally be from topics which his training and experience enable him the most easily to comprehend.

This branch of the organization should include schools, both trade and business, preparing him for his work instead of the university. This is the proper department for sanitation, nursing and clinics dealing especially with children's diseases. There should be physical training with gymnasiums, shows, baths, bowling and other games as well as military drill.

The proper agency to successfully undertake this part of the organization is the church, we know because its time is spent in prayer and praise, without criticism which it may be suggesting the faith without works is void, and the demand now is for community service and public welfare. We should every one support the church, preferably from the highest religious motives, but, if necessary, because of business necessity. Its history, standing, motives and foundation principles, universally acknowledged, make it the only agency to successfully accomplish these social benefits.—M. L. Cross in Report of Mass. Board of Agriculture.

### SCHOOL BOYS AND BIRDS

The little .22 rifle in the hands of the boy is a serious menace to his life. Give a young lad one of the miniature rifles, and he is at once ambitious to test it out on killing something. If school boys were taught their dependence upon the work the birds do to protect man's food supply from destructive insects, they would place a much greater value upon their feathered friends.

### IS THIS THE CAUSE?

The United States military intelligence shows that the number of the physically defective is from 7 to 20 per cent higher in rural districts than in cities. The officials blame this on the lack of medical inspection in country schools.