

Commission of Conservation

CANADA

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CONSERVATION is published 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 COMMISSION OF CONSERVATION

It is the function of the Commission of Conservation not so much to do things as to start things; we are not an executive body. Our functions, our activities, are more or less limited, first, by the number of men that we have to do the work, and the expense involved in doing it, and, second, by the fact that a great many of the things in which we are particularly concerned are not things which we ourselves can do, but things of the kind which must be done by leading men throughout the country, who are capable of taking up movements and carrying them on in a way that the Commission of Conservation could not think of doing itself. Therefore it is the function of the Commission of Conservation not so much to do things as to start things, to investigate, to bring about co-relations between the different people, individuals and bodies, which result in getting a movement started in the right direction and giving it our blessing and helping it along as well as we can after it is started.—Sir Clifford Sifton, at the preliminary conference to form a Civic Improvement League for Canada.

Fire Prevention in the Home

Clean-up Day is as Necessary Inside the Home as Outside

Carelessness is credited with seventy-five per cent of Canada's enormous fire loss. During 1915 no fewer than 676 fires occurred in dwelling houses. Of this number it is safe to say that a great

majority were attributed to the threadbare excuse "cause unknown." Were the cause of many of these fires correctly reported, it would be "careless and untidy housekeeping."

Clean-up day is as necessary inside the house as out. Closets, attics and other out-of-the-way places harbour accumulations of old clothes, discarded furniture, books, waste paper, etc., all greatly increasing the fire hazard. Matches left in the pockets of clothes may easily ignite from friction in swinging against a wall. Sparks from a crack in the chimney passing through an attic may start a fire among the contents. Defective stovepipes and flues, accumulations of dust, etc., in hot air pipes, wood and inflammable material too near furnaces, are

DESTROY THE EARLY FLY

The bright sunny days of March and April are an inducement for the housefly to appear. An early start in destroying these pests should be made on the first fly seen, and the good work should be consistently and effectively carried on. The destruction of the early fly will mean the saving of valuable lives, as there is no more persistent carrier and distributor of disease than the house fly.

constantly causing fires in dwelling houses.

Canada cannot afford to continue this enormous sacrifice of her created resources. An average annual fire loss of approximately \$23,000,000 for the past five years constitutes the blackest record of any country in the world. When all our power, both financial and physical, is required for the great task in hand, the housewives in Canada should carefully and consistently clean up their homes, remedy all dangerous conditions, remove inflammable material, and assist in reducing the enormous drain which is taxing the financial resources of our people and our country.

Discarded Fish Proved Edible

Fish Hitherto Utterly Wasted Would be an Acquisition to Canadian Dinner Tables

Probably not many people would care to experiment personally to test the edibility of doubtful food products, yet this is just what the staff of the biological station at St. Andrews, N.B., have been doing. For the past two or three seasons they have been trying on their mess tables, various kinds of fish that ordinarily are thrown away, and in several cases have found them delicious.

For instance, there is a peculiar greenish eel-like creature which, because it brings forth its young alive, has received the name, "mother-of-eels." A large specimen may weigh a couple of pounds. The biological staff found that it was white-fleshed and of splendid flavour and declared it to be one of the best fish they had had on the table. There are great quantities of mother-of-eels along the Atlantic coast, yet it is a fish the food value of which has not been realized at all.

Another fish, which is not being utilized in Canada, though, minus the head it has found its way into the fastidious British market, is the wolf-fish or sea-cat. Probably its ugliness prejudices people against it. Yet those who have eaten it say that it has a very superior flavour, having perfectly white flesh, whiter than halibut, flaky and delicious. Wolf-fish vary from 15 to 20 pounds in weight. Great quantities of them are caught in the Maritime provinces and simply thrown away, being considered as absolutely of no value.

The angler or goos-fish, another very ugly fish, which sometimes attains four or five feet in length, is in the same category. The tail portion, which is solid flesh, is very good. Minus the head, it also has been placed in recent years on the London market. It brings a good price and is regarded as an excellent fish.

New Brunswick Forestry Progress

Conservation Measures to be Adopted to Secure Continuous Production.

Mr. P. Z. Caverhill has been appointed Provincial Forester of New Brunswick, to take charge of the forest survey and classification of Crown lands, for which provision was made in the Act of 1913. Mr. Caverhill is a native of New Brunswick, and graduated from the forestry department of the provincial university in 1910. Following his graduation, he was employed by the Dominion Forestry Branch in the west, later transferring to the British Columbia Forest Branch, where he has held important administrative positions. Mr. Caverhill is an active member of the Canadian Society of Forest Engineers.

The Crown lands of New Brunswick comprise about 10,000 square miles, or approximately one-third the area of the province. The revenue to the Crown from this source is in the neighborhood of \$500,000 annually. It is the object of the Government to administer these lands so that the annual timber growth will be harvested each year thus ensuring the receipt of the maximum annual revenue for all time, meanwhile furnishing the largest amount of wood material for the permanent

use of the extensive timber-using industries of the province. In other words, the forest is to be regarded as a crop, the difference from other crops being that it takes much longer to grow.

The immediate work in hand, to serve as a basis for later administration, will include an estimate of standing timber on Crown lands, an estimate of the rate of growth of the various species under the varying conditions, and a classification of the soil, to determine which areas are primarily suitable for agriculture, and which are valuable only for the permanent production of forest crops. It is understood that a very large percentage of the Crown land area is of the latter class, the soil not being suitable for permanent agriculture.—C.L.

Fish Shortage in Britain

Average Price Now More Than Doubled, While Catch Very Much Reduced

During the past year, Canadian fishing interests have taken steps to relieve the shortage in Great Britain's fish supply arising from the restriction imposed by the war on fishing operations in the North Sea. The serious character of the shortage is indicated in a recent United States consular report dealing with the yield of the Scotch fisheries in 1915. In part the report states:—

The total quantity of fish other than shellfish landed in Scotland in 1915 was 2,297,818 cwt. (of 112 pounds), valued at \$9,972,530, or an average of \$4.34 per cwt., as compared with 6,926,241 cwt., \$14,475,843, and \$2.09, in 1914, and 7,267,328 cwt., \$18,168,320, and \$2.50 in 1913. The shortage in the catch as compared with 1914 thus amounted to 67 per cent, and in the corresponding value to 31 per cent, while the average price was more than doubled.

The greatly reduced landings of herrings were mainly responsible for the decreases, herrings representing 61 per cent of the total catch in 1913 and 63 per cent in 1914, and only 30 per cent of the markedly diminished total last year. The actual figures for herrings are 4,449,321 cwt. in 1913, 4,383,235 cwt. in 1914, 609,389 cwt. in 1915, with the corresponding values \$10,160,050, \$6,516,419, and \$2,138,175.

The total quantity of whitefish, excluding herrings, mackerel, and other pelagic fish, landed during the year, was 1,522,471 cwt., as against 2,435,017 cwt. in 1914 and 2,735,252 cwt. in 1913; the value was \$7,714,128, as against \$7,819,030 and \$7,945,836.

Stovepipes which enter chimneys in attics, or other unused rooms are extremely dangerous. Such arrangement should be avoided.