

What Eyes of Science Can Do for Business

An Example of Business Blindness in Great Britain

In several British industries, native raw materials are now being utilized here, before the war such materials were imported from the continent simply because the manufacturer did not happen to know that ample supplies of the same were at his very door, a fact of which he would have been informed had he consulted competent scientific authorities. This is well illustrated in the case of one of the largest steel corporations of England which, until 1914, had been importing from Austria, through a German firm, a certain material for lining its converters. When war was declared it congratulated itself on the fact that it had a two years' supply on hand. As time wore on, however, and the supply diminished, complacency gave place to anxiety. Finally, the directors decided to call in scientific advice. They were referred to the geologists who informed them that a bountiful supply of the material in question was available in the immediate vicinity of their own plant. The information was acted upon, a shaft was sunk at no great distance from their furnaces, and, as a result, the company is now mining in sufficient quantity on its own account the material formerly imported from Austria at many times the present cost.—Prof. J. C. Fields.

Solution of Housing Problem

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solution in order that we may do our best to win the war, we are not likely to have the courage or the intelligence to deal with the more general problem. Private enterprise may be dismissed as a factor under present conditions. Apparently, therefore, we must have recourse to a policy requiring government aid, be it federal or provincial, and government aid involves government supervision. The Federal Government is the authority under the War Measures Act, and housing war workers is a war measure. Therefore, this is primarily a matter for the Federal Government; although, for practical purposes, it should delegate as much responsibility as possible to provincial and municipal governments. Large employers of labour who need housing accommodation should be made to co-operate in any government scheme, in their respective localities.

If government housing were resorted to in this country, it should be carried out by a joint partnership between federal, provincial and municipal authorities. The Federal Government should provide the funds and set up a central expert advisory and supervisory board; it should not build houses directly under its own control except for employes in government factories, arsenals, naval establishments or railways. In all other cases, housing operations in connection with

war industries and returned soldiers should be carried out by the municipalities with the aid of funds and expert advice provided by the Federal Government through the agency of provincial governments. Departments of the provincial governments should take the responsibility for the proper housing schemes, under the regulations of the Federal Government and subject to its supreme control in matters of finance. For the present, no housing scheme should be carried out with the aid of public funds unless for some purpose directly connected with war production, but all such schemes should consist of permanent buildings so as to make them contribute to the solution of the general problem of reconstruction after the war.

This brief outline of policy is not put forward as a recommendation to the Government, but only as an indication of what the experience in other countries would lead us to believe to be the best policy—and regard being paid to our local conditions and forms of government in Canada.

—Thomas Adams.

Point Pelee Reserved

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and southern journey of our migratory birds. In the spring and in the autumn, enormous numbers of birds of all species in their migratory journeys to and from Canadian territory concentrate at this point and its reservation, therefore would be an important factor in ensuring the protection of these. The area includes a marsh several square miles in extent which forms a favourite resort and breeding place for wild fowl, but excessive shooting has reduced its value as a breeding place. Pine, oaks, red cedar, black walnut, and hackberry grow in profusion on the narrow strip of land running down the west side of the point and make it a tract of singular beauty to the lover of trees and shady groves. Its scenic value, the southern nature of its birds and plant life, its importance as a main route for migratory birds and the exceptional opportunities it affords for the protection and encouragement of wild fowl, insectivorous and other birds, all combine to make it an ideal area for a national reservation.

With the exception that duck shooting will be allowed on the marsh under permit for a limited season in the fall, the wild life in the park, which includes the extensive marsh will be protected as in the case in all the National Parks. The park contains some of the most beautiful woodland and lake scenery that is to be found in western Ontario and its reservation will mean the permanent protection of the area under the Parks Branch of the Department of the Interior for the use and enjoyment of the public.

FARES PAID FOR FARM HELP

To provide help in haying and harvest, the Trades and Labour Branch of the Ontario Government will pay the going railway fare of persons who agree to work on a farm

for at least three weeks. The worker has, however, to pay his return fare. The maximum distance for which this free transportation is given is 300 miles.

It is understood also that the Quebec Government has arranged with the railways for reduced fares for farm labourers.

Finding Out How To Control Wild Mustard

Experiments Conducted by Commission of Conservation in Dundas County

On a number of farms in Dundas county where the Commission of Conservation is conducting illustration work on farms, various methods of cultivation are being tried to check the spread of wild mustard. On fields where corn was grown last year and where grain was sown this spring, part of the land was ploughed and part was thoroughly cultivated only, before seeding. On fields where the corn was kept clean last summer and no mustard was allowed to go to seed, the cultivated portion shows much less mustard this year than is to be seen in the grain on the land which was ploughed, while the stand of grain is equally as good on the cultivated portion of the field.

There are two things to be looked for in this comparison: note which part of the field gives the best grain crop and which is freer from mustard. If this test is contemplated on your farm next spring, by all means see that the mustard in your crop of corn is not allowed to go to seed. There are many similar simple tests that any farmer might conduct. The way to find out if a thing is good is to try it out, on a small scale at first, on your own farm. Do not plunge headlong into some new thing the first time you hear of it. Try things side by side so that a comparison may be made.—F. C. N.

Make Potato Flour To Reinforce Wheat

Process Described for Making Potatoes Into Flour

Canada has been called the granary of the Empire, but no one seems to have thought of giving her the appellation: "the cellar of the Empire." And yet the potato cellar may be made a very real counterpart of the granary. Owing to the great development of the war-garden idea, thousands of people are growing potatoes, who, before the war, relied entirely on supplies from the farms. There is thus every reason to suppose that potatoes will be much more plentiful this year than ever before.

Why not convert as large a proportion as possible into potato flour? Potato flour mills require but a few hundred dollars of working capital; the machinery required is of the simplest and the resulting product is a wholesome, nourishing food. Potato

flour has been used extensively in Britain, especially during the past year. A mill in the state of Washington produces 25 to 30 barrels a day and sold its product during the month of April for \$21 a barrel. Certain starch companies in Canada are also making it, but the business is capable of very considerable expansion. According to Mr. Meeker, an American potato-flour manufacturer of long experience, a ton of potatoes will produce 500 pounds of flour. The process he describes is a simple one.

"First, the potatoes are washed clean and then sliced with the peeling on and dropped immediately into water to rinse them and to prevent discoloration. Then, as soon as practicable, they are either parboiled or steamed for eight or ten minutes, when the starch will be cooked and the slices will become transparent. The cooked slices are then transferred to a drier and, for the first few hours, are subjected to a current of hot air not hotter than 120° F., after which the temperature is gradually increased to 170°, but no greater. The drying process is continued until the slices are brittle, though it is immaterial if a few here and there are not thoroughly dried. They are then taken from the kiln and placed in piles in a room where they can be well stirred at intervals for three or four days, after which they may be ground into flour.

"A revolving washer—a long box partially submerged in water and capable of washing a ton of potatoes an hour—can be built cheaply. An ordinary root cutter costing about \$30 will answer for slicing the potatoes, but it is probable that a more desirable machine might be found on the market. The average mill will cost from \$150 to \$225 and up, but, at present, can not be obtained on short notice."

GREEN PASTURES AND SHADY NOOKS FILL THE MILK PAIL

It is to be regretted that on many farms practically all of the trees have been cut down. Cows and other live stock often have to pasture in fields where there is no shade of any description provided. It is well known that cows must be comfortable, whether they are in the stable or in the pasture field, if they are to do their best at the pail. The dairy cow is one of the greatest friends of man. She has helped to lift mortgages from farms all over the country. In spite of this, very little consideration is given to her comfort by many who depend upon her as a money-maker. If possible, provide shade for the cows in the hot, sultry days of summer. If there is no shade in the field where the cows are pasturing, let them run, if possible, into a field or lane where there are trees under which they can rest. Those who look after the comfort of their dairy cows in the hot, dry days of summer by providing plenty of fresh water and shade will be abundantly repaid in dollars and cents. The dairy cow deserves this much attention.—F. C. N.