

Our Commission of Conservation

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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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Drain on Our Pulpwood Supply

Prevent its Depletion, Protection from Fire and Re-planting are Necessary

The splendid progress that Canada is making toward becoming the world's centre for the manufacture of pulp and paper is indicated in figures recently published by the Department of Trade and Commerce. For the year ended July, 1916, the exports of paper amounted to \$21,678,868, of which 88 per cent went to the United States and 2 per cent to the United Kingdom. This total is an increase of 10 per cent over the figures for the previous year. The rate at which this business has grown in Canada will be appreciated when it is realized that the first export shipment of paper from Canada was made in 1852, amounting to a total of \$91,000 that year. The total exports in 1902 were but \$24,000, and for 1913 only \$6,327,000.

Of wood pulp, the exports for the year ended July, 1916 were \$12,581,000, of which 87 per cent went to the United States and 7.2 per cent to the United Kingdom. The increase over 1915 was 40 per cent. In 1915, sulphate than two-thirds of the pulp is, has ported by the United States is from Canada.

Similarly, the exports of pulp-wood amounted in the fiscal year ended July, 1916, to \$6,254,717, all of which went to the United States.

Taking the situation as a whole, the total exports of paper, pulp and wood for the fiscal year ended July, 1916, were \$40,865,266, of which the United States received 87 per cent and the United Kingdom 7.2 per cent. The increase over the previous year was 27 per cent. On the other hand, Canada imported, during the year ended July, 1916, \$6,327,298 worth of paper and manufactures of paper.

Of this, 69 per cent came from the United States and 12.4 per cent from the United Kingdom.

The foregoing facts, in conjunction with the use of Canadian pulp and paper mills of nearly \$9,500,000 worth of pulp wood, indicate the tremendous drain upon our pulp wood resources. This drain is likely to increase rather than diminish, in view of the rapid depletion of accessible supplies of timber suitable for pulp wood in the United States.

Canada has extensive resources of timber suitable for pulp wood, but they are by no means inexhaustible, and if this great source of national wealth is to be perpetuated, much more stringent measures than in the past must be taken to prevent destruction by fire and to ensure the restocking of valuable species of cut-over and burned-over areas.—C.L.

The Farmer's Home

Many Have not the Comforts the Occupants Could Provide

A letter from a farmer appeared in a recent issue of a farm paper. He asked whether farmers have not the right to remove to town to take life a little easier, and that their wives may have some of the conveniences and facilities that are not available on the farms. Surely, the farmer has as much right to all the modern household conveniences as has any person, and if his object in moving to town is to make life easy for his wife he is to be commended. But there are several phases of the subject that are not to be passed over so lightly, for the community has an interest in the matter that the retired farmer seems disposed to overlook entirely.

To begin at the beginning, the farmer has not made the most of his opportunities on his farm, or it would have all the facilities that are available to him in town. If he has reached the period of retirement with money enough to live on his income while availing himself of all the conveniences of the modern village or city, he surely has enough money to provide his farm house with heat, light, and water systems, to displace the old oil lamp, the woman-killing pump and the back-breaking coal stove and kitchen range. This would mean that in the kitchen would be found hot and cold water available at faucets, and a sink for dishwashing, and, in another part of the house or a detached building, laundry tubs, with power-operated washing machine, mangle and gas iron, power-operated cream separator and churn; and, in the house, a bathroom with lavatory and sanitary closet. All these he could place in the farm home for less cost than to buy or build and equip a home in the nearby village.—*American Lumberman.*

WEED ERADICATION

SOW THISTLE

In fighting sow thistle we must recognize that this weed spreads from both seeds and roots. We must, therefore, prevent the plant from producing seed, kill the perennial root stalk and sow absolutely clean seed grain if we are to control this terrible pest.

Various methods of attack have been advocated such as crowding out the weed by a persistent perennial, smothering the plant with tar paper, straw, manure, or by a



Cut No. 131 The Perennial Sow Thistle

quickly growing crop, and starving the plant by preventing it from forming green leaves. The crowding out method often fails because the thistle proves to be more persistent than the crop employed to displace it. The smothering plan succeeds on small patches, but is not practicable on large areas. Many authorities advocate the starvation plan or summer-fallow as, by far, the best for eradicating this troublesome weed.

Plough six to eight inches deep in the autumn, if possible, but if pressure of work prevents autumn ploughing, then plough the same depth about the middle of June. After a few days, begin the use of the duck-foot cultivator crosswise of the land and repeat whenever the tiniest shoots are ready to show, until the land freezes in autumn. Where the soil is a loose loam the land may not need plough-

ing and the cultivator can be used from the start.

Never allow the thistle to show even a leaf above the ground and by autumn it will be killed. The cultivation must be thorough.—F.C.N.

Canadian Fisheries

Food Production of and Need for Better Distribution Methods

The fish annually consumed in Canada is valued at approximately \$15,000,000 at points of production, but is estimated to cost the consuming public about \$45,000,000; in other words, the cost of distribution is twice as great as that of primary production. The foregoing is one of the most important conclusions resulting from a special investigation held last spring by the Marine and Fisheries Committee of the House of Commons into the discrepancy between the price of fish at the places of production and that charged on the interior markets.

It has long been recognized that Canada's fisheries are among the most fertile and extensive in the world. The per capita consumption of fish by Canadians, however, is extremely low, a fact which is explained by the failure, heretofore, to make the products of our fisheries available to the great centres of population at moderate cost. During the present century, there has been practically no increase in the actual food output of our fisheries, but in the same period the value of the annual production has advanced very rapidly. The increase in value from year to year has been commonly regarded as indicating increased production. In reality it has been almost, if not entirely, a matter of the rise in prices.

The committee which investigated the discrepancy of prices and the problem of securing better marketing facilities has emphasized, especially, the necessity for improved transportation service, and for education of the public with respect to the food values of fish. These steps are essential if the possession of fertile fisheries is to be of more substantial advantage to the Canadian people.