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Serious Shortage of Anthracite Coal

Strictest Economy Necessary—Wood Fuel Should be Used Wherever Possible

A survey of the coal situation by the Commission of Conservation proves that a coal shortage next winter, and possibly next autumn, is almost a certainty.

Up to June 7th of the present year, the total production of anthracite was only 33,349,500 net tons, as compared with 42,858,000 tons in the corresponding period of 1918, a decrease of 9,500,000 tons, or 22 per cent. It is a fair assumption that the production during 1919 will be less than 80,000,000 tons, whereas the production in 1918 was 99,514,334 tons. If this prediction be verified there will be a shortage of 20,000,000 tons, or 20 per cent. While the production is falling off, retail dealers in the United States continue to be deluged with orders from customers, who are insistent upon prompt deliveries.

The shortage is due to a number of causes, not the least of which is the migration of tens of thousands of Jugo-Slavs, Czecho-Slavs, Hungarians, Poles and other Europeans who are returning to Europe.

In addition, if there is such a serious shortage, we may confidently expect much higher prices for anthracite. Therefore, the Commission of Conservation advises consumers to purchase their winter supply of hard coal at the earliest possible date.

During July, the Commission circularized the towns and villages of Ontario and Quebec, inquiring as to supplies of anthracite and prospects for the coming winter. The returns generally show very limited quantities on hand, while the prospects for a winter coal supply are decidedly pessimistic.

HOW WOOD CAN HELP

Experience has shown that it is altogether feasible to materially relieve the coal shortage by a more extensive use of wood fuel in at least the following directions:—

1. Farmers and rural communities generally, within easy reach of wood supplies, should make as general use of this fuel as possible, to relieve the demands for coal.

2. The general substitution of wood for coal in furnaces and

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Can. No. 120.

KEEP THE CHILDREN OFF THE STREET

Until an alternative playground is provided, shall our city children be compelled to spend their play hours and their summer vacation under such conditions as the above? With such a start in life, with such a cramped area in which to secure that exercise necessary to absorb the superfluous energy of youth, we can not expect to find in later life that incentive to do things which is essential to make Canada an A1 home for A1 men and women.

Public safety requires that children be kept off the street. Can children be blamed for exchanging surroundings like the above for the open roadway, even at the risk of life or limb? And yet Canada has land to give away.

SAFETY ON THE STREET

The rapidly increasing number of motor cars and trucks in use on city streets is demanding the more effective enforcement of traffic bylaws. Most of our larger cities have parking restrictions for motor cars, but, as these rules are not closely observed, cars stand for long periods on the streets. This is an extremely dangerous practice, especially if building construction in progress confines the thoroughfare to a narrow limit. In one eastern city, a situation of this nature existed; as it was the main artery for the fire department to reach a portion of the business section, one accident resulted, and many were very narrowly averted.

When municipalities make by-laws they are responsible for seeing that they are carried out. The best time to secure their enforcement is before an accident.

KEEP THE STREETS CLEAN

Drop it anywhere! Nobody cares! Anyway, one little cigarette box, or the wrapper off chewing gum, or the envelope from the letter—surely, one would not call dropping them on the sidewalk, littering the street. But, if each citizen, young and old, drops a paper on the public streets, the cumulative effect will not be pleasant to behold.

In many of our towns and cities, boxes are placed on the streets for the deposit of waste paper. Where such are not available, however, it is no hardship to carry small paper wrappers until they can be properly disposed of. Cigarette and gum containers are not out of place in the pocket until empty: Keep them there, and, for the sake of cleanly appearance of the streets and of that civic pride which is essential to the general prosperity of the home town, keep scraps of paper off the street.

Parliament Takes Drastic Action

Communication of Venereal Disease Made a Serious Criminal Offence

How to control the spread of venereal infection has received the careful consideration of our leading sanitarians, physicians and moralists. The difficulties have appeared almost insurmountable. Venereal diseases stand pre-eminent as a menace to the race, and incidentally to the nation. The physical and social evils following in their wake are well known to the whole medical profession. In Canada for many years these diseases have been permitted to spread under cover, misguided prudishness believing that the effects would work their own cure. We have, however, simply been blinding ourselves, until we have reached a condition little better than that in the Old World, where venereal diseases have played such a prominent part in the lowering of the vitality of the race.

The Commission of Conservation at its meeting in January, 1917, after having brought before the public the serious conditions being established by the rapid spread of venereal diseases, passed the following resolution:

"Resolved, that in view of the prevalence and increasing spread of venereal diseases in the greater cities, and from those centres into the country, and from province to province, and also of the great menace to the health of human kind and future generations of our people, this Commission is strongly of the opinion that the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of venereal diseases is a matter of urgent and grave national concern. This Commission is also of the opinion that the Dominion Parliament and Government should undertake, by means of legislation, or otherwise, such action as will lead to the control and reduction of this scourge."

Some of our provincial health departments have adopted stringent regulations regarding the registration and treatment of venereal diseases, and, at the last session of the Dominion Parliament, drastic action was taken, in an amendment to the Criminal Code, to prevent the spread of such diseases. The amendment is as follows:

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