

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 many drowning accidents emphasize the necessity for teaching the young to swim. The supplying of swimming instructors in connection with public playgrounds has been undertaken by one of the eastern cities, and the results abundantly prove the wisdom of their action.

The rank growth of weeds on vacant lots is frequently a cause of fire. When the weeds become dry a lighted match or burning cigarette thrown into them will cause a fire to start and run rapidly, until it comes in contact with a wooden fence or frame building, when, unless promptly extinguished, great damage may result.

The question of fire waste is becoming one of national interest. During the past winter bills were introduced in many legislatures throughout the United States for the purpose of fixing personal liability in cases of careless or preventable fires, whereby adjoining parties who suffer from such fires may recover damages sustained through such carelessness.

The conversion of one-family homes into apartment houses has reached such a stage in some cities as to produce a menace to the health and lives of the occupants. Houses which have become obsolete or unfit for habitation are renovated and, owing to their lower cost, are rented at a smaller rate than apartment houses which are constructed for the purpose. Consequently these houses are nearly always occupied by families too large for the accommodation provided but whose circumstances will not allow of their paying the larger rentals for better housing.

International Conservation

In promoting amity and intimacy between Canada and the United States, few movements are likely to prove of greater influence than that for the conservation of natural resources. In the few years during which these owners of the greater portion of North America have been endeavoring to minimize national waste, they have already found several instances where efficient use and permanent possession of natural resources can be secured only through co-operation. The International Joint Commission, founded on common interest, is the most tangible evidence of the strength of the co-operative spirit. It arose from mutual recognition of joint responsibility for the preservation of the utility of boundary waters, whether for domestic, navigation, irrigation or power purposes. The wisdom of creating the Commission is beyond question.

About one year and a half ago, the problem of protecting migratory birds again raised the question of international action. A treaty arrangement between the United States and Canada has been suggested as the only effective method of conserving the bird life of the North American continent. Mutual interest and welfare are quite as strong and evident in this case as in that of boundary waters.

Still more recently it has become apparent that threatened depletion of fisheries may very soon furnish a third case for joint policy. The question has already arisen in connection with both Pacific and Atlantic fisheries. The salmon fishery of British Columbia is seriously menaced, and faces destruction unless an agreement can be arrived at between Canadian and American fishermen. Regarding Atlantic fisheries, a recent report to the United States Bureau of Fisheries points out the desirability of international limitation of the operation of steam trawlers. These fisheries are chiefly in extra-territorial waters but economically, if not legally, they comprise part of the natural wealth of North America. The main point is that in these and other instances, where common material interests are at stake, the spirit of conservation, which has gained such headway, has paved the road for international understanding in no way based upon or connected with political motives.

A building for the College of Forestry is to be erected at Los Banos, Philippine Islands, the funds having been appropriated by the last legislature.

Kill! Kill!

Disappearance of Wild Life in America a Destructive National Spirit

"Today this country of ours is the theatre of a remarkable struggle between the great small forces of destruction and the great small forces of protection and preservation. In every township throughout the whole United States the destroyers of wild life either are active in slaughter or are ready to become active the moment they are left free to do so. Every beast, bird, fish and creeping thing has its human enemy. Americans are notoriously enterprising, restless and prone to venture. It is that restless activity and indomitable nervous energy that is manfully attempting "dry-farming" in the West, desert-farming in the South-west, and the drainage of the Florida Everglades. Often the joy of the conquest of nature outruns the love of cash returns. Apply that spirit to forests, and it quickly becomes devastation. Apply it to wild life, and it quickly becomes extermination.

"Our conquering and pulverizing national spirit is a curse to all our wild life. The native of India permits the black buck, the sand grouse and the saras crane to roam over his fields unmolested for two thousand years. The American, and the Englishman also, at once proceeds to shoot all of that wild life that he can approach within range. In America, the national spirit may truthfully be expressed in the cry of the crazed Malay: "Amok! Amok!" "Kill! Kill!" This is why the conservation of valuable wild life is in our country a fearfully difficult task, from which most people shrink and seek something either more pleasant or personally profitable."—William T. Hornaday in "Wild Life Conservation."

Prevent Fires in the Home

Simple Precautions May Save Lives and Property

Fires in the home are easier to prevent than to extinguish. Practically every fire originating in a dwelling house is due to carelessness or neglect.

The attic, cellar and all clothes closets should be cleaned at least once a year and all useless material and rubbish removed and burned.

In storing clothing, remove all matches and other material from

the pockets. Do not hang clothes near hot chimneys.

Do not go into clothes closets with lighted matches or candles.

Use only safety matches and keep them away from children. Never throw burned matches on the floor or into waste baskets.

Do not use inflammable shades on lamps, candles or electric light bulbs.

Coal oil lamps should always be filled by daylight. They should be kept clean and properly trimmed. A dirty lamp is unsafe.

Never allow little children to carry lamps, and never set lamps on a table cover. Children may pull them over.

A fuse is the "safety valve" of an electric system, and should never be replaced by one of larger size or of any other material.

Do not allow paper or rubbish to accumulate behind steam coils or radiators.

Gas stoves should never be connected up with rubber tubing. Gas pipe, rigid and secure, is the only safe connection.

Rags and cloths saturated with cleaning and polishing oils may ignite spontaneously in a few hours. Burn them at once.

Be careful of ashes. Do not deposit them against wooden buildings or fences. See that there are no live coals. Far better to pour a pail of water over them than to take the risk of a strong wind carrying live coals and starting fires.

Especial care should be taken in the home to prevent fires from starting, because when they do start there is seldom a man about to extinguish them. Where women and children are housed, the utmost vigilance is necessary on the part of those responsible for their welfare.

Forests as Tax-Payers

Municipal Forests are Switzerland's Revenue Producers

The Sihlwald, or city forest of Zurich, Switzerland, adds to the town's revenues \$7.20 per acre a year, reducing the amount needed to be raised through taxation by more than \$32,000.

In Canada, there are as yet no municipal forests, though the forests on Crown lands are a source of large revenue, particularly to the provincial governments. Too frequently, however, they have been regarded merely as a source of immediate revenue, without sufficient provision for making the revenue perpetual through adequate fire protection and the control of methods of cutting calculated to restore the forest after cutting.—C.L.

TO NEWSPAPERS

To further public interest in conservation subjects, the Commission will lend to Canadian journals the cuts used in this bulletin. It is requested that cuts be made use of at the earliest possible date, and returned promptly, enclosing note showing by whom returned.

As the Post Office Department will not permit the franking of cuts, the Commission of Conservation will pay the postage on out-going packages on the understanding that publications requesting the use of cuts prepay return postage.