

# Conservation

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## Proving the Value of Summer Pasture

What Experiment of the Commission  
of Conservation Shows

A small field of summer pasture on the farm is very valuable in many ways. If the ordinary pastures are short and dried up during July and August, the piece sown to summer pasture will tide the stock over the dry pasture period. If the ordinary pasture is good, then the summer mixture can be cut for hay or allowed to ripen as a crop. It is an excellent crop with which to seed down, especially when pastured or cut early, and may be sown after the regular spring seeding is completed.

Summer pasture mixtures were sown on a number of farms last year with good results, in connection with the Illustration County work being conducted by the Commission of Conservation in Dundas county, Ontario. On one man's farm five acres were sown as follows: one acre to oats and vetches, one acre to oats and peas, and three acres to a mixture of wheat, oats and barley. This field enabled the farmer to save for hay another five acre field, which gave a yield of 10 tons. The summer pasture grew so well that, when ready for use, it was fenced across and only half of it pastured. The two and one-half acres, however, provided the main pasture for 12 cows during July and most of August, and caused an increase of 35 pounds per day in milk yield, which held up for more than a month, while other pastures were short. The other half of the field yielded six loads of mixed feed cut green and made into hay. The field was seeded to clover and timothy, and the onset of the winter found it in splendid condition with a good catch of grass and clover.

Best results on this farm were obtained from oats and vetches, with wheat, oats and barley next, and oats and peas last. Plan now to try it this year; it means more food.—F.C.N.

In Canadian cities 28 per cent of the buildings in business districts are of frame or brick veneer, whilst in residential districts the proportion is 69 per cent.

## Get Ready to Meet the Spring Floods

Winter Conditions Point to Trouble  
when the Spring Break up Comes

All this winter snow has fallen in unusually large quantities. There was no 'January thaw' and no marked thaws in February. It has been a steady winter with the prospect of it remaining so until the spring break-up. Then the rains will descend and the winds will blow in the most Biblical manner and floods of unusual proportions will be the result. Already, a small February thaw has caused much damage at points along the Thames and Grand rivers in Ontario. Ice jams forced the water over some of the artificial embankments and much loss and discomfort resulted. Are these instances merely a foretaste of what is coming? In any event, it is better to prepare for such a contingency with every means available. Engineers should be placed in charge and ice jams should be dynamited before they have had a chance to dam back the water. Weak places in embankments should be properly reinforced. Food kept in cellars in the low lands bordering streams should be removed to upper stories of houses, so as to prevent its destruction or damage in flooded cellars. Similarly fodder and grain in barns should be placed as high and dry as possible.

By adopting as many preventive methods as time and circumstances will permit, possible panic and serious loss may be averted to a very considerable extent when the rivers commence their great 'spring drive.'—A.D.

## HOW ABOUT THAT WOOD- PILE FOR NEXT WINTER?

Already a number of municipalities are preparing for a possible fuel shortage next winter. Carleton Place, Ont., is arranging for the purchase of at least 1,000 cords of wood. Ottawa, too, is making similar preparations on a larger scale. Efforts are also being made to speed up the output of the coal mines in Canada. All these activities are receiving the endorsement and assistance of the Commission of Conservation. They are steps in the right direction. The

narrow escape from a fuel catastrophe this year has shown, with startling clearness, the serious dependence of Canada on the United States for supplies of coal and the urgent necessity that exists for obtaining substitutes in central Canada, for the duration of the war at least.

The Commission of Conservation's bulletin 'Wood for Fuel' will be sent on request to any municipality interested.

## To Reduce Waste in Lobster Fisheries

Suggestions for Reducing Mortality in  
the Live Lobster Trade and Making  
Hatcheries More Productive

Mr. M. H. Nickerson, of the Boston Lobster Co., has made the following valuable suggestions with respect to the conservation of the Canadian lobster:

1. Two-thirds of the total lobster values of all Nova Scotia are produced in the four counties, Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne and Queens. The amount is over \$2,000,000. The littoral belt comprises the most productive lobster areas in the world.

2. Of the foregoing sum, about \$1,229,000 is derived from live exports, mostly shipped to Boston by way of Yarmouth. The water-carriage is by a passenger and general freight boat, unsuitable for carrying such perishable goods as live lobsters, and consequently, the loss from dead stock on arrival in Boston is enormous—approximately \$200,000 worth during a single season.

3. The crates for export are collected along the coast by small steamers, connecting with the Yarmouth boat, and as the extent of territory covered is about 100 miles, most of the lobster freight is taken from the water 24 hours before being transferred to the boat for Boston, the passage thither generally taking 16 hours. This boat, not being equipped with cold storage nor having special storage room for live lobsters, it is easy to see how the above loss is incurred.

4. Cape Sable is the central point in the above-mentioned coastline, and the proposition is to establish there a station specially

## Criminally Careless Should Be Punished

Heavy Losses in Life and Property  
from Fire Continue

Canada is careless, criminally careless, in the matter of fire waste. The *Monetary Times* reports the fire losses for January as \$2,688,556, an increase over January of last year of \$777,896. Twenty-eight lives were also sacrificed.

It might have been expected that, with the rush of war work, the larger portion of this loss would have been in factories. This was not the case. By far the greater portion was in apartment houses and business blocks, hotels, and in residences. It is plain, therefore, that carelessness was the main cause. What this carelessness means may be illustrated by the conditions found by a fire inspector in one Canadian city. He found 68 defective furnaces or pipes too close to woodwork, 157 stoves not protected from woodwork, 140 cases where combustible material should be removed, 122 dangerous and defective chimneys, 46 ash piles too close to partitions, 127 electric wires in contact with nails, 80 defective boiler rooms and 40 cases where gasoline was improperly stored.

In addition to the above, conditions such as endangered life were: 133 obstructed fire escapes, 387 alarm gongs and 188 red exit lights out of order, 90 fire escapes without direction pointers indicating where they were situated and 17 defective operating rooms in theatres.

All of the fire hazards above-mentioned are contrary to law and it is time that the responsibility of maintaining such dangerous conditions should be brought home to those who are guilty of maintaining them. Section 247 of the Criminal Code of Canada makes it a criminal offence to omit taking reasonable precautions and using reasonable care to avoid danger to life. The necessary legislation is provided; it only requires enforcement.

In altogether too many cases fire destroys the evidence pointing to its cause; otherwise, many coroners' inquests would show more effective results than at present. As it is, these inquests are very meagre recompense for the many lives which are sacrificed through lack of care.

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