

# Conservation

A monthly bulletin published by the  
Commission of Conservation, Ottawa, Canada.

VOL. III

JULY, 1914

NO. 7

## Refuge for Wild Geese

Only Kindness Needed to Attract These  
Birds to Suitable Situations—How a  
Flock of One Thousand Grew in  
Six Years

That wild geese are shrewd enough to know friend from foe, and that, if you "throw a handful of feed at them instead of a thimbleful of shot," they will lose their fear of man and make their home within a stone's throw of human habitations, has been clearly demonstrated by the experiments of Mr. John T. Miner, of Kingsville, Essex county, Ontario. The accompanying illustration shows the large flock of wild geese which, in recent years, has each spring visited his farm.

The history of the growth of this flock furnishes an interesting example of what can be done to attract the wild birds. In 1904 Mr. Miner obtained seven wild geese, clipped their wings, and placed them on his pond as decoys, but wild geese were scarce that it was four years before any others joined them. In the spring of 1908 eleven came, the following year 32, and in 1910 as many as 350. Since that time they have been too numerous to give an exact estimate, but probably about 1,000 may be found on the pond at a time. Since 1911 no shooting whatever has been indulged in within the reserve. By withholding the feed by degrees the geese have been coaxed to come right up to the house.

Wild ducks also frequent the pond, and some of these have been identified by aluminum bands. Writing Mr. Miner's address. Fans of these he has established the fact that they return to his place every spring, or, if they fail to return, he has been able to learn what has happened to them. One was shot as far away as Paris, Kentucky. Those that return nest in the neighbourhood and bring up their young before again migrating. Mr. Miner's experiments are a striking illustration of how easy it would be to conserve the migratory bird life of this continent if suitable refuges were provided, where the birds could remain for a short time unmolested, during their seasonal flights to their breeding grounds and back again.

## Economical Street Construction



Cut No. 68

Much very unnecessary expense is frequently entailed by city councils in paving the whole width of residential streets. It is undoubtedly a commendable feature to have wide streets, as these mean an adequate supply of fresh air and sunshine for the inhabitants. But it is very uneconomical to pave more than the traffic requires. Not only will the initial cost of construction be nearly double, but the upkeep will be more expensive; the dust nuisance will be aggravated and more water and more frequent sprinklings will be needed.

If the street be planned so that a portion is left as a boulevard, a much more attractive, shadier, and, at the same time, cheaper street can be obtained. The accompanying illustration of Queen's Drive, Liverpool, not only shows a street of this

type, but indicates the plans for its future development, should growing traffic require the widening of the roadway. A width of 45 feet can easily be obtained without disturbing the trees on the outside of the sidewalk. By uprooting these trees, the road could be widened to 60 feet, and, in a like manner, the sidewalk to 12 feet, without it being necessary to acquire any private property in order to make the alterations.

Another advantage of this method of construction, which should not be overlooked, is that telephone wires, sewers, water-pipes, etc., could be laid under the turf, and thus needed repairs could be made without pulling up the roadway and disturbing traffic. Moreover, the turf could be more cheaply taken up and relaid than asphalt or macadam.



Cut No. 69

## TO NEWSPAPERMEN

As the Post Office Department will no longer permit the franking of cuts, the Commission of Conservation will pay the postage on outgoing packages on the understanding that publications requesting the use of cuts prepay return postage.

## Closer Utilization of Stumpage

More Defective Material used—Comparison of Cut Now and Twenty Years Ago no Criterion of Tree Growth

In a recent statement, Prof. R. C. Bryant, of the Lumbering Department of the Yale Forest School, shows that the extent to which close utilization of stumpage can be effected is dependent directly on the markets and the prices which can be secured for the low-grade material, which comprises more than 50 per cent of the lumber cut. The lumberman removes from the forest only as much of the stand as he believes can be marketed at a profit, although every defective log may contain some cull material which must be handled in order to secure the higher grade lumber on which a profit can be made. The past few years have seen a marked change in the character and amount of timber which is taken from a given acre of land. Where formerly only the choicest trees and the best logs from these same trees were taken, lumbermen have now reached a point, due to higher stumpage values and increased market prices for lumber, where, in some sections the entire stand is removed, down to a diameter of from 12 to 14 inches, in some cases still lower; also where low stumps are cut and where defective and knotty top logs are taken to the mill. The yield per acre for stands of the same character has increased from 400 to 500 per cent for the above reasons.

From the above, it will be seen that a comparison of the cut from a tract of land 20 years ago with the cut from the same tract to-day does not necessarily furnish any index to the amount of growth which has taken place during that time. This is due to the lower diameter limit in use, and the much closer degree of utilization. Unless full allowance is made for these factors a land owner is likely to conclude, from a comparison of cuts, that the rate of timber production on his land is much greater than is really the case. As a matter of fact, tree growth must be measured; it cannot be estimated. This is one of the tasks for which a forester is trained. It is beyond the scope of the timber cruiser.—C. L.