

Conservation

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Clean Out the Weeds Before They Scatter Their Seed

Floods on International Waters

Serious Losses to Manufacturing and Other Interests in the West

Flood conditions in general have been unusually severe during the current season and particularly serious along the boundary waters from lake Namakan to the Winnipeg river. On the watershed above Fort Frances-International Falls, several large lumber mills have had to curtail operations, while others have been compelled to close down entirely. Such towns as Fort Frances and Rainy River, Ontario, and Ranier and Baudette in Minnesota have sustained substantial damage from flood waters. Sixty-five newspapers in Canada and the United States are absolutely dependent upon the large paper mill of the Minnesota and Ontario Paper Company at Fort Frances-International Falls—one of the largest establishments manufacturing newsprint in America. Some papers have already been compelled to cut down the size of their edition.

The Federal governments of Canada and the United States, as well as the governments of Manitoba, Ontario and Minnesota, are interested in the present situation. The conditions on Rainy lake have somewhat abated during the last few days, but conditions on the lake of the Woods are still serious. The International Joint Commissioners did everything possible to suggest how interested parties, as well as parties operating dams on the watershed, might co-operate to alleviate the flood conditions. Having the whole situation in hand the Commissioners were specially well circumstanced to make suggestions and such as were carried out, have contributed materially to relieve the situation, as well as to assist in making a more equitable distribution of the losses.

In Canada, as well as in other countries where such flood conditions have prevailed, it has fre-

quently been pointed out that flood losses which have occurred to some interests, might largely, if not entirely, have been avoided, if, when building their structures, sufficient weight had been given to such evidences as are afforded by the water-marks and other indications of former high water stages.

Fires in Hospitals

Special Care Should be Taken to Guard these Institutions

In its monthly statement of fires,

the "*Monetary Times*" of June 9th refers to two fires in hospitals; one caused by a lighted match in a refuse chute and the other by a rag over an electric light. The lives of helpless patients were endangered by gross carelessness. "Conservation" draws attention to this matter that the experience of these hospitals may lead to the exercise of greater care by the house surgeons, superintendents, nurses, and other attendants, whose duty it is to use every possible precaution, and especially to guard against either fire or alarm of fire.



CHL 132

FLOOD ON LAKE OF THE WOODS WATERSHED
Canadian Customs House, also Warehouse, at Fort Frances, Ont.



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NEW GOVERNMENT DOCK, AT KENORA, UNDER WATER
The electric light stands are on the top of the dock. The foot of the principal street in Kenora is seen in the foreground.

Treatment of Sewage Facilitated

Many Disposal Plants Being Installed—Great Need for Improvement

The necessity for proper treatment and disposal of sewage cannot be too strongly emphasized in Canada. Many municipalities have been very active along these lines but unfortunately a greater percentage have been extremely negligent. The result of this, as shown in a report on "*Water-Works and Sewerage Systems in Canada*," recently issued by the Commission of Conservation, is that more than sixty of our inland water systems are at present receiving raw sewage, 180 municipalities contributing to this very undesirable condition. The practice of treating sewage is being recognized as imperative throughout the civilized world and would possibly spread more rapidly throughout Canada were some of its economic aspects better known. Recent experiments have been made in this connection to determine the feasibility of a new process to extract grease and fertilizer base from sewage.

Ordinary sewage sludge from settling basins is greasy, offensive and of so little practical value that farmers will not accept it for fertilizer, even as a gift; yet this sludge contains valuable fertilizing elements and considerable grease. The settling of the sludge and the extraction of the grease is facilitated by the addition of certain chemicals and the process is found to possess the following advantages:

1. The chemical treatment practically pays for itself by the sale of the grease and fertilizer recovered.
2. The sewage is disinfected.
3. The chemical acts as a strong deodorizer and prevents the usual nuisance of treatment works.
4. The fly nuisance is also avoided for the same reason. The process has been thoroughly investigated and tested, with results that seem to indicate that it will not only be successful, but profitable.