

Houses Only Homes When They Are Safe

Defective Appliances in Houses Cause Many Serious and Costly Accidents

A home should be a safety centre—a sanctuary for every member of the family that occupies it. Dangerous conditions, such as defective electric or gas fittings, insanitary plumbing, unprotected stairways, or stairways without railings and which invite accidents, are lamentably common in our houses. In a survey of nearly 30,000 accidents in the city of Chicago covering a period of eleven years, it was found that over 51 per cent were household accidents. These caused the death, or permanently crippled thousands of persons and yet the citizens of the United States claim to be a "home-loving people". A similar analysis of Canadian statistics would probably prove that Canada was no more successful in converting houses into homes. Faulty building construction, defective wiring and plumbing are pitifully common and, in too many instances, are winked at by so-called building inspectors. Householders themselves use rocking-chairs for step-ladders, place kettles of boiling water so that small children can tumble into them, have unfastened rugs on highly polished, slippery floors, or fasten windows down to conserve heat at the expense of ventilation. These and similar practices cause the death, or result in crippling hundreds of Canadians every year. If houses and other dwellings were transformed into proper homes, these losses, which are truly national as well as individual, would be reduced to a minimum. But that little word "if" marks a gulf that it may require generations to bridge.

FORESTS AS FACTORS IN RECONSTRUCTION

Statesmen and business men have repeatedly emphasized the part that the further development of our natural resources must play in reconstruction after the war. Any such programme must take full account of the forests. Such increased development will assist materially in providing against unemployment, through the building up of new forest industries, in addition to the 5,000 wood-using industries already in existence. It will be a large factor in stabilizing economic conditions generally.

A large export trade is particularly essential to Canada, to redress her unfavourable trade balance, especially with the United States. In this direction, our forests hold a position of peculiar strategic importance, both actual and potential. In British Columbia, for example, it has been shown that the annual lumber cut can be increased five-fold, under good management, without impairing the forest capital stock. This means an enormous export trade to which the shortage of shipping is still the greatest obstacle.

The present and potential value of Canada's export lumber trade is indicated by the order recently placed by Great Britain for lumber from Canada, aggregating around \$50,000,000 in value. In the east, the value of our

pulpwood forests is indicated by the fact that the value of the exports of pulp and paper now total around \$60,000,000 annually. One-fourth of the newsprint used in the United States comes from Canada, and fifteen per cent of the pulp wood consumed in that country is the product of Canadian forests.

Our forests have a wealth-producing capacity, the possibilities of which, from a long-time viewpoint, have as yet been realized only in small part. To transmute these possibilities into permanent actualities requires, however, the general acceptance, by the people in general, and by Governments in particular, of the fundamental principle that the forest is a crop, rather than a mine, and that cutting operations on non-agricultural lands must be conducted always with a view to the perpetuation of the forest as such.

The practice of silviculture is still in its very infancy in Canada, as it is over most of North America. There is still far too strong a tendency toward the practice of forestry anywhere except in the woods. At the same time, it must always be realized that forestry is essentially a business proposition, and that business considerations place definite limitations upon what it is feasible to do in the direction of intensive methods.

On the other hand, the forest lands of Canada are predominantly Crown lands and are therefore, for the most part, the property of the people of the country. It follows that the public interest, from a long-time viewpoint, should govern in determining the conditions under which exploitation takes place. With the present increased stumpage values, many things in the direction of better management are now becoming economically feasible which would have been out of the question in years past.

Canada may well profit from the example set by the states of Australia, in connection with forest conservation. The states of Victoria and West Australia, in particular, have recently enacted forest legislation so progressive in character that our situation in Canada seems backward by contrast. This legislation sets a new pace, particularly as to land classification, forest reservation, control of cutting operations, reforestation, and amount of money to be spent on the protection and development of state forests generally.

Turning again to Canada, we find that, notwithstanding war conditions, truly remarkable progress toward better forest conservation has been made during the past year.—C. L.

BRITISH REFRIGERATOR CARS

The Food Investigation Board of the British Department of Scientific and Industrial Research recently completed a careful and detailed investigation into the problem of providing efficient refrigerator cars for the shipment of perishable foods. Many of the refrigerator cars heretofore used on British railways have been wasteful owing chiefly to faulty construction. Efforts are being put forth to achieve a design of car that will be free from the defects of those now in use.

Footwear and Health

Disraeli once said that "public health is the foundation on which reposes the happiness of the people and the power of the country". But public health is simply the sum total of the health of all of the individuals in any given community. Consequently, the health of the individual is of vital concern to the public at large. It is the duty of the public authority to create and foster the best conditions for the development of sound, healthy citizens. At the same time, it is the duty of the individual to become informed with respect to the functions of the body and the best means of maintaining it in a state of all-round health. Unfortunately, this knowledge is too generally neglected and custom and fashion have frequently done much injury to individual, and, therefore, to community health. For example, take the care of the feet. According to one authority, "sufficient men were rejected by the Canadian military authorities on account of bad feet to form several battalions". The American Museum of Safety states that 90 per cent of the civilian population have feet more or less deformed, resulting in lessened efficiency.

The Paris (France) Academy of Medicine is so impressed by the effects of high heels upon the health of women that it has made an appeal to the public to end this injurious fashion. The use of high heels and of narrow pointed shoes is the cause of hammer toes, bunions, corns, weak muscles, fallen arches, many of the backaches from which women suffer and, to some extent, of defective eyesight and nervous irritability. That high heeled shoes are still further a sad commentary on human intelligence is shown by the fact that in the United States during 1916, 1,149 people were killed and over 4,000 crippled from the result of falls on stairways, due to wearing high heeled shoes.

Shoes should conform to the shape of the feet. If the public will persistently demand such shoes, the manufacturers will supply them.—Adapted from article by Mrs. L. A. Hamilton of the Footwear Reform League.

All Men for an All Empire

Two million of our men joined up voluntarily at the beginning of the war.

Six million didn't.

One million couldn't, largely owing to physical defects from preventable causes.

"You cannot maintain an All Empire on C 3 men", said Lloyd George, and although he referred mainly to the health of the body it is equally true regarding the health of the mind.

—Sir Robert Baden-Powell.

With the exception of lobsters Canada's fish production showed a falling off in March as compared with the same month a year before. It is to be

Sciences and Arts Merit Encouragement

It is suggested that Federal Authorities Should Assist Universities

The present is an age more than tinged with materialism. Industrial magnates are not given too much credit for being philanthropically inclined when they set aside vast sums of money for investigations in the realm of pure science. In the long run it has been proven many times that such expenditures pay handsomely. It is becoming increasingly evident that pure science and applied industrial science will co-operate more and more as time goes on.

Prof. R. B. Thomson in the *University of Toronto Monthly* draws the following conclusions with respect to the possible future of scientific research in the industrial life of Canada: "The knowledge of industrial needs will act as a guide to many pure science workers, but it must not be forgotten that the future advance of applied science depends entirely on that of pure science—the theoretical science of our day is the applied science of the next."

It seems to me that there is something so vitally important in this, not only to the industries of the country, but to the honourable position which Canada is to take among the nations of the world that our Dominion Government should take cognizance of it. The supplementing of industrial research work by scholarships and fellowships may be valuable for the present—as a war emergency work—but the Dominion should realize that the future of Canada depends ultimately upon the position attained, not only by the pure sciences, but by the arts as well. Dominion grants for the furtherance of these subjects in our advanced seats of learning would go far towards establishing Canada's position among the nations.

REVIVING ARBOUR DAY

Tree-planting is something of a lost art in Canada. For many years the health-giving and wholesome custom of having children spend one day in the year in planting trees and flowers has been neglected, but fortunately there is now a widespread movement to revive the practice. It is being urged that tree-planting is a fitting manner in which to commemorate the service of Canadians who have died in battle. The idea has much to commend it and will doubtless receive hearty support in many quarters. But if, in addition to the establishment of memorial tree plantations, interest could be renewed in the old-time Arbour day the benefits would be more than doubled. What school-boy of a generation or more ago, who shared in the annual celebration of Arbour day but has an special interest even yet in a tree, or a group of trees, which he helped to plant and care for near the old school building. Both children and grown-ups are the better for associating with trees and flowers. Arbour day is an annual that merits transformation into a hardy perennial.

—J. D.

hoped that the increased production of fish brought about by the war will not be allowed to decline.