

Co-Operation in Lumber Industry

Increased Efficiency in Fire Protection Secured Through United Effort

One of the most striking papers presented during forestry and lumbering week at the International Exposition at San Francisco, was that by Mr. H. D. Langille, of Portland, Oregon.

Mr. Langille's paper was entitled "Can manufacturers, timber owners and protective agencies unite to advantage?" The answer was in the affirmative, and the development of the subject constituted an admirable summing-up of the general trend of discussion in connection with the greater part of the extensive programme of the various conferences.

The present unsatisfactory condition of the lumber industry was shown to be due largely to lack of proper organization, and a strong plea was presented for more efficient co-operation among all branches of the industry.

The difficulty has been the result of retaining too long the old principles of individualism that other great industries have had to discard or greatly modify to reap success. The result has been an accumulation of evils, including over-production, unnecessary waste, undue loss of markets to substitutes, unfair tax legislation in some cases, inefficient fire protection over great areas, and a general failure of the industry as a whole to make a concerted effort to protect and develop its broad and legitimate interests in an intelligent manner.

The volunteer agencies have been numerous, but only partially effective, due mainly to lack of paid experts in charge of each branch of the work. Marked success has followed the efforts of the limited number of local co-operative organizations which have secured such men. Examples are the Oregon Forest Fire Association and the Western Forestry and Conservation Association. Similarly, success may be expected to follow the new campaign of the National Lumber Manufacturers Association, which has recently established a trade extension department, under a paid expert, to advertise the wider legitimate use of wood in all lines of industry. In Canada, similar examples of increased efficiency in fire protection work, resulting from a greater degree of co-operation, are the St. Maurice and Lower Ottawa Forest Protective Associations.

The program which Mr. Langille advocates is as applicable to Canada as to the United States. It is in the interest of true conservation, aiming to secure better



Cut No. 117

THRESHING CLOVER SEED IN QUEBEC

The above is a clover huller at work at Lennoxville, Que. It was purchased co-operatively by the farmers of the district, and this year threshed a very good crop of seed. When the farmers grow their own clover seed they will sow more crops to the acre, reap better crops and have more fertile farms.

utilization of our forest wealth, better fire protection, and, in general, the perpetuation of the forest, upon which the continued existence of the lumber industry must depend.

The plan advocated is the amalgamation of the many organizations of timber, manufacturing and marketing interests into single bodies as broad in scope as the requirements of the territory over which their respective activities should extend; these units are to be organized into departments, with competent men at the head of each, their work to be standardized and results required.

The activities of the timber department should include such subjects as statistics, forest protection, taxation, legislation, forest policy, publicity, and logged-off lands. The manufacturing department would cover such lines as logging methods, log scaling, accounting, grades and inspections, traffic and claims, production, utilization of present waste, and efficiency.

Under the marketing department, Mr. Langille suggests that the work include advertising, market conditions, building codes, designs and plans, wood-block paving, new uses, by-products, technical research, exhibits, trade marks, and salesmanship.

Beyond question, such organized effort would benefit not only the timber and lumbering interests but the entire country. In fact, many of the subjects have already received much study from various governmental agencies, and the legitimate interests of all concerned would be forwarded by closer co-operation and united effort.

—C.L.

Results from Poor Seed

Waste of Time and Effort When Seed is Not Satisfactory

In the spring of 1915, when the instructions were sent out to the various farmers carrying on

Illustration work for the Commission of Conservation, the advisability of sowing seed of first quality was strongly emphasized. Despite this warning, however, one farmer in western Ontario, neglected to procure a supply of good corn for seed. When planting time arrived, he purchased a quantity of ordinary corn and planted it, though ignorant of its quality. As the result showed, it was poor seed, and only about half of it germinated. The crop that came up was not very strong and was partly pulled by the crows. The field had to be replanted and when seen by the writer on August 3rd, was strong evidence against planting poor seed corn. This farmer admitted that he was entirely at fault in simply putting off getting good seed until too late, and said that he had been taught his lesson.

Where corn is grown and can be ripened for seed, the matter of selecting enough of the very choicest ears for next season's crop is so simple and, where corn is grown but cannot be matured for seed, the cost of procuring dependable seed is so small that no farmer can afford to sow anything but the very best.—F.C.V.

Great Waste in Mining

Over Capitalization, Requiring Maximum Production, Induces Disregard of Valuable By-Products

The losses sustained in other countries from lack of care and thought in this respect are enormous. Dr. James Douglas estimates, for instance, that at the Rio Tinto mines in Spain in a period of some 30 years, through the unskillful treatment of ore, about 7,000,000 tons of sulphur, valued at not less than \$70,000,000, were wasted, while with modern improvements in the method of handling the ore, about 1,000,000

tons of sulphur are annually saved to the world which would otherwise have been burned and served simply to pollute the atmosphere. He also points out that only about 60 per cent. of the hundreds of millions of dollars yielded by the Comstock lode was extracted at the time, and at first the rich tailings were not even collected, such was the haste of the miners to deplete that stupendous deposit which should have made Nevada prosperous for generations, instead of whirling the whole country into a mad dance of recklessness speculation.

The primary cause of a large part of this waste is over-capitalization, which involves a large output at any expense, if the value of the shares is to be raised and their price maintained. Over-capitalization generally demands over-production, which in its turn almost invariably involves waste at some stage of the progress of the metal from the mine to the consumer.—Dr. Adams, at Sixth Annual Meeting, Commission of Conservation.

Christmas Decorations

Many Fires are Due to the Use Of Unprotected Lights Near Decorative Material

Artificial light has become almost a necessity for decorative purposes, and consequently its use has been largely extended. This is especially so at Christmas festivities. In business houses the display of holiday goods is enhanced by the abundant use of electric light and other illumination. There is, however, danger in this, and, unless precautions are taken, serious fires may result. Great care should be taken that none of the decorative material comes in contact with the lights. Usually the decorations are very inflammable; when in close contact with even an electric light bulb they quickly become charred and start a blaze. Paper shades on lights, candles on Christmas trees, or in so-called Japanese lanterns have started many serious fires.

Especially at public entertainments, such as church festivals, great care should be taken. Fire extinguishers should be at hand in case of necessity. Where lighted candles are used on Christmas trees, the responsibility for seeing that the lives of those present are protected and every precaution taken for the safety of life and property, should be definitely assigned.

The electric iron left with current turned on has many fires to its credit.