

Conservation

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Chlorine Treatment Temporary Measure

Defects in the System Render it a Constant
Danger to Public Health

Temporary measures frequently become temporary measures. Expert opinion has asserted time and again that the disinfection of a contaminated water supply by chlorine should never be adopted as a permanent policy. Instead, every community should earnestly endeavour to obtain a pure water supply, either directly, or by means of filtration. Unfortunately, however, many centres, having once adopted the chlorinated water expedient, are loath to provide a permanent system. In brief, a temporary policy is adopted and is followed until an alarm is sounded in the shape of a flourishing little outbreak of typhoid.

American engineers have been the leading exponents of the chlorinated method of treating water. It is but natural to expect, therefore, that the system would be most highly perfected in the United States. Nevertheless, during the past few months, cases have come to light there that illustrate some of the inherent defects of the method. At Milwaukee the offensive taste from the chlorine in the water was intensified by the gas-house wastes. Conditions were such that it was even suggested to revert back to the old method of individual boiling of the water, instead of sterilizing at the pumping station. The futility of attempting to have every citizen boil the water used for drinking purposes has long since been demonstrated. The most serious aspect in this instance, and one which may serve as a warning to other places similarly situated, is that an employee at the pumping station, to whom complaints had been made, eliminated the chlorine treatment for a 12-hour period. As a result the mains became filled with contaminated water and there was an increased typhoid incidence. Milwaukee is now trying experiments in water filtration and the conclusions that will be reached when these have been completed are being awaited with keen interest.

At Xenia, Ohio, a small typhoid epidemic was started recently owing to the inferior quality of the chlorine powder used in the water supply. There too, a movement is on foot to procure from another source, water of a satisfactory and sanitary quality. Such illustrations serve to show the result of temporary measures in matters relating to public health. It is

a strange quality of the "public mind" that often nothing short of a great community misfortune will arouse it to demand civic reform.

Excessive Waste at Lumber Mills

Closer Utilization in Manufacturing
Lumber is Urgently Needed

The waste in the manufacture of lumber on the Pacific Coast is appalling to one accustomed to more conservative methods. Huge slabs of absolutely clear wood, 3 to 6 inches thick, are sent to the fuel pile, and ends of boards and timbers which would well be used for some purpose are sent to the refuse burner. The burner is the most conspicuous thing about a British Columbia saw-mill. The fire never goes out and it furnishes a pillar of flame by night and a cloud of smoke by day. Heavy saws are necessary to 'break down' the large logs, but it is not unusual to see one-inch lumber being cut with a saw that takes out a 3/8-inch to 1/2-inch kerf. It is estimated that at least 25 per cent. of the tree is left in the woods and another 30 to 35 per cent. is wasted in the mill.

That closer utilization is profitable has been demonstrated beyond question by some of the more progressive manufacturers in the Pacific states. In a number of mills in California, short ends and blocks are worked up into stock for the manufacture of bee-hives, incubators, etc., thereby saving a large amount of material, which, in British Columbia, goes into the burner.

A campaign against waste in the lumber industry is urgently needed. A large and profitable field for research is open in this direction. The possibilities of extracting from saw-mill waste such articles of commerce as turpentine, oils, acetic acid and alcohol, call for immediate investigation. Now that large quantities of hemlock are being used for pulp and lumber, an effort should be made to use the bark for tanning purposes.

If the principles of forestry are ever to be adopted in this province, closer utilization must be practised. Intensive manufacture will result in enhanced stumpage values, which, in turn, will render the forest worth protecting and worth reproducing.—R. D. Craig.

William Linton, of Aurora, Ont., the man who introduced sweet clover into Canada as a crop for cultivation, died on February 16th, aged 75.

Want Annual Meeting on Game Conservation

Annual Convention of Those Interested
Would Unify and Encourage Work

The National Conference on Wild Life Protection which was held in Ottawa in connection with the Tenth Annual Meeting of the Commission of Conservation on Feb. 17, 18 and 19, unanimously adopted the suggestion that a conference of all those interested in wild life protection should be convened annually and passed a resolution asking the Commission of Conservation to call the meeting each year, arrange the details and secure the co-operation and support of the various game organizations and others interested throughout Canada. Such a unifying influence is lacking at the present time and it was felt that much better progress in the conservation of wild life could be made through the instrumentality of such an annual gathering. Among those who spoke in endorsement of the proposal were Hon. O. T. Daniels, Attorney-General of Nova Scotia; Hon. A. E. Arsenault, Premier of Prince Edward Island; Dr. A. Thompson, M.P., for Yukon; Jack Miner, of Kingsville, Ont.; Dr. W. Baker, Chairman, Provincial Game Conservation Board of British Columbia; B. Lawton, Provincial Game Guardian of Alberta; F. Bradshaw, Provincial Game Guardian of Saskatchewan; E. T. D. Chambers, of Quebec, and S. Harris, of Toronto.

'What Good is the Robin?'

"Now, what good is the robin? Everybody knows the robin. A boy came along the road with a .22 rifle, saw a robin sitting there, and killed it. I went over and picked the robin up. Two cutworms were squirming on the ground; the robin had had them in his beak. I held the bird up, and two more fell out of his mouth. Remember, one cutworm will cut down five tomato plants in a night. The cutworm does his work and then hides under the soil; Mr. Robin comes hopping along, picks in there and pulls him out—and turns him into a robin. If anyone tells you that a robin will destroy one hundred cutworms in a day, take it from him that it is true."—Jack Miner at the National Conference on Game and Wild Life.

Arresting the Fire Fiend in Canada

Analysis of the Statistics of Fire Losses
for 1918 and Suggestions for
Immediate Remedy

One of the most vital points for consideration in attempting to obtain any reduction of fire waste in Canada is clearly indicated by the fire record of 1918. Although 17,355 fires entailed an aggregate loss amounting to \$33,625,000, more than \$23,200,000 or 69 per cent of that loss was caused by 276 fires. Sixty-two fires alone were responsible for almost 50 per cent of the total loss. That is the crux of the situation and presents the logical point for substantially lessening fire waste. It is not essential to attempt the Herculean task of preventing all fires. Immediate results can be obtained by the concentration of our corrective efforts upon those classes of property where extensive loss is possible.

While it is perhaps desirable to bring fire prevention methods to the attention of the public, it should be recognized that if the 12,000 dwelling fires which occur every year could be eliminated, the actual fire loss of the Dominion would be reduced by less than five per cent. On the other hand, if less than 300 fires which annually damage large mercantile establishments and manufacturing plants could be prevented, over 65 per cent of our fire waste would be avoided.

To accomplish this result without loss of time the following legislation should be enacted:

- (1) Requiring a signed application (on a standard form) for all insurance, the statements of such application to form a part of the insurance contract and a continuing warranty during the currency of the policy.
- (2) Requiring the registration and licensing of all agents and brokers placing insurance with companies operating under Dominion authority. Licenses to be issued by the Superintendent of Insurance after examination of the character and qualifications of the said agents and brokers.
- (3) Requiring the proper inspection by insurance agents of all property whereon the total insurance exceeds \$5,000 and making compulsory the notification of defective or dangerous conditions in buildings to the Provincial Fire Marshal's Department.
- (4) Empowering Provincial Fire Marshals to stay the issuance of insurance and to cancel all existing in-

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