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Lake of the Woods Levels

Settlement of Vast Importance to Manitoba Water-powers

The recent decision of the International Joint Commission regarding the investigation into the Lake of the Woods water levels is another example of the importance and benefit to be derived from the proper presentation and firm adhesion to our justified contentions in international water-power problems.

The Commission of Conservation, as in all boundary water questions, took particular interest in the Lake of the Woods case, and it is gratifying to note that practically all the principles contended for have been recognized in the recommendations of the Joint Commission to the governments of the two countries. The conclusions were only reached after a most thorough investigation and study covering a period of three years and including a complete field survey of certain portions of the region affected.

The effect on the large water-powers of the Winnipeg river is of particular interest to Canada and would prove a strong stimulus to the industrial development of the Winnipeg district. Water power is recognized as a dominant factor and the water level for the Lake of the Woods permits the latter and other lakes to be used as immense regulating reservoirs for the benefit of Winnipeg River water-powers. In this connection it is of interest to note that the Commission of Conservation which, long ago, recognized the importance of these water-powers and that proper forest cover should be conserved in the upper waters, has strongly recommended that the Lake of the Woods watershed be set apart as a forest reserve.

The flood conditions of 1916 strikingly emphasized the urgent need for an efficient co-ordinated system of regulation and control of the waters of this drainage system. This is provided for in the recent report, which also includes the safeguarding of the interests of navigation, forests, and others.—L.G.D.

Avoid Waste

The world war has taken so many producers from the sources of food supply that the world's consumption of food is greater than the amount available, and, consequently, food reserves are being rapidly depleted.

Millions of men are actively engaged in warfare and in the supply of munitions and equipment. They are fighting our battles and we must provide their food. Canada will produce all the food we can consume, but Canadians have never been known as a selfish race. Our allies, therefore, are depending upon us for help and our people will unquestionably respond with generous hand.

The time for planting for 1917 is past, but the time of harvest is yet to come. There is very often much waste at this time, due, in many instances, to the lack of a demand at market prices. Fruit, especially, supplies much of this waste, and yet, while this waste is taking place, many families are compelled to go without it for lack of means to pay the market prices. Local organizations could easily arrange to bring the consumers in touch with this surplus fruit that it might not be wasted. The use of such perishable food, which would otherwise be wasted, will help to increase the supply of exportable food.

There is also much waste in the kitchens and dining rooms of Canadian homes. The waste in bread alone is a considerable item. Bread has been looked upon as one of the cheaper staple foods and little care has been taken to prevent its waste by drying up, the discarding of crusts, etc. A little thought will show what this waste amounts to when the cumulative result throughout Canada is considered.

Sir Robert Borden has said that Canada is in the war "to the last man and the last dollar." Canada is also in the war to the last pound of food. Canadians are their brothers' keepers, and will feed them, cost what it may. It is necessary, therefore, that we practise economy of the food supply. It is better to deny ourselves from choice than from necessity. There is no denying that there will be a food shortage, and the present is the time to put into practice thrift and rigid economy in the use of food.

Cultivate the Corn and Potatoes

Weeds Absorb Plant Food Needed to Sustain the Crop

Corn and potatoes are now planted. It is hoped that they were put in under ideal conditions. It has been truly said that no amount of cultivation after a crop is planted can make up for a lack of proper preparation of the soil before planting. Root and corn crops, however, respond readily to cultivation after they are planted and up. To kill weeds and conserve moisture, corn should be cultivated thoroughly and carefully when it is small. Remember that corn roots spread out between the rows and are quite close to the surface of the soil when the corn gets tall enough for the last time through with the cultivator. Consequently, to prevent cutting off and destroying the tiny roots by which the plants feed, care must be taken to make the last cultivation very shallow.

Potatoes should be kept free from weeds. Weeds absorb the moisture and plant food needed by the potatoes to make a good yield. Potatoes at present prices are very remunerative.—F.C.N.

Water Power to Save Coal

Reduction of Unnecessary Coal Consumption a National Problem

Canada depends upon the United States for a large portion of her coal supply both for domestic and industrial purposes; she is therefore much interested in the coal conditions obtaining there. A recent communication from Secretary F. K. Lane of the U. S. Dept. of the Interior shows how acute the situation has been made by the entrance of our neighbors into the war. One of the remedies urged, particularly applicable to Canada, is the immediate conservation of fuel by the efficient use of all available water-power. Elimination of unnecessary consumption of coal is considered a problem of national interest and of immediate concern. New power requirements should therefore be met, so far as practicable by utilization of hydro-electric energy; this would also apply to present steam generating energy consuming coal or oil in its production. Thus, all water available at water-power plants should be utilized to produce energy up to the capacity of the works and the requirements of the population and industries within transmission distance of the site; every facility should also be given for the efficient development of new sites. In regions where water-power can be made available steam-power plants should be operated only to carry loads in excess of those that can be carried by water-power plants. The adoption of this course, in many cases, would mean cheaper operation, particularly in view of the rapidly increasing price of coal.

Every additional hydro-electric horse-power used in Canada means the yearly liberation of from 10 to 12 tons of coal for domestic heating or other purposes where hydro-electric energy cannot be so effectively substituted.—L.G.D.

Assist in the work of preventing accidents for your own sake and for the good of our country at large.