

Conservation

A monthly bulletin published by the
Commission of Conservation, Ottawa, Canada.

VOL. IV

MARCH, 1915

NO. 3

Forestry's Place in Warfare

Screens of Trees and Forests Used to
Conceal Manoeuvres by Troops

The fighting in Europe has drawn attention to the possible place which forestry may have in warfare. Recently, the United States War Department has asked the Department of Agriculture to make working plans for planting screens of trees near the principal coast defenses of the East. Experts of the United States Forest Service have already completed plans for artificial forests that will screen the coast defense batteries which have been installed for the protection of New York harbour, Long Island sound, Boston harbour and Pensacola, Fla. Congress has not yet made appropriations for the planting work, but it is believed that this will be done at the coming session, now that the value of forests has been demonstrated by the European war.

Army officers point out that the retention by France of certain forests along the eastern border has a profound influence upon the movement of troops, the placing of batteries and the concealing of war manoeuvres in general. The planting of forests in France has been carried on so as to make the result appear as much as possible like a natural forest, without any attempt whatsoever to place the trees at regular spaces apart. The forests of Germany are parklike and while they offer many advantages in lumbering operations, they would not give the same concealment to army manoeuvres as the French forests.

The effect of the war on the forests of Europe is, of course, destructive. Trees have been cut without reference to future needs, in order to form fortifications and protective works of various sorts, to build bridges and to make corduroy roads through boggy places. Many trees have been cut down for firewood to be used in camps, and even the rifle and artillery fire has resulted in tree destruction. In some cases also, forests have been burned intentionally, in order to drive out the enemy. It will undoubtedly take many years to repair the havoc wrought by war in the forests of Europe.

Patriotism and Production

The Vacant Lot and Garden Plot Offer Opportunities For Increasing
Output

While the Departments of Agriculture of the Dominion and the various provinces are endeavouring to interest the farmers of Canada in plans to secure increased production of farm crops and live stock, the residents of cities and towns also have a duty to perform.



Cut No. 3 A vacant lot in a large city. A nursery for weeds and an eyesore.

In every urban community there are vacant spaces which, usually, are allowed to become breeding places for noxious weeds. Our illustration shows an example from one of our large cities. In this city there are many men out of work. These vacant spaces should be made available for cultivation. The owner may not wish to use the land for this purpose, but that the soil may be made to yield the produce it is capable of, some means should be found to bring together the owner of the land and those who would cultivate it. There are patriotic organizations in existence in almost every place of any size, which might undertake this work. It is patriotic work in every sense of the term, and it would be of great help in relieving want. Our second illustration shows the results which may be secured when the vacant lot is properly cultivated. Every foot of ground is made to yield something, and, from being a sore on the face of nature, it becomes a beauty spot and a means of sustenance for a Canadian family.



Cut No. 4 A vacant lot converted into a vegetable garden. Every foot is made to yield its own produce.

The Handling of Fresh Fish

Their Preparation For Market Requires
Great Care

"Fish are never so good as when fresh and the fresher the better." This is the dictum of Dr. Harvey Wiley, the food specialist. Even refrigeration tends to break down the delicate cell structure in the flesh of fish and to some extent destroy the flavour. It is easily seen, therefore, that fresh fish is a food product requiring the maximum of care in handling if it is to reach the consumer in high grade condition. Refrigeration is, of course, a prime necessity. The larger fishing boats should carry ice in which to pack the fish as soon as caught, and they should be brought to port with the least possible delay. Unless consumers are provided with fresh fish of the highest quality, it is certain that the development of the fresh fish industry will be comparatively slow.

The Department of Marine and Fisheries has with commendable enterprise done much to build up the trade in fresh fish by securing better transportation. There is yet much ground to cover in the way of educating fishermen and others who handle fish, so that Canadians may benefit more largely from their rich and varied fisheries. As a Montreal dealer in fish recently pointed out: "Sticking pitchforks in fish and walking over them does not improve them. Yet this is what is done at present." Such practices certainly do not "improve" the fish, and the fisherman or dealer who is guilty of them should not be allowed to market his product.—A.D.

HOUSING AND ROADS.

Two hundred years hence the great housing and town-planning movement, now at its meridian, which has for its objects the planning out with wide roads and open spaces of the land lying round cities and towns and the erection of houses for rich and poor which shall be hygienically constructed and provided with an abundance of unfettered ground space, will be compared in importance and consequences with the Renaissance of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries.