

Commission of Conservation

CANADA

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CONSERVATION is published monthly. Its object is the dissemination of information relative to the natural resources of Canada, their development and proper conservation, and the publication of timely articles on housing and townplanning.

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MAPLE SUGAR

Sugar, 16 cents per pound. Neither United States nor Canadian refineries can control the situation. Board of Commerce report.

The maple groves of Canada offer a potential crop of home-grown sugar, which may be made available to relieve the shortage of imported supplies. The days of warm sunshine and the cold nights will soon bring the sap up into the trees. It is well to be prepared for an early sugar season, by having all the equipment ready.

The high price of sugar will undoubtedly create a largely increased demand for maple products. Heretofore, the latter have been considered more of a luxury by the general public, but, in the portions of Canada where maple sugar is produced, it is generally found upon the table, in graded form, taking the place of imported sugar. Maple products are being used more and more in the confectionery trade and a considerable export trade is developing.

Canada protects the manufacturer of maple products. Under the pure food law the name "maple" cannot be used for any substance unless it is the product of the maple tree. This is a protection to the producer as well as to the buyer of maple sugar and maple syrup.

The sugaring season comes at a time when very few other farm duties are pressing. This time should be employed, and with excellent advantage, in the maple grove, thus adding to the farm income.

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT NATURAL RESOURCE?

Water-power development is but one of the important uses to which many of our inland waters may be applied. Too frequently, in reports on water-power resources, it has been the tendency to deal with power development exclusively, without adequately considering such related subjects as domestic and municipal supply, agriculture and irrigation, navigation, fisheries, and riparian rights.

There has been a tendency on the part of many persons interested in the conservation of natural resources to emphasize that this or that particular resource is the most important. Some have con-

tended that the forests are the most important asset, others coal, others maintain that the soil, with its fertility, is the most important, and, of late years, great stress has been laid upon the statement that water is the chief asset—the prediction being made that the nation which has the most and cheapest water-power available is destined to take precedence in the world of commerce. As a matter of fact, however, all these various interests are interdependent. If any one feature of our natural resources is to be placed before others, probably it could be most reasonably urged that a fertile condition of the soil is the most important natural asset to be safeguarded; because, for its sustenance on the earth, man requires food, raiment, and shelter, and these essentials are supplied him, in one form or another, either directly or indirectly, from the soil. It must be manifest, therefore, that the factors which make for the permanence of the soil's productivity are of paramount importance; and hence the subject of water conservation and use of waters as a natural asset, among other things, should be considered in its prime relationship to the subject of the productivity of the soil.—A. F. White

CANADA PROTECTS ITS WILD LIFE

There is abroad in Canada an impression that the Dominion Government concerns itself little, if at all, with the actual protection of its wild life. This impression is not justified to-day. While the Dominion Government has left to the provinces the protection of the game, fur-bearing animals, and other wild life within their respective territories, it is nevertheless responsible for the protection of the wild life over an enormous portion of Canada, namely, the Northwest Territories, Yukon Territory, and in the Dominion parks. To carry out our national obligations with respect to the treaty with the United States for the protection of migratory birds, it has also assumed the guardianship of our migratory birds; this is being undertaken with the practical co-operation of the Provincial governments. The legislation governing these matters is administered by the Minister of the Interior. To supervise the enforcement of this legislation, and to advise on such matters affecting the conservation of wild life as might be referred to the Government, there was appointed, two years ago, on the recommendation of the Minister of the Interior, an Advisory Board on Wild Life Protection, which is composed of a representative from each of the departments concerned in wild life conservation, namely the Departments of the Interior, Agriculture, Mines (Geological Survey), Indian Affairs, and the Commission of Conservation. The chief activities of this Advisory Board, up to the present, have been the drafting of the legislation under the Migratory Birds Treaty and the revision of the Northwest Game Act.—C. Gordon Hewitt

CONFERENCE ON THE FUR INDUSTRY

Under the auspices of the Commission of Conservation and of the Advisory Board on Wild Life Protection the Second National Conference on Game and Wild Life Conservation will be held at the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, February 19th and 20th. A representative gathering of fur farmers, fur dealers and administrative officials will assemble to discuss the various phases of the fur industry in Canada and to promote the fullest and wisest development of the valuable resources of the Dominion in fur-bearing animals. The rapidly growing industry of fur farming has become thoroughly established in Canada and it is anticipated that many fur farmers will attend the Conference. The programme will include papers and discussions relative to, (1) The care and management of foxes and other fur bearers, (2) Registration of silver foxes, (3) The rearing of fur bearers other than silver foxes, (4) Methods of marketing furs and their improvement, (5) Canadian auction sales, (6) Trade names for furs, (7) The sale of game, (8) Game protective associations and other kindred subjects.

It is confidently expected that this National Conference will be of the greatest service in bringing together representatives of the various interests engaged in the exploitation of our fur resources and will lead to a more thorough appreciation of the problems to be solved in placing all phases of the Canadian fur industry on the soundest possible basis.

DEAR LIVING MAY BREED EXTRAVAGANCE

One deplorable result of the increasing cost of living is that, instead of being a deterrent, it may even be a direct incentive to extravagance. This is so, because, if a man desires to buy anything, he may reflect that it is probably better to buy it immediately rather than defer till the price goes up.

To put it in another way: If money is worth 6 per cent, then \$100 will amount to \$106 at the end of twelve months. But, if the purchasing power of the dollar decreases by 6 per cent during the same period, the investor is no better off at the end of the year than at the beginning. He has lent his money for nothing. At best, he has only preserved his capital from depreciation.

However, this condition should not drive us in despair to squander money on "consumption" goods, i.e., on unnecessary articles which merely minister to one's personal enjoyment. The remedy is rather to invest surplus funds in productive enterprises. If prices rise, the increase may be compensated by appreciation in the value of

Canada's Exports of Pulp and Paper

Forest Industries Help to Redress Unfavourable Exchange with United States—Pressing Urgency of Protection to our Pulpwood Resources

With the present high rate of exchange between Canada and the United States, so unfavourable to this country, authorities are emphasizing the great importance not only of decreasing our purchases abroad but of increasing Canadian production and export trade.

The important rôle being played in this connection, by the pulp and paper industry of Canada, is inadequately realized. This great industry now ranks third in volume and value with respect to its products exported abroad, and second in the amount of capital invested. During the fiscal year ending March 31, 1919, the total value of pulpwood, pulp and paper exported abroad was nearly \$80,000,000, of which upwards of \$0 per cent went to the United States. In total value, this represents an increase of 31 per cent over the preceding year, and 87 per cent over exports for the year ending March 31, 1917.

During the past year, over 1.5 million cords of raw pulpwood was exported to the United States, valued at upwards of \$1,500,000. Wood pulp exports for the year are valued at around \$35,000,000, of which most went to the United States.

With exhaustion of United States supplies of pulpwood in the eastern states already in sight, and with the industry growing by leaps and bounds in Canada, the question of future supplies becomes of the most pressing urgency, that invested capital may be protected and communities founded upon this business may not, after a time, be compelled to migrate, as has so frequently been the case in the United States.

The first essential is much more adequate protection of our forests from destruction by fire. The next great requisite is such modification of existing methods of logging as will leave the cut-over lands in better condition to produce a crop of the more valuable species. This involves a careful study, in advance of logging, by practical foresters, in order that the methods best adapted to the particular locality may be adopted.

For the mixed pulpwood forests of hardwoods and conifers, some plan of transporting and utilizing the hardwood species must be devised, otherwise these forests will continue the present process of rapid conversion into hardwood species alone, rendering them less and less valuable for the production of pulpwood. This is one of the greatest problems now before an important portion of the pulpwood industry.—Clyde Leavitt.

the property and of the goods produced. Moreover, greater production will tend to overtake the present scarcity and thus stabilize the price level.—P. M. Baldwin