

How We Waste Fish in War Time

Several Excellent Kinds Are Thrown Away Because the Public Does Not Know Them

Paradoxically enough, war is compelling economy. If the conflict continues, it will be difficult to avoid world hunger. Food conservation is especially essential. This implies greater production, the prevention of waste in every form and the substitution of hitherto unused products for those that were formerly staples.

In the fishing industry, there is room for considerable substitution. Many varieties of excellent food fish are not only not fished for, but, if caught with other fish, are thrown away and wasted. Prof. Prince stated recently before the commission investigating the salmon fisheries of British Columbia that 'there must be forty or fifty varieties of edible fish in British Columbia waters that could be put on the market . . . but, of those forty or fifty excellent fish, at the outside limits, only eight or nine are utilized . . . and five or six of those belong to the salmon family.' Many 'flat' fishes, as well as varieties of the cod family, have not been utilized at all, and, as they abound in our Pacific waters, they could be turned to excellent account in relieving the food shortage. In like manner, the herring fishery is capable of great expansion.

Concerning the fisheries of the Atlantic coast, Prof. Prince has drawn attention to the wastage of such fish as the tuna or horse-mackerel, a fish greatly prized on the French markets, but which is merely thrown away by Canadian fishermen for lack of a home market, and the failure to cultivate a foreign one. One species of this fish has been marketed to some extent in the United States. The wolf-fish or sea-cat is another fish of the Atlantic that is caught in large numbers, and thrown away as useless. The British market, always a fastidious one, has had a demand for these fish for a number of years.

In brief, the Canadian market has confined itself to a few of the well-known varieties—not always the best—and the greater number have been neglected or wasted. The result has been a steady depletion and the consequent need for artificial propagation of the oyster and lobster and such fish as the white-fish, shad and salmon. By using more varieties of fish the strain on the older fisheries would be relieved and, at the same time, great quantities of excellent food, at present neglected and wasted, would be turned to good account at a time of national and international need.—A.D.

Chicken fat is often wasted. The French housewife thinks it is the finest shortening for cakes.

CONTINUITY NEEDED IN WATERWORKS CONTROL

Under our somewhat clumsy system of municipal administration, the waterworks of a city or town is usually managed by a special committee of the council, composed, in most instances, of business men with little knowledge of the essential requirements of a waterworks system. Efficient management is rare unless a competent engineer is permanently employed. As the committee is elected annually under the ward system, its membership is constantly changing, and frequently the position is sought in order to obtain special advantages for particular neighbourhoods.

There are so many objections to the committee system as applied to the waterworks department, that, in all the larger cities, the tendency is to abolish it and to substitute a commission therefor. There is everything to be said in favour of the commissioner plan, since, not only is the work in the highest degree technical, but, in a department which so intimately concerns the health and safety of the people, bi-partisanship and the interplay of local politics should have no place. In the smaller cities and towns, where the cost of employing a commissioner is out of the question, a permanent unpaid board has a very great advantage over the committee plan.—From *Fire Waste in Canada*, soon to be published by Commission of Conservation.

Keep Chickens

'Keep chickens' is a slogan that should appeal to nearly every householder in Canada. The scraps from the table of an average household will provide most of the food necessary to keep half a dozen hens in flourishing condition, and these, if properly housed and cared for, will reciprocate with a surprisingly large number of nice fresh eggs for the family table. Fifteen dozen eggs per hen per year is by no means an impossible production.

Nearly every back yard is big enough to accommodate half a dozen hens, and they are most cheerful and agreeable backyard tenants. The far-seeing householder will put up his little hen-house as soon as the snow is gone, and will make arrangements for his stock of hens at once.

A NEW COMMISSIONER

Mr. W. F. Tye, the well-known consulting engineer of Montreal, has been appointed a member of the Commission of Conservation in the place of the late Sir Sandford Fleming.

Settling the Returned Soldier on the Land

The problem of placing ex-service men on the land does not differ in any material sense from that of placing any other class of settlers on the land. Any system of land settlement, which is sound for one class is, generally speaking, sound for another and should first be determined because of its soundness, irrespective of any class. Settlement should not be forced under any conditions, but should be permitted to proceed naturally after the right conditions of land development are laid down. The obligation of the nation to ex-service men should not be confused with the question of land settlement, but should be determined on its own merits as a distinct problem. Government aid to returned soldiers, or others, by means of loans or education, will fail in its object, unless there is more scientific organization and planning of the beginnings of development. New towns and suburbs combining opportunities for returned soldiers should be promoted by government aid in locations where they can be successfully established on economic lines and without artificial pressure.—From *Rural Planning and Development*, by Thomas Adams.

ELECTRIC SMELTING IS NOW A REALITY

Not many years ago, the opinion prevailed in Canada that while electric smelting was interesting, the time was far-distant when it would be put into practical operation. The situation, however, has radically changed. There are, at the present time, 32 Heroult electric furnaces in Canada and 22 of other types—in all 54 furnaces using the electric process. These furnaces have a capacity of 173,000 tons of iron and steel, 50,000 tons of ferro-silicon, and 8,000 tons of other ferro-alloys per annum. The British Forgings plant at Toronto has ten electric furnaces of the Heroult type and a total capacity of 60 tons per heat, or about 72,000 tons per annum, making it the largest electric-process steel plant in the world.

WANT TO CATCH MORE FISH

The Alberta branch of the Canadian Fisheries Association wants to take larger quantities of white-fish and other fish from Lesser Slave Lake and Lac la Biche than the present law allows. It recently sent a representative to Ottawa to confer with the Fisheries Branch of the Naval Service Department on this subject.

WOODLANDS SECTION PULP AND PAPER ASSOCIATION

Of great general interest is the recent organization of a woodlands section of the Canadian Pulp and Paper Association. This section has for its objects the stimulation of interest in more economical and efficient methods of protection and utilization of raw materials for pulp, paper and lumber industries, the providing of means for the interchange of ideas among its members, and the encouragement of investigation of woodlands problems.

It will concern itself definitely with the production of the forest crop, just as the technical section of the same association concerns itself with the manufacture or utilization of the crop, after it is produced. This is a notable step in advance, since it involves definite recognition, through specific action on the part of the private interests most directly affected, that the forest is a crop which may be reproduced time after time upon the same soil; that the rate of production of this crop may be stimulated or retarded, depending upon whether the methods of cutting are favourable or unfavourable; that the determination of such methods may be facilitated through investigation, co-operation and free discussion; and, finally, that such action is made necessary by the depletion of the most accessible supplies of pulpwood over large areas in all of the provinces of eastern Canada. It is to be anticipated that the Commission of Conservation will be able to secure valuable co-operation from the new section in connection with the continuance of Dr. C. D. Howe's investigations of conditions on cut-over pulpwood lands in Quebec.—C.L.

PROBLEM AND SOLUTION

Our problem is to feed our Allies by sending them as much food as we can of the most concentrated nutritive value, in the least shipping space. These foods are wheat, beef, pork, dairy products and sugar.

Our solution is to eat less of the food and more of other foods of which we have in abundance—and TO WASTE LESS OF ALL FOODS.

WOOD IN COAL FURNACES

Where wood is to be burned in a furnace intended for coal it will be found desirable to partly cover the grate with iron or firebrick, in order to reduce the draft. If this is not done the wood is wasted, being consumed too fast and making a very hot fire which, in a furnace, may damage the firebox.—*Engineering and Mining Journal*.

Seventeen thousand acres of arid land are being irrigated by the city of Las Vegas, New Mexico.