

England's Famous Forests Sacrificed To War Needs

Nature Wears Another and Severer Aspect in the Once Splendid Wooded Sections of Britain; Munition Workers Contribute an Airplane

Although the Germans have not set foot in England and the horrors of invasion have been spared the country, nevertheless its natural aspect is undergoing a great change due to the war. The beautiful woodlands, forests, woods and groves that for centuries have made its landscape of unrivalled beauty are fast disappearing under the axes of the government's lumbermen. It is only a question of time, according to the report of the forestry sub-committee of the Reconstruction committee, before the whole of the country's growing timber which is fit for commercial use must disappear. Even if every acre felled is replanted, it will be many years before the present outfit can be repeated.

It is estimated that by the summer of this year the government and the lumber trade will probably be converting trees into timber at the rate of 6,000,000 tons per annum. Indeed, the need of timber is so great and imperative that it is feared by the end of next year the government will have to cut all the remaining substantial blocks of mature coniferous timber in the country. And by substantial blocks is meant any patches of any size whatever, suitable for cutting. It is only too probable that this destruction of the beautiful woods of England will have to go on to the bitter end, as the demand for timber is a continuous and compulsory one so long as the war lasts.

Fortunately the government is taking all possible steps to replace the trees. These efforts are among the most notable feats of organization during the war. They have resulted in the transplantation of many lumbermen's camps from Canada, Newfoundland and the United States, where the forestry theories and practices of the far away virgin forests are being applied to English woodlands.

In the meantime the woods of England continue to go. What it means in a given district is illustrated quite close to London, at Farnham in Surrey, less than forty miles from the capital.

This district has been bled almost as much as any in the south, and what has been done is but a foretaste of what must follow. For miles it is hardly possible to be out of sight of areas which have been completely cleared or are littered with freshly gashed and trimmed trees or of woodlands in which the standing timber is already marked for destruction. From Crooksbury to Tilford, to Churt by Farnham and back to Farnham, everywhere is the same picture of destruction; forests cleared except for a shelter belt to protect new saplings, entire woodlands gone save for a few marked trees, trunks, and logs in thousands lying where they fell and awaiting removal.

At Black Lake a new camp is being erected for Canadian lumbermen who will cut down the tall red tufted pines and lay bare a great swath of country from the Farnham road across the woods to Waverley and Moor Park to Crooksbury Hill itself. This is just one example of what is going on all over Great Britain, Wales, Scotland and the Lake country, that is, the Vale of Conway and the Vale of Langollen, and certain parts of Cumbria, show the forest lost most because whole mountains have been cleared and the destruction is most apparent on high country. In Devonshire great areas have been cut down to the north of Exmoor and many other localities, and several companies of the Canadian Forestry Corps are working in the country.

In the New Forest there has been a very heavy cut of the fine old timber. In Bedfordshire the woodlands of the Duke of Bedford and Viscount Feil have suffered tremendously. Virginia Water, Windsor, Forest and the surrounding region have been cut over by Canadian lumbermen, who are also cutting near Wellington College and Sandhurst, as well as on the South Downs in Eastham Woods. In Suffolk and Norfolk, the forests are not spared. The woods of Beaulieu have been well cut out and the magnificent silver firs at Longleat in Wiltshire, many of them six feet in diameter, are falling. From the magnificent high forest of Spanish chestnut trees at Welbeck Abbey at least a million trees are to be cut.

Without having put foot on England the destructive influence of the Germans is seen in the disappearance of its incomparable woodland beauties. It has been largely due to its trees and woodlands that England has always ranked among the most beautiful of European countries. Its climate and its extraordinary variety of soil have been peculiarly favorable for the growth of trees of unusual variety. Its freedom from great extremes of heat and cold have made it the home of trees unknown in many parts of southern Europe. In its limited area a greater variety is to be seen than can be observed in immensely larger areas on the continent.

In a journey of fifty to eighty miles from London to the Channel one finds hedges, elms, thorns and oaks of the meadows, silver birches, chestnuts and many conifers of the lower commons, the willows, alders and poplars of the valley; the ancient thorns and hollies of the higher commons; the beech-woods of the North Downs; the white bean, yew, juniper and box on the greens and ridges and the forests on mighty Scottish fells, silver firs, larch and the great oaks of the Weald; the conifers and chestnuts of the Hastings and forest regions; and then the elder, ash and thorn of the eastern end of the South Downs, and the beech, birch, sweet chestnut, ash and mighty yew at their western end. And this variety is not only typical of the nearby counties, but more or less of all England, Scotland and Wales.

With the exception of certain exotic trees brought here and there, perhaps by the Romans, it is pretty clear that the trees down in the seventeenth century were all native. In that century the conifers were introduced, and Develyn, a great authority on British forestry, included in his list the Scotch fir, the only native of the family, the silver fir, the spruce, the pine, and the larch. In the eighteenth century large plantings were made of the larch. This introduction of the larch and other conifers not only added new features to the beauty of the English woodlands, but also has proved to be as great a resource of England at war as the hearts of oak of old.

While most of England's woodlands had been created primarily for game covers and landscape effects, state forests have for centuries been cultivated to meet the needs of the navy. The oak of the Forest of Dean has been known as the best ship timber in the world, and English oak is still the finest for that purpose, while the best of the soft woods, spruce and pine, is second only to the finest woods produced in northern Europe.

The munition workers of Scotland have broken the majority of the records that have been set up by investors in war bonds. They were not easily satisfied by government assurances as to post war restoration of their trade conditions in the early days of the war. Since their assurance in every case, then they worked night and day in an endeavor to beat the record output.

Since the opening of the German thrust they have given up holidays, worked longer overtime and sunk their spare cash in war bonds. They have now gone one better. In the town of Georgetown, Renfrewshire, the workers in a munition factory there have been chatting on the subject of helping the purchase of an aeroplane would indicate their desire to help and their regard to those who are fighting at the front.

They started a fund and paid in sums between sixty cents and \$1.50 every week, according to the amount of their earnings, organized a fancy fair, concerts, cinema entertainments and a fancy dress ball to raise the necessary funds and realized a sum in excess of the needs.

The aeroplane has been presented to the Royal Air Force and Winston Churchill has written an official appreciation of their patriotic action in presenting the battle plane.

Tests Show More Vehicles in Transit Than Even in London

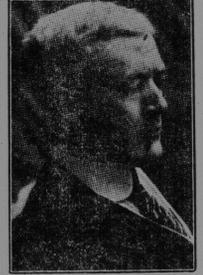
Hand It Out To Them as They Pass

Or better, send them half a dozen bars of this nourishing chocolate. There is many a brave fellow hungry today in the trenches, who will appreciate this highly concentrated food more than anything else. Positively the finest eating chocolate made, 5c. and 25c. sizes.

COWAN'S ACTIVE SERVICE CHOCOLATE

MARITIME DENTAL PARLORS

CANADIAN MEDICAL CONGRESS



Prof. Lewellyn Barker of Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, Md., succeeds to Sir Wm. Osler in the chair of medicine at that university, will deliver the address in medicine at the Medical Congress in Hamilton. His subject is of especial interest at the present time, as it deals with the significance of heart murmurs found in the examinations of candidates for military service. He is one of Canada's most distinguished sons, a native of Welland, Ontario, and a graduate in both arts and medicine of the University of Toronto.

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The Canadian Bankers' Association Invites the Co-Operation of the Public on Behalf of the Banks

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Staffs Heavily Reduced by War

MORE than half the men in the banks of Canada are now on military service, and the number which remains is being steadily reduced.

Women clerks have been employed in thousands and have done splendidly, but they have not the experience of the men they replace. It would be out of the question to expect them to work as rapidly or with the same knowledge of banking as officers of many years training in the profession.

The drain upon the number of experienced officers has now reached a point where it is necessary to ask the public to take into consideration this decrease in efficiency, and to lighten, as far as they can, the burden thus thrown upon those left to run the business. Canada was never so busy as now and the volume of banking business is greater than ever before.

How the Public Can Help

Transact your banking business in the morning as far as possible, and as early as possible. Try to avoid a rush at closing time. Do not draw any more cheques than are absolutely necessary. Instead of paying small accounts by cheque, draw the money in one amount and pay in cash.

Change in Banking Hours June 1st.

On and after June 1st banking hours will be: 9.30 to 2.30; Saturdays 9.30 to 12.00.

This arrangement will give the staff more time to complete the large amount of work which cannot be taken up until after the office is closed to the public.

Special Services Discontinued July 1st.

Certain services must of necessity be discontinued, for a time at least. On July 1st banks will discontinue receiving payments for tax bills and the bills of gas, electric and other public service corporations.

The banks desire to render all essential services including many special ones arising out of the war. In order to do this they make this appeal for co-operation in the manner suggested above

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