

**Commission of Conservation
CANADA**

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CONSERVATION is published the first of each month. 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 town-planning and public health.

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RATS ARE BIG EATERS

Experts have estimated that one rat will consume 40 to 50 pounds of food in a year. It has also been figured that it requires the continuous work of about 165,000 men with farms, agricultural implements, and other equipments to supply the foodstuffs destroyed annually by rats in the United States and Canada. In addition rats destroy other property, mainly of agricultural origin, the production of which requires the work of about 25,000 men. This gives a total of 200,000 men whose economic output is devoted solely to feeding and otherwise providing for rats.

WATER DAMAGE TO FLOUR

It is a well-known fact among sailors that flour will not only float after immersion in sea water, but it suffers very little damage. To ascertain the actual damage, says the *Northwestern Miller*, a baker in New South Wales submerged a 150-lb. bag of flour in the ocean and left it in the water 67 hours. A 98-pound weight was necessary to sink the bag, which would have supported about 75 pounds, or half its own weight, on top of the water. When lifted and weighed, the bag scaled 155 pounds. It was dried for four days and yielded 120 pounds of perfectly dry flour, the bag and waste weighing 28 pounds. Baked into bread, it gave perfect results.

**ADVANCES MADE IN
SOCIAL WELFARE WORK**

Marvellous interest has now been awakened in every phase of social welfare. The withdrawal of men from ordinary employment has meant high wages for those remaining and, notwithstanding the great need for production, hours of labour have been made shorter. More attention is paid to the comfort of employes and the providing of lunch and rest rooms than before the war.

The better housing of families has attracted the endorsement and support of business men and Governments, and there is hope that the unsanitary and dilapidated hovels of the poor will soon give way to modern substantially built homes. No longer will the world look with indifference on the misery and oppression of the poor, or tolerate with complacency the hardships and injustices that have for centuries been considered inevitable and irremediable. There are some of the great advances that are being made:

Greater value is placed on child life. Baby clinics organized. Many child welfare meetings held and great educational propaganda conducted on the feeding and care of infants.

The Workmen's Compensation Act is being increasingly appreciated and it is found out this principle it is conceded there should be a Widow's Allowance Fund provided by the State so that families may not be broken up on the ground of poverty alone.

—J. J. Kelso.

**CANADIAN MORTUARY
STATISTICS DEFECTIVE**

The report of the Conference on Vital Statistics, held last June between representatives of the Dominion Government and the Provincial Governments, has been published and copies may be had free of charge from the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, Ottawa. The purpose of the conference was to standardize the haphazard system of vital statistics now prevailing in Canada, a result that can be obtained only by the provinces, who collect these statistics, co-operating with the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, which offers to compile them. The decennial census has been found useless in so far as vital statistics are concerned and the Dominion must depend on the Provinces for information. The report now issued gives the recommendations for accomplishing the ends set before the Conference.

The report in dealing with mortuary statistics throws an interesting side-light on the present condition of vital statistics in Canada. There are 24 items of information necessary on a satisfactory death certificate. Of these British Columbia omits 3 and 5 others are defective; Alberta omits 8 and 5 are defective; Saskatchewan, 4 omitted, 2 defective; Manitoba, 4 omitted, 3 defective; Ontario, 12 omitted, 2 defective; Quebec, 16 omitted, 2 defective; New Brunswick, 15 omitted, 4 defective; Nova Scotia, 13 omitted, 2 defective; Prince Edward Island, 16 omitted, 4 defective.

**New Wood for Newsprint
(Continued from page 41)**

The primary reason why the hardwoods of our northern forests have not been utilized has been the difficulty of transportation, due to the absence of railways. They are too heavy to be driven long distances in streams, without very severe loss by sinkage; and, besides, the amount of flood water in the majority of driving streams is hardly adequate to float the spruce and balsam to their destination, to say nothing of carrying large quantities of birch. As a consequence, birch has remained practically a weed tree over enormous areas of our eastern forests where there is no rail transportation.

At last, however, there is a possibility that the problems of transportation may be partially solved through the winter use of motor tractors for log-hauling on ice roads. This would apply not only to hardwoods but to coniferous species as well, where in the case of log drives, the loss by shrinkage is serious, especially as to the smaller sizes, and more particularly in the case of balsam. Several concerns are experimenting, or are pre-

sparing to experiment, along these lines, the River Ouelle Pulp and Lumber Company being the pioneer in this direction in eastern Canada. The Laurentide Company has purchased some lighter tractors of the caterpillar type and will conduct experiments this winter in the St. Maurice valley. The use of tractors for log hauling is already established in parts of British Columbia and in various sections of the United States.

The second obstacle to the removal of the hardwoods in our northern mixed forests has been lack of a suitable market, particularly by the pulp and paper companies, which hold rapidly increasing areas of such lands. Formerly, only spruce was accepted for use as ground-wood in the manufacture of newsprint; later, balsam was accepted in an increasing proportion, and now both species are used practically without discrimination. It has always been considered impracticable to use birch or other hardwoods acceptably for ground-wood. The Forestry Department of the Laurentide Co. has, however, for a long time urged that experiments be made with a view to the utilization of birch in the manufacture of newsprint, and an experiment recently made by the company gives excellent promise of satisfactory development along this line. A test run was made, the results of which indicate that, in the manufacture of newsprint, up to ten per cent of birch ground-wood can be used to excellent advantage in admixture with spruce and balsam ground-wood.

It is expected that further tests will be made, in collaboration with the Dominion Forest Products Laboratories. Should the final results be satisfactory, and should the use of tractors solve the problem of transportation to any material extent, a new era will be opened up in the intelligent handling of our vast areas of mixed forests. It will then be possible to utilize large quantities of birch, in the manufacture of newsprint, thus materially relieving the increasing drain upon spruce and balsam. At the same time, the logged-over areas will be left in good condition for future production, instead of their quality being depreciated as has been the tendency under the only methods of operation hitherto considered feasible. Should these developments come to pass, forestry will find an immense scope for activity in our northern forests, replacing, at least in part, the destructive methods so generally practised heretofore.—C. L.

HAVE YOU BOUGHT YET?

Victory Bonds have the assets of all Canada behind them and they give a return of 5 1/2 per cent on the investment. That is nearly double what your money would bring if on deposit in the bank and the security is the best in the world. Should the war end soon you can sell out for more than you paid. You can buy a hundred dollar bond for \$10 cash and the bank will loan you the balance of \$90 at 5 1/2 per cent interest, to be paid off in monthly instalments. A Victory Bond investment is good business as well as good patriotism.

Lip Gratitude and Tea

An Appeal by John Galworthy to Face the Facts in the Wounded-Soldier Problem

ONLY by revivifying in each separate disabled soldier the will to live, can you save him from the fate of merely continuing to exist.

There are wounded men, many whose spirit is such that they will march in front of any effort made for their recovery. I well remember one of these—a Frenchman—nearly paralyzed in both legs. All day long he would work at his *macramé*, and each morning after treatment, would demand to try and stand. I can see his straining efforts now, his eyes like the eyes of a spirit; I can hear his daily words: "*Il me semble que j'ai un peu plus de force dans mes jambes ce matin, Monsieur!*" though, I fear, he never had. Men of such indomitable initiative, though rare, are but a fraction. The great majority have rather the happy-go-lucky soul. For them, it is only too easy to postpone self-help till sheer necessity drives, or till someone in whom they believe inspires them. The work of re-equipping these with initiative, with a new interest in life, with work which they can do, is one of infinite difficulty and complexity. Nevertheless, it must be done.

The great qualities of our countries do not yet, I think, see that they too have their part in the sacred work. So far they only seem to feel: "Here's a wounded hero; let's take him to the movies and give him tea!" Instead of choking him with cheap kindness, each member of the public should seek to re-inspire the disabled man with the feeling that he is no more out of the main stream of life than they are themselves; each man, according to his or her private chances, should help him to find that special niche which he can best, most cheerfully, and most usefully fill in the long future.

The more we drown the disabled in tea and lip gratitude the more we un-steel his soul, and the harder we make it for him to win through, when, in the years to come, the wells of our tea and gratitude have dried up. We can do a much more real and helpful thing. I fear that there will soon be no one of us who has not some personal friend disabled. Let us regard that man as if he were ours; let us treat him as one who demands a full place in the ranks of working life, and to try to find it for him.

Editor's Note—The foregoing is from the foreword written by John Galworthy for the "Report of the Allied Conference on the After-Care of Disabled Men". It is reproduced here in the hope that it may assist in the rehabilitation of our wounded heroes by helping the public to realize that we must face facts and disregard fancies and suppositions in the solution of this imminent problem.

Last year there were 5,285,000 war gardens in the United States. It is said that real estate men are looking forward to a boom in garden lands.

A campaign for the sale of thrift stamps will be begun as soon as the Victory Loan drive is completed.