Commission of Conservation
CANADA

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BROKEN GLASS DANGEROUS

Many people who live in cities and towns evince about the minimum consideration for other members of the community. They are quite oblivious of community rights unless, at the same time, their own personal comfort or convenience is endangered. A simple concrete illustration of this is the careless manner in which broken glassware is left in city streets. During the winter, many bottles and jars are broken by delivery men. The broken parts are left where they fall and with the disappearance of the snow in the spring, patches of broken glass are left in the winter's accumulation of rubbish and filth, a constant menace to all rubber-tired vehicles. Often, too, such bottles are broken near the entrances of homes and, instead of being gathered up and removed, are left as they fell. Painful and more or less serious accidents have occurred to many children, who have stepped or fallen on broken milk bottles. Civic authorities might well consider the advisability of making such forms of carelessness punishable offences. By making examples of a few, this class of offenders might be made to realize that sooner or later inconsiderateness of others acts as a boomerang.

SELECTING MEMORIALS

Man has always been a maker of memorials. His desire to be so is a manifestation of his innate craving for immortality. From the very earliest times he has aspired to keep alive at least the memories of great men, or of great deeds, or of outstanding events. The Greatest of Teachers did not neglect this elemental phase of human character and one of the most beautiful services of the Christian church was founded as a memorial. With this end in view too, men have created, often with a tremendous expenditure of labour, many different kinds of commemorative monuments. In most instances, these structures have long been of great historical value. The pyramids and obelisks of Egypt, the sculptured friezes and other forms of architecture of the Greeks and Romans and the altars erected by the ancient Israelites each and all proclaimed in unmistakable terms the character and spirit of the men who erected them, quite as much as they kept alive the memories of the objects they were designed to commemorate.

During the past six months, very much has been said and written about memorials that will most fittingly call to the mind of future generations the splendid deeds of sacrifice performed throughout the war. To do this in the fullest and noblest sense, the memorials should possess characteristics that will symbolize the spirit that animated the men who fought and died. It is left for those who sacrificed in a lesser degree, or sacrificed not at all, to determine how these characteristics are to be exemplified.

The greater number of the memorials so far suggested are designed with a view to their being of service to the communities in which they will be erected. The time when it was the custom to place bronze effigies of soldiers on granite pillars as an excuse for forgetting deeds of valour is happily past. At the same time, the building of hospitals, schools, halls, libraries, churches and other community institutions for memorial purposes should be more than an expression of a materialistic age. Such institutions may be of deep and lasting service, or they may be merely utilitarian. Such structures can be memorials in any real sense only if those who erect them have felt deep within them the spirit of service and have given adequate thought to the visible embodiment of that spirit. Further, there is a danger that these, of themselves, will in time lose their glamour. To prevent this, it will be desirable to hold patriotic festivals in them on the anniversaries of the great battles of the war in which special attention should be paid to the spirit of service as well as to the memory of men and women who transcribed their conception of service in terms of supreme sacrifice. It is essential that memorials, whatever their form, should convey something of the beauty and courage and love of country that inspired the heroic deeds. It is important that they should be well and truly built, so that centuries hence they will recall these deeds to men and women and create in them a desire to cherish the memories of those who died in a titanic struggle for human freedom. In any case, it should be realized that future generations will be in a position to judge with unfailing accuracy whether the motives that prompted the building of the memorials were worthy ones or merely shams.

—*A. D.*

IS IT EXPLOITATION?

Two days in every week large numbers of short lobsters are arriving in Boston mixed with the market size shipped by boat from Yarmouth. There is no law in Nova Scotia to stop this injurious practice, for the authorities decided a few years ago to allow baby lobsters to be caught and disposed of in any manner. . . . .

With the belated season this spring, the shipments of shorts went up to a point never reached before. The inspector doubled his staff and stationed men on every dealer's premises. The cull was enormous from the very first, and I think the seizures last week must have amounted to over 12,000 little lobsters for which the shippers did not receive a penny (it is unlawful to trade in them here), and Massachusetts profited by a lot which next year will be fine market mediums, bringing 50 cents each at the least calculation. In other words, the shippers have handed over to their cousins across the bay potential wealth to the tune of $6,000 a week, not counting the increment from breeders. How those exotics multiply is easily seen from the fact that the Boston Lobster Company paid the fishermen of Rockport $15,000 for three months fishing last fall.—*M. H. Nickerson* in *The Fishing Gazette, New York.*

REFORESTATION ESSENTIAL

It is sometimes argued that we do not need to concern ourselves about the forests of the future, because the forests we now have will last us for 50 or 100 years, or even longer; that it is futile to worry about the matter, so long as we have wood. Of course, it is possible to estimate the length of time our present supply of timber will hold out, assuming certain fixed domestic and foreign demands (demands, incidentally, which are by no means fixed). This question has no direct bearing on the problem of keeping forest lands productive. Let us suppose, for example, that under certain estimated demands our present forests will last us for a hundred years. That is no reason at all why we should allow cut-over lands to become wastes or near-wastes. In the first place, it takes a hundred years, let us say, for a seedling to grow into a respectable tree, fit for the saw. The trees we are now cutting are, on the average, much older. The time to start our new forests, therefore, is now—not a hundred years from now—for otherwise we should have a long period during which we should be without adequate supplies of timber. In the second place, those who argue that no present action is necessary overlook one of the most vital facts in the whole forest problem, namely, that the destruction of forests in any one locality, district, or region has a distinctly adverse influence on the prosperity of the country as a whole. The forest problem is essentially a local problem.

—*F. E. Olmsted.*

WATER POWER OF THE EMPIRE

The author of articles on the Water Power of the Empire in the *Times Engineering Supplement* suggests that the interests of the Empire as a whole and of the individual countries in which water power exists, can best be served by calling into consultation the financial community, the manufacturers of machinery, prospective power users and the owners of water power rights both privately held or those retained by the Crown. The idea would be to form a central committee representing these interests and its primary duty would be to co-operate hydro-electric enterprises in the British Empire and to bring those interested into close touch with each other. It is claimed that such a body would be in a position to give the soundest advice and should have the confidence of all concerned, and that if suitably composed and with loyal co-operation between its constituents it could do much to further the development of water power and of dependent industries.

Special Treatment for Psychopathic Offenders

A very commendable step has quite recently been taken by the justices of the City of Birmingham, England, to give effect to a scheme for the examination and differential treatment of this class of offenders.

An expert in mental diseases has been secured as court doctor to advise in cases not coming under the examination of the prison medical officer, as for instance, cases where the accused persons are remanded on bail or charged on summons.

It is proposed that, in all prosecutions where there is reason to suspect the alleged offender is mentally abnormal, the court shall postpone action until full enquiry on this point has been made by the expert, the prison medical officer or by both in consultation.

On the further hearing of the case, if the justices decide to convict, this expert evidence will be brought out in court and taken into consideration in settling the mode of treatment which will best serve the interests of the offender and the public.

It is expected that a considerable measure of individualised treatment will be possible under the powers the justices possess under the "Probation of Offenders Act"—and it will be possible to include under the conditions of probation, that the person so placed shall report himself periodically to the court doctor, he shall observe such instructions regarding his mode of life and shall accept such medical advice and treatment as the court doctor may order.

This excellent example is worthy of imitation in our larger centres.

Labour Income on Farms

The term "farm labour income" is not always clearly understood. It must be remembered that clothing, fuel, groceries, lighting and other living expenses come out of the farmer's labour income just the same as they would come out of the salary of a man who receives a salary. Of course the farmer's table is largely supplied from the products grown on the farm.

The farm business survey conducted in Oxford county in 1918, by the farm survey department at O.A.C., Guelph, showed that the average net labour income on farms of from 46 to 60 acres in that district was $647. Compare this result with the statement of Mr. Arthur Christie published in the April issue of "Conservation", and the advantages of intelligent businesslike and intensive methods on the farm become apparent. Mr. Christie's labour income in 1918 on a fifty-acre farm was $1,901.87. From numerous inquiries that have been received however, it seemed advisable to define more fully the meaning of the term used.