

## 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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### CONSERVATION, A MORAL ISSUE

The conservation issue is a moral issue. When a few men get possession of one of the necessities of life, either through ownership of a natural resource, or through unfair business methods, and use that control to extort undue profits, as in the recent cases of the Sugar Trust and the beef packers, they injure the average man without good reason and they are guilty of a moral wrong. It does not matter whether the undue profit comes through stifling competition, by rebates, or other crooked devices, through corruption of business officials, or through seizing and monopolizing resources which belong to the people. The result is always the same—a toll levied on the cost of living through special privileges.

—Gifford Pinchot.

is a competent public service of technically trained men who will undertake the supervision and control of the mining of coal upon Dominion lands and put an end to the waste which is going on at the present time.

In another respect, we are, as I have frequently stated, greatly to blame for pursuing wasteful methods. There are in the Dominion of Canada at the present time approximately 2,600 coke ovens. Of these, 910 only are by-product ovens. The rest, amounting to about 1,700 ovens, convert the coal into coke without saving the by-products. We are thus using coal in the most wasteful way and throwing away great sources of wealth.—Sir Clifford Sifton at the Ninth Annual Meeting of Commission of Conservation.

### COMING HOME



Col. No. 172

Hero-worship in some form is characteristic of every civilized people. It is important, therefore, that the national conception of the heroic should be a high and worthy one. Consequently, there is reason for pride in the fact that Canadians are honouring as their heroes the men who have sacrificed much in defence of national freedom and justice. The country-wide rejoicing at the release from German prison-camps of Hon. Dr. H. S. Bédard, a member of the Commission of Conservation, is a striking proof of this. Few, if any, distinguished Canadians have suffered more than he has as a result of the war. He was on his honeymoon in Belgium when war broke out and at once enlisted in the medical services of the Belgian army. While engaged in caring for both Belgian and German wounded, he was taken prisoner, and, for more than three years, was subjected to the refined cruelties of German military prisons; not even being allowed to visit his wife on her death-bed, nor, she died, to attend her funeral.

Dr. Bédard was born at Louisville, Quebec, in 1869, and was edu-

cated at Three Rivers College and Laval University. He was first elected to the Quebec legislature in 1893, and to the House of Commons in 1902. He has been a member of the latter house ever since. In August, 1911, he was sworn in as Privy Councillor and Postmaster-General, an office he held until the following October. He was one of the Canadian representatives to the North American Conservation Conference at Washington in 1909, to consider the conservation of natural resources. Upon his return to Canada, he was appointed a member of the Canadian Commission of Conservation, and, prior to his imprisonment in Germany, took a leading part in all its activities. Conservation desires to add its quota to the general rejoicing upon his liberation and prospective return to Canada.—A.D.

### Fish Names as a Factor in Marketing

Extent of the Demand Depends Largely on the Popularity of the Name

"What's in a name?" is a modern question implying a negative answer. There are instances, however, where a name is of prime importance. For example, take such a common product as fish. More than 560 species, including subspecies, of fish are found in Canadian waters, but only a few dozen are used for human food. Some, of course, are not suitable for food, but in many cases only the name that has been given to the species prevents them from being utilized. In such instances, the obvious thing to do is to discard the bad name and apply a good one. Dogfish, for food as dogfish, was quite impossible in the United States, but it was re-named 'grayfish', and cleverly advertised and was soon in demand. In Canada, about the only use that is made of these "ocean pests" is to reduce them for their oil and for fertilizer. Such "trade names" have long been applied to other more commonly used fish. Thus, ling are sold as cod, and the bulk of the canned sardines sold in Canada are really not sardines at all, but small herrings.

Again, there are certain fish that have "made names for themselves." This is one reason why such a comparatively small number of species of fish are used as food. Everyone knows that salmon and halibut and flounder have the name of being good fish and so everyone buys them. It would be to the advantage of consumers to remember that dogfish or catfish, or other ill-named fish, are not necessarily objectionable as food. At the same time, dealers might profitably apply new and more attractive names to hitherto unused food fish as a step toward making them more attractive to the consumer.—A.D.

### Organization to Solve Fuel Problem

Labour Situation Must be Considered What U. S. is Doing

The severe labour shortage renders it inadvisable to undertake a vigorous campaign for the increased production of wood fuel at this particular time, in view of the imperative need for increased agricultural production. At the same time, sight should not be lost of the fact that the output of coal in the United States has fallen seriously behind expectations, and that the bulk of the coal supplies for eastern Canada must come from that country.

A vigorous campaign has been consistently carried on by the United States Fuel administration, both through the head office at Washington and the Fuel Administrators for the respective states, urging that all possible measures of fuel conservation be adopted, and that full use be made of all possible substitutes for coal, including wood. The movement for the increased production of wood fuel in the United States has been thoroughly organized, through the assignment of a large number of men to this particular activity. Warnings have been officially issued that the situation promises to be even more serious next winter than last.

In Canada, provision has now been made for a comprehensive organization to handle the whole fuel situation. The regulations of the Fuel Controller, approved by Order in Council under date of March 21, provide for the appointment by each province of a Provincial Fuel Administrator, with Local Fuel Commissioners to be selected by the respective municipalities. In addition to supervising the distribution of coal and other fuel imported into or made available within the respective provinces, the Fuel Administrators are charged specially with the duty of developing the demand for and supply of wood and other coal substitutes to the greatest possible extent, as well as the collection and compilation of statistics dealing with the production and consumption of fuel of all kinds within the province. The full execution of this programme will unquestionably go very far toward relieving possible distress and economic dislocation next winter.

So far as wood fuel is concerned, experience has shown that, in many cases, the establishment of municipal wood yards offers the most practicable solution of the problem to supplement the efforts of the regular dealers. This has already been done by a number of the municipalities of eastern Canada, but the situation justifies the further extension of this movement.—C.L.

Wise wives will not waste.

### Primitive Methods of Handling Coal

Great Waste in Mining and Coking of Coal in Canada

Upon the whole question of coal Canada is woefully behind the times. Dr. Adams, the chairman of our Committee on Minerals, a considerable time ago, after studying the question, moved for the appointment of an inspector of mines in Western Canada. This proposition was laid before the Government and it concluded to make the appointment. Instead, however, of consulting Dr. Adams and the Committee on Minerals in making the appointment, the Government made an appointment which it can only be said was entirely inadequate and unsatisfactory. It still remains a fact that wasteful methods of mining are permitted throughout western Canada. No serious attempt has been made to grapple with the problem of preventing the serious and irreparable waste which is constantly going on in the mining of our western coal areas. Provision for inspection to prevent the loss of human life has been made by the provinces; but the permanent waste of very large quantities of valuable coal still goes on. What is required