

PATRONAGE HINDERS PROGRESS IN FORESTRY

The Dominion Government was the pioneer in advanced forestry practice in Canada, but it is now being out-distanced by the provinces. The Dominion Forestry Branch is an efficient institution manned by well-qualified technical men appointed on the merit system, but the field service by which it administers forestry on Dominion lands has always been appointed under the party patronage system. Year after year the Commission of Conservation and the Canadian Forestry Association have urged upon the Government that the merit system be adopted in the outside forestry service, but no change has been made. The new Union Government, however, has declared for the abolition of the patronage system, and we confidently look forward to an important betterment in the Dominion forestry administration. The country's resources are wasted by the retention of such a system, which every one condemns. Every year, instances have come to the notice of the Commission of Conservation where valuable forest property has been destroyed because a ranger or some other official was appointed because he was a politician and not a competent forester.

FOUL AIR AND DISEASE

'Free as the air we breathe' is not applicable to foul air. Like most other commodities the latter exacts a toll from everyone who uses it. Lowered vitality, with a consequent predisposition to such diseases as colds, pneumonia and tuberculosis, is the price that is paid for breathing impure air. It is probably true that a large percentage of the homes in countries possessing a climate similar to Canada's are, to a greater or less extent, breeding places for such diseases, especially during the winter months. This is the outstanding reason for the marked prevalence of such diseases in Canada, diseases for which fresh air is the most potent remedy.

Tightly closed rooms constructed for the sole purpose of retaining heat, soon become filled with poisonous gases exhaled by the inmates. The remedy is, of course, better ventilation. It can only be a question of time when our governments will insist that scientific ventilating systems be installed in all new buildings. Public health and public opinion will demand it. In older buildings, where the only ventilation is obtained from windows, the air may be 'flushed' by opening the windows at intervals for a few moments. This means a loss of some heat, but, if the windows are not left open too long, the saving in doctor's bills will more than offset the extra cost of fuel.—A.D.



FLOOR OF A BRITISH COLUMBIA SALMON CANNERY DURING 'THE YEAR OF A BIG RUN'

"The Run of the Big Year"

Romantic Aspect of the Salmon Fishery of Fraser River has Disappeared

B RITISH Columbia salmon is a staple product the world over. The superior quality of the sockeye salmon, especially, has created a market for them wherever there is a demand for canned fish. This world-wide reputation has naturally led to an extensive exploitation of the fishery, and, in spite of a measure of restrictive legislation and artificial propagation, there has been a steady decline in the catch during the past twenty years. This is especially true of the Fraser River fishery. The international character of the stream has made it impossible, up to the present, to secure adequate restrictions and regulations.

As is well known, the life history of the sockeye salmon extends over a period of four years and, each year, the fish that were spawned in the upper waters of the Pacific Coast rivers four years before, come in from the sea to deposit their spawn in turn and then die. It is during these seasons of inward migration that the fishermen gather their harvests. One of the strange and romantic features of these migrations is that every fourth year the run of fish is many times larger than during any of the three years preceding or following it. This phenomenon has occurred so regularly that it is commonly spoken of as 'the run of the big year.' The explanation most generally accepted is that, at some period, before the advent of the white man, the fish were overtaken by some disease, or other calamity, which either prevented spawning or destroyed much of the spawn during a period of three years. As if to confirm this theory, the enormous rock slide in the Fraser in 1913—a big year—which prevented the salmon getting up the river to spawn, caused a tremendous falling off in the catch of 1917. Thus, in 1913, 2,401,488 cases were packed by Fraser river cannerys, while a close estimate of the total pack of 1917 is only 429,600 cases, or only 18 per cent of the pack of 1913. Such a decline is a calamitous one and only the most carefully enforced restrictions over a period of years can restore, or even save, the fishery.

At the Ninth Annual Meeting of the Commission of Conservation, Mr. J. P. Babcock, Assistant Commissioner of Fisheries, British Columbia, said:

'The history of the fishing in the Fraser River district in the past fourteen years is a record of depletion—a record of excessive fishing in the lean years; a record of failure on the part of the authorities of the state of Washington to realize the necessity of conserving a great fishery, notwithstanding the convincing evidence submitted to them by agents of their own creation that disaster was impending to one of their great industries.'

'The Canadian authorities, on the other hand, have, by their representations and acts, evinced, in unmistakable manner, their willingness to deal squarely and adequately with conditions that foretell depletion, and to join with the state of Washington or the United States Government in legislation to prevent it.'

If this can be done there should be no reason why in the course of time 'every year should not be a big year.' On the other hand, a continuance of the present wasteful methods of fishing, especially by American fishermen, can only result in the complete depletion of this valuable fishery.—A.D.

ONTARIO FOREST BRANCH SHOULD CONTROL CUTTING

Ontario should not delay in placing cutting operations on Crown timber lands under its new Forestry Branch, which has a technically trained staff and is proving itself very efficient. Such a step would avoid duplication and would secure scientific regulation of logging operations with a view to securing reproduction of the forest on cut-over lands. Trained foresters are now in charge of cutting operations on Crown lands in Quebec and British Columbia and probably soon will be in New Brunswick under the scheme of forest service reorganization now in contemplation.

REFORESTATION IN QUEBEC

Reforestation of denuded lands in Quebec continues to make progress, though on a small scale. The provincial forest nursery at Berthierville is to be materially extended. The reforestation work of the Laurentide Company is particularly notable. Planting also has been done by the Riordan Company and the Pejeepoot Company.

So far, practically all of the forest planting has been done on privately-owned lands, but the provincial government has now under consideration the question of systematic reforestation of denuded Crown lands. Obviously, the question is one of the highest possible importance.

It is savings, that Canada needs to prosecute the war.

INVEST YOUR SAVINGS

Absolute security
Excellent interest return

- ☞ For every \$21.50 you lend to the Government now, you will get a certificate entitling you to \$25.00 at the end of three years.
- ☞ This certificate will be registered at Ottawa, in your own name, and, if lost or stolen, is valueless to anyone else. Further, if you should need your money, you may get it back at any time.
- ☞ Certificates are issued in denominations of \$10, \$25, \$50, and \$100, selling at \$8.60, \$21.50, \$43 and \$86, respectively. Individual purchases limited to \$1,500.

ON SALE AT ANY
BANK OR MONEY-ORDER
POST OFFICE