

Conservation

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Employment in Forestry

Opportunity to Provide for Many Returned Soldiers

In solving the problem of providing suitable employment for returned soldiers, the possibilities in forestry and fire protection work should not be overlooked. For many of these men, such work would be highly attractive. In carrying out a plan for the establishment of vocational schools for the training of returned soldiers, provisions should be made in some way for special courses of instruction in forestry work. Such courses should be of the most practical character, calculated to make the services of the men of great value to Dominion and provincial forestry and fire-protective organizations, and to private timber owners as well.

Technical forest schools are already in existence at Toronto, Quebec and Fredericton, and another is contemplated at Vancouver. It should be possible to secure the co-operation of these schools in the establishment of supplementary ranger schools, specializing primarily in the several classes of forest engineering work which would best fit the men for the practical duties with which they would be confronted in the lines of government or private employ. Another possibility is the establishment of such courses of instruction direct by the several governmental fire protective organizations, Dominion and provincial. Each of these should be able to provide employment for quite a number of returned soldiers, with great mutual advantage, providing the men are properly trained.

FUR PRODUCTION IN CANADA

Canada's rich resources in fur-bearing animals formed her earliest commercial attraction, and, through generations of energetic exploitation, the fur industry has occupied an important position in forestry production. Of recent years it has become increasingly evident that the permanent preservation of this source of wealth demands the much more rigorous

protection of fur-bearers. One of the essential requirements is the collection of accurate statistical data of fur production from year to year, as a reliable index to the increase or depletion of our resources. Such a system is already enforced in several provinces, where trappers and fur dealers are licensed and compelled to make annual returns as to their operations. Similar measures should apply to every important fur producing region of the Dominion.

Prevention of Coal Shortage

This winter we have had a coal "famine" and that suffering has accompanied the shortage of this necessity is undeniable. The average citizen has a notoriously short memory, but now is the time to impress upon him that, in many cases, the suffering was due to lack of foresight. In Canada many people buy in small quantities—often only one ton. If, for any cause, there is a shortage of coal, imprecident house-holders demand that the coal dealers do the impossible, namely, that they supply fuel that is unobtainable. Where, as, had they purchased their coal in the summer or autumn, there would be ample supplies available.

While some large consumers, such as manufacturers, can not store a six months' supply, most householders can, with their present bins or with enlarged bins, store coal to meet their requirements till March or April.

In recent years, we have had two coal "famines", first in 1901-02, the year of the coal miners' strike, and, second, this year, when the severity of the weather and the extraordinary prosperity in the United States caused an unprecedented congestion of freight. A survey of conditions in the United States demonstrates that in the future there will be more coal "famines" than in the past and that they will occur at shorter intervals. For this there is only one remedy:

**BUY YOUR COAL IN THE
SUMMER IF YOU HAVE NOT
SUFFICIENT STORAGE, EN-
LARGE YOUR COAL BIN.**

The Iron and Steel Industry

Greater Efforts Should be Made to Utilize Canadian Ore

Although iron ores are widely distributed in Canada, the present extensive metallurgical industry in iron and steel has been developed largely on the basis of imported ores, chiefly those from Bell Island, Newfoundland, and from the iron ranges in the United States, south and west of lake Superior. Each of these sources contributes about one-half of the present imports. There are, nevertheless, several important Canadian iron ore deposits that have contributed considerable outputs in the past, and there are numerous occurrences of low grade ores, which, in the future, may constitute valuable sources of supply for this metal.

With regard to Canada's known reserves of ore, an estimate of iron ore deposits, upon which more or less work has been done, shows total known available reserves of about 200,000,000 tons. The great bulk of these ores, however, consists of low grade magnetites and siderites requiring concentration, or desulphurization before being marketable.

The actual ore production has averaged less than 400,000 tons per annum, much of which has had to find a market in the United States, not being acceptable to the Canadian furnacemen. The blast furnace capacity in Canada is about 1,500,000 tons per annum, whereas actual production has exceeded 1,000,000 tons in one year only. In 1913, Canada consumed over 3,000,000 tons of iron and steel goods of all kinds.

Not only is Canada dependent on foreign imports for 75 per cent of her iron and steel requirements but even the iron ore which is manufactured into steel in the Dominion comes from outside sources.

To utilize Canadian ores of which the known reserves amount to about 200,000,000 tons, it is evident that steps should be taken to encourage the smelting of these ores in Canada.—W.J.D.

Growing Too Many Varieties

Great Advantage in Sowing Tested and Recommended Varieties

Four hundred farmers in Dundas county, Ont., were visited by the Commission of Conservation in 1916. Among the 53 per cent who knew the names of the varieties of oats sown, there were 14 different varieties found. In another county in Ontario, on 100 farms visited in a previous survey 28 varieties were found. These great numbers of varieties are very undesirable. Many of them are not suited to the district in which they are grown, and many are inferior sorts which have been bought by the farmers just because they were new or were different from what was being grown by the neighbours.

Farmers will find it much to their advantage to sow the varieties which have been tested and recommended by the Experimental Farms or Agricultural Colleges. These institutions have excellent facilities for conducting seed tests. Where 14 varieties are being sown in one community probably 13 farmers are not sowing the most desirable. A great increase in production and profits would result if fewer but more suitable varieties were grown on Canadian farms.—F.C.N.

CONSERVATION ENDORSED

At the annual meeting of the American Paper and Pulp Association, the following resolution was adopted: Whereas, the members of the American Paper and Pulp Association are directly interested in wise conservation of our forests and the proper utilization of our water-powers; therefore be it

Resolved, That we do hereby again this year, as last, assure the American Forestry Association, and all other organizations interested in conservation, of our hearty co-operation for the advancement of a wide conservation policy which alike recognizes public and private rights.