

Reserve Extension in Northern Ontario Needed

Large Area of Land is Only Suited for Forest Growth

A brief preliminary reconnaissance of a portion of Western Ontario was made last summer for the Commission of Conservation by Mr. J. H. White of the Faculty of Forestry at Toronto. This examination shows that a very large percentage of Ontario west of Sudbury and south of the Height-of-Land is absolutely non-agricultural and is valuable only for the production of timber. Fires have done enormous damage, especially during the period of railway construction. However, a great deal of valuable young growth has come in and requires protection in order that it may reach maturity. Some merchantable timber remains in the area back from the railways, which has not yet been included in forest reserves or in timber limits.

Ultimately, the whole territory south of the 'Clay Belt,' lying between the Timagami and Nipigon reserves, should be included in permanent forest reserves and protected and administered under forestry principles. This section will unquestionably prove a source of large revenue to the Province in the future.—C.L.

ELECTRIC COOKING

In warm weather the housewife likes to reduce to a minimum the heat generated in cooking. The gas stove has won its way into favour because it partly meets this requirement. The flame can be turned on and off at will; it needs to be used when, and only when, cooking is actually going on.

Gas, however, has the disadvantage of an odour, and consumes the oxygen of the atmosphere. Electricity overcomes these defects, and, further, a larger percentage of the heat generated is used, so that less escapes to raise the temperature of the room. As to expense, recent tests show that, at 5c per kilowatt hour, the cost varies, roughly from 3 to 10 cents per person per day. The cost of cooking some typical meals was:—breakfast: oatmeal and coffee, 2½c; lunch: potatoes, finnan haddie, tea, 3¼c; dinner: beef stew, carrots, potatoes, prunes, 12½c. These rates would not seem to be prohibitive, and nothing cleaner or more convenient than an electric cooker can be found.

It is estimated that at least a tenth of the total agricultural products of the United States is annually destroyed by injurious insects. It is estimated that \$300,000,000 is a conservative approximation of the loss sustained each year.

Municipal Milk Department

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made that municipalities should alone control the purchase and distribution of milk, thereby removing the chief dangers, to overcome which requires to-day a body of sanitary police officials, whose annual upkeep materially adds to the price paid by the consumer. Towns and cities should deal with this problem somewhat as they do with the water supply, by taking it into their own hands, the only difference being that they would not own the dairy herds nor the dairies, as they do the water reservoirs. An urban municipality could es-

disposing of once of many of the difficult points where deterioration at present occurs. As to purchase, the Milk Department would have the most powerful "veto power" over impure milk that it would be possible to conceive. Purchase would be made only from those dairies approved of by its officers and milk, found to be below the standard fixed when tested at the depot, could be refused.

A Municipal Milk Department as outlined would mean that excessive middleman's profits would be eliminated, and the public would be assured that all the people, both rich and poor, were getting milk



WOULD YOU LIKE TO DRINK THE MILK?

The water from this farm well is liable to contamination from the stagnant pool of manure water in the foreground which drains down from the adjacent barnyard. The cows drink the water from this well and the milk cans are washed in it.

establish a Milk Department and, for this, would require one or more depots situated within its boundaries, equipped with all the apparatus necessary for refrigeration, pasteurization, bottling, and sterilization of containers of all kinds, also for modification of milk for infants. In addition to this all containers and vehicles for collection, transportation and distribution would be owned and controlled by the municipality, thus

that was clean, pure and fresh, at the minimum cost. Such a scheme is not now in operation, but it is as feasible and practicable as many other civic health projects which are now being carried on by municipal authorities, and which before they were initiated seemed to possess greater difficulties than does this one. Certainly none were of greater moment to the manhood and womanhood of the next generation.—C.A.H.

PASTURING HOGS

Alfalfa as an Aid in the Economical Production of Pork—Unsanitary Methods of Feeding

Of the many forage plants, alfalfa is one of the most satisfactory for hogs, since it can be made a permanent pasture and is rich in protein, making an excellent combination with corn or other grain. The leaves are tender and the stem small, which make it easily masticated and it is very much relished. At Indian Head, on the farm of Mr. W. D. Lang, one of the farmers who is doing illustration work for the Commission of Conservation in Saskatchewan, some interesting results have been obtained. On less than one acre of alfalfa 55 hogs were pastured during the summer of 1912 for varying periods, 25 hogs, several sows and one boar being pastured for four months, while the others were on for a shorter time. While on the pas-

ture the only grain fed was one-half ton of shorts mixed thinly with water. About 500 bushels of barley and a little oats were fed in finishing and fitting the hogs for market in the fall and early winter. A little over \$650 worth of pork was produced at a total cost of not over \$300. Mr. Lang considered that by feeding it to hogs he received at least \$1.00 per bushel for his barley. Besides the economical production of the pork, the maintenance of soil fertility by feeding the grain on the farm is a distinct advantage.

In Contradistinction

Compare this foregoing excellent 'sanitary' and natural method of raising "the pork we eat" with that recently mentioned in the pub-

Passenger Pigeon Is Now Nearly Extinct

Reckless Slaughter Has Exterminated a Once Abundant Bird

Only one passenger pigeon is believed to be now in existence. This is a female in the possession of the Cincinnati Zoological Society. She is the last survivor of a doomed race. Yet within the memory of people now living, huge flocks swarmed in various parts of North America, and at one time they were abundant over almost the entire continent. The sole cause of their extinction is wholesale netting and shooting to supply the markets with game. The last nesting-grounds of any extent were in Michigan, where they grew fewer and fewer in number till about 1898, when they entirely disappeared. Unless our markets are closed to the sale of game, and strict protective measures are enforced, the fate of the passenger pigeon is likely to be shared by the prairie chicken and others of our native game birds.

There are several hundred different kinds of soil in Canada, and the scientific expert in agriculture recognizes the fact that each kind of soil possesses an individuality of its own. What is true of one variety of soil is not true of another, and in a large measure this accounts for many failures in applying the result of experiments along agricultural lines.

PASTURING HOGS

Continued.

lic press as recommended by a M. O. H. of a Canadian city, viz., the establishment of a municipal pigery, where hogs will be fed on refuse, often in a state of decomposition, and where the hogs thus fattened will be slaughtered for human food.

It is just such methods as those suggested by the sanitary officer which lead the public to believe that the hog is an unclean animal. Certainly if our modern methods of the disposal of house refuse are to be continued along the lines suggested by this sanitary officer, then our appreciation of the hog and of the pork must be affected by a feeling of disgust. If the farmer is wise, and the importance of encouraging the raising of hogs along the lines of the up-to-date Western farmer is realized by the public, then the day is not far distant when the farm fed hog will be the only one that can be killed and sold as Canadian pork. From the sanitary standpoint of pure healthy food, the feeding of hogs in municipal piggeries should be discouraged, and municipal health authorities should be required to devise some more sanitary method for the disposal of town refuse.—C.A.H. and F.C.N.