

Conservation

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Canadian Timber Comes Into Its Own

Large Users Decide on its Use
Exclusively in Construc-
tion Work.

The decision of the various Dominion Government departments and of the Canadian Pacific railway to use Canadian timber only, to the exclusion of imported timber, is a decided advantage in the utilization of Canadian timber and, therefore, marks a definite gain for the cause of conservation in Canada.

Southern pine, even in 1915, when Canada was at war and when there was a great decrease in the consumption of lumber, was imported to the extent of 95,000,000 feet, having a value of over \$3,000,000.

In previous years, very much larger quantities were imported despite an adverse trade balance for Canada and in the face of a supply of an equal or better timber at an equal or lower cost, grown and manufactured entirely within the Dominion.

The Dominion Government has in past years used many million feet of Southern pine in various public works, but henceforth Canadian timber will be used to the exclusion of the foreign article. Douglas fir will replace Southern pine in such works as Quebec and Montreal harbour improvements and Hudson Bay terminals. Douglas fir has been used entirely in the Toronto Harbour works, as a clause was inserted in that contract calling for Canadian material. The action of Baron Slaughter in ruling that Canadian timber only shall be used in works of the Canadian Pacific railway shows that large private users are also finding it consistent with present conditions to use Canadian products. Other consumers throughout Eastern Canada, large and small, will follow the lead of the two largest users.

Architectural and engineering professions also are rapidly replacing Southern pine by Douglas fir and the imported woods by the home grown product.—W. J. Van D.

Clean Up the City

Early Organization of Forces will Secure
Effective Results

It is not too early for the health departments of our municipalities to prepare for their spring clean-up day. The snow will soon be gone, exposing to view the accumulated refuse of the winter months. In Canada we are favoured with a covering mantle of snow during several months, and, as a consequence, are inclined to be somewhat careless of sanitary conditions. With the coming of warmer weather, this neglect becomes a source of great danger, and, unless prompt action is taken, may give rise to serious epidemics.

Municipal Councils and Boards of Health should initiate without delay plans for a general spring clean-up. Generous appropriations should be made for the purpose and a thorough organization developed for removal of refuse.

The local pride of the people should be appealed to on behalf of a clean home—an appeal rarely made in vain. In many of our towns and cities there are organizations interested in public questions, only requiring initiative to secure effective action. The beautifying of their home town should be made an incentive for energetic effort, thus increasing their interest and enthusiasm for the place called "Home."

Fish Waste Can Be Made Into Glue

Good Opening for Men with Technical
Knowledge to Establish Profit-
able Business.

Some attempt has been made in Canada to produce glue from fish waste, but hitherto it has usually been found that production involves too much technical knowledge and too many highly paid officers. That fish glue, however, can be manufactured in Canada at a profit is clear from the success of the Russia glue works at Gloucester. These glue works were started by two men, very humble men, some years ago; they bought fish skins and fish heads and have manufactured glue and fertilizer and such a success has their venture been that the company which they organized has become very prosperous. The works are now about ten times the extent they were a few years ago and they cannot adequately supply the demand for their product—a demand created by the excellence of the glue. There is quite an opening in regard to fish glue products.

Canadian fishermen waste an enormous amount of material, which would produce fish glue, on the banks and in the Gulf of St. Lawrence fisheries, and the amount per annum would startle anybody. The fish waste is now simply dumped into the sea.—Dr. E. E. Prince, in "Canada's Unutilized Fisheries Resources."

Waste in Forest Protection

Because of lack of field supervision, more money is wasted in fire protection today than is used economically. Fire wardens are nearly all temporary men, and if one does not give them supervision and training, and does not try to keep the good men from year to year, one cannot get the results desired. In the first fire protection services of Canada, far more wardens were wasting money than were making good use of it. Unless we have good permanent supervision of fire protection and have the same men as permanent rangers year after year we will not get the good results because we have large areas to protect with very small sums of money.—McMillan.

Popular Support Required

Importance of Independent
Educational Work in Pro-
tecting Wild Life.

There is no dearth in Canada of governmental agencies actively engaged in conserving bird and animal life. While the work is mainly in the hands of the provinces, several branches of the federal government are also rendering invaluable service. Unfortunately, popular support of official measures, which is the most potent single factor in insuring their success, is very much lacking. The most serious obstacles and difficulties arise from the lack of strong unofficial societies to carry on independent work.

The great advance of wild life protection in the United States, in recent years, is due largely to the efforts of such bodies as the American Game Protective and Propagation Association, the National Association of Audubon Societies, the Camp Fire Club and the American Bison Society. Similar organizations exist in Canada, and the excellent work of the Canadian Society for the Protection of Birds, the Independent Naturalists Association, the Dominion Game Protective and Trap-Shooting Association and others can not be too highly commended. But Canadian organizations of this character have failed to develop their efforts and to utilize their opportunities to the extent which their field of usefulness permits and invites. It must be recognized that, while the initiative in game law reforms may come from public officials, the success of practical measures requires popular support, which, in turn, must depend upon persistent educational efforts. The scope along these lines for independent societies is unlimited, and it is to be hoped that, as the need for better protection of wild life becomes steadily more apparent, this branch of the work will be successful in enlisting the services of an increasing number of active workers.