

"SIR JOHN MOORE"

On October 10, six geese came to my place. I went out and called to these six geese, and the old gander answered. He knew me. I got twelve ears of corn, and threw one of them at him. Just as I did so the four baby geese jumped in the air, but he called them and they dropped down. Then I threw more ears of corn, and each time the same thing would happen; he would sound that low note, and every time he did so the geese would come down. By the time I had thrown the eighth ear he had convinced them that all was well, and they did not fly up any more. It was interesting to watch him trying to educate them to take the kernels of corn off the ear, but it was strange to them. He would get a kernel off and drop it down, but it was fully fifteen minutes before he got those goslings to take the corn; when they did start, they cleaned off every kernel of the twelve ears. That told me these young goslings had never seen an ear of corn before, and that they had come all the way from Hudson bay without a mouthful and had dropped down there. The old gander had led them all the way down.

My mother-in-law's daughter and I coaxed this old gander and his five goslings into the coop and she held the door while I went in and clamped a tag on his leg. After I tagged him I took him to the door and threw him out—this same old gander that had been telling his boys and girls to eat the corn and to stay there and not be afraid. When I threw the gander out, did he fly to the lake?

To know the Canada goose is to love him forever. You cannot show me any of his actions that one need be ashamed of, not one. This old gander went out, and when he was about two rods away he turned around and looked back. You could hear him calling for the rest of his family in that little catch pen. He came right back to the door until every one of his family had been liberated; he stood right there and fought for them. We caught him the second time, put a cuff on each leg and named him "Sir John Moore" and we put on the tag this verse of scripture: "No good thing will He withhold from them that walk uprightly."

They migrated as usual and, on March 17 following, the boys said, "Look, Dad," and there was Sir John Moore, with the two cuffs on his legs, looking for more corn. Five of his family had returned; he had taken care of them down in the southern states all winter, and brought them back. The last week in April they disappeared and my heart sank when I opened a letter from Fort George, James bay, and found four of the tags. The letter read: "The Indian says that seven geese came into their decoys, and they killed four of them. Each one had a tag on it." You know just how I would feel, although that is part of the game. To the fellow who wants to shoot, let me say this: I am not opposed

to a man shooting a bird or two, but will you not join with us in limiting your bag? Remember, the bird that falls out of the air from our deadly aim gives you and me a little pleasure, but deprives thousands of people of pleasure and recreation in seeing it alive. Let us consider that; let us think it over.—*Jack Miner, Kingsville, Ont., in National Conference on Game and Wildlife Conservation (Commission of Conservation, Ottawa).*

Danger to Canada's Pulpwood Supplies

Conservation Necessary in View of Depletion of United States Forest Areas

The depletion of the forests of New York and the New England states has resulted in heavily increased demands upon the forests of Eastern Canada, particularly in connection with the export to the United States of pulpwood, pulp and newsprint paper. In the Eastern states the forests are practically all privately-owned, and, for the most part, the methods of logging have been destructive. No adequate provision has been made for such restrictions upon logging methods as will provide for leaving cut-over areas in a condition to produce a second crop. In Canada, on the other hand, the great bulk of the forest area is still in the ownership of the Crown, and is therefore subject to such restrictive regulations as may be imposed by Government authority to perpetuate the forest through wise use.

The destructive methods of logging so generally followed on privately-owned lands in the United States resulted in the shifting of the centre of lumber production from the New England states and New York to the Lake states, thence to the south. Now the Pacific Northwest is rapidly securing the ascendancy.

All this means inevitably that the forests of Eastern Canada will be exploited to the limit of their capacity. If destructive methods are followed, coupled with inadequate fire protection, as in so much of the United States, our forests will rapidly become exhausted, and our great forest industries must gradually decline, with obvious loss to all public and private interests.

If, on the other hand, our forests are managed on correct principles, with a view to their reproduction following cutting, a handsome increase in the development of forest industries may be confidently anticipated, on a permanent basis. Generally speaking, however, this basis of constructive regulation does not now exist, and fundamental information is largely lacking, upon which a correct policy of silviculture should be based.

This situation is particularly important as to the pulpwood forests of Eastern Canada. The permanence of our pulp and paper industry will necessarily be governed only by the capacity of the country to grow successive crops of timber of the pulpwood species,

upon our vast areas of non-agricultural lands.

Recognizing this situation, as it is now recognized also by the pulp and paper industry itself, the Commission of Conservation has, during the past three years, been engaged upon a general investigation of the conditions governing the reproduction and rate of growth of the pulpwood species of Eastern Canada. During the past summer, three field parties have been maintained, under the immediate supervision of Dr. C. D. Howe. The practical value of this work to the pulp and paper companies is recognized by the Laurentide Companies, Limited, and the Riorland Pulp and Paper Company, in Quebec; the Abitibi Power and Paper Company, in Ontario; and the Bathurst Lumber Company, in New Brunswick. All of these companies have contributed materially, in a financial way, toward co-operation with the Commission in the prosecution of investigative work upon their limits. Co-operation has also been maintained with the New Brunswick Forest Service in the conduct of investigative work in that province.—*Clyde Leavitt*

Reorganization of B. C. Forest Branch

Salary Scale Raised—Returned Soldiers Employed—Research Work Planned

The British Columbia Forest Branch has recently undergone a complete administrative re-organization, which will enable it to handle its large volume of work more adequately, and render better service to the public. The return of technically trained foresters from overseas service, coupled with the acquisition of new men, has rendered this progressive action possible.

In recognition of valuable services rendered, as well as of increased living costs, the salary scales have also been revised upward in a way that will set the standard for other governmental forestry organizations throughout Canada.

One of the features of the reorganization is the establishment of an office of investigations. Its duty will be to conduct studies and researches into the various problems connected with the administration of provincial Crown timber lands. This will include growth studies, volume studies, regeneration surveys, methods and costs of slash disposal, etc.

The Forest Branch has full charge of all phases of Crown timber land administration, including not only fire protection but the enforcement of the timber regulations, scaling, collection of forest revenue, grazing, and the development of domestic and foreign trade in British Columbia timber. The forest revenue of the Province aggregates upward of \$2,700,000 per year and is now to be materially increased, due to the enhanced selling price of lumber, upon the basis of which stumpage prices for timber cut on Crown lands will be increased.

N. B. Statistics of Forest Fire Causes

Data Collected show over Two-Thirds of Total Damage caused by Neglected Settlers' and Campers' Fires

According to the New Brunswick Forest Service there were 409 forest fires in that province during 1919, which caused a loss amounting to \$139,754. Thirty-nine neglected settlers' clearing fires caused a damage of \$54,365, or 39 per cent of the total damage for the entire province. The neglected camp fires of fishermen, hunters, campers and picnic parties caused a damage of \$46,391, or one-third of the total.

Another \$14,250 of damage was caused by the careless use of fire by industrial operators, such as portable mills, open burners, roasting plants, etc.

Incendiary forest fires totalled 7, with damage aggregating \$12,770; and 17 fires of unknown origin, with estimated damage \$7,640.

There were 306 railway fires but most of them were of no material importance. The total damage caused by these fires was but \$4,340, or only three per cent of the total for the province. Of this amount, \$4,230 of the damage was caused by fires along the Canadian Government Railways, which are not under the jurisdiction of the Board of Railway Commissioners. Lines in the province under the jurisdiction of the Railway Commission caused only \$110 of damage by forest fires during the year.—*Clyde Leavitt*

DRY-POWDER EXTINGUISHERS

Although dry-powder fire extinguishers are sold to a gullible public in increasing numbers, they are all, without exception, practically worthless. Tubes costing \$3 each contain materials having an average value of eleven cents. Chemical analysis of thirty-one tubes of various makes shows the contents to consist of approximately 60 per cent common baking soda, 20 per cent fine sand, 8 per cent pulverized chalk and 4 per cent colouring matter, chiefly iron oxide. The inefficiency of dry powder extinguishers was made the subject of searching investigation by a special committee appointed by the British Home Office in March, 1916. Their report contained the following statement: "The use of dry powder fire extinguishers is to be deprecated as not only giving a misleading sense of security but being practically useless for extinguishing or controlling fires."

Of an entirely different character are the small one-quart chemical extinguishers sold under different proprietary names but all containing carbon tetrachloride as the extinguishing fluid. These have the great advantage of being easily handled by women and children. When subjected to heat, carbon tetrachloride generates a heavy, non-inflammable gas that will extinguish fires under circumstances where water would be useless.—*J. Grove Smith.*