

## Commission of Conservation

CANADA

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CONSERVATION is published about the first of each month. Its object is the dissemination of information relative to the natural resources of Canada, their development and the proper conservation of same, together with timely articles covering town-planning and public health.

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Every man who earns an honest living is entitled to a decent home. A reasonable measure of comfort and even beauty should be included in the construction of that word home.

I recognize that the future prosperity of Canada depends on scientific research and upon the efficient application of the results of that research to the industrial and physical life of the people.—Earl Grey.

All game protectionists now agree that the game laws of the past have failed to prevent the rapid decrease of game birds, and that their protection and increase can best be secured in the propagation of the birds by means of the game sanctuary.

To-day civic management requires men of foresight, men who are specially trained in solving difficult questions of engineering, sanitation and transportation, as they are affected by the growth of the city into the immediately adjoining territory.

As a result of the agricultural survey of the Commission of Conservation, it has been found that in a number of cases too many horses are kept to be profitable, while the number of cattle kept per hundred acres is seldom up to the capacity of the farms.

The practical and economic importance of modern town-planning in preserving human life, reducing disease and suffering, in improving the physical condition of citizens and so placing their earning power on the best possible basis; in providing for the comfort of the citizens, particularly those with the smallest incomes.

## DEATH OF COL. BURLAND

The very sudden death of Col. Jeffrey H. Burland, in London, England, on Oct. 9th removed one of Canada's philanthropists and an ardent advocate of the conservation of her resources. When the Commission of Conservation decided to investigate the question of housing and town-planning legislation and to prepare a model draught bill respecting these very important questions, Col. Burland was invited to accept the chairmanship of the special committee appointed for the purpose. To his activity and enthusiasm in the work much of the success of the movement in its initial stages may be attributed. Collaborating in the preparation of the draft town-planning measure submitted at the late International Town-planning Conference, his experience in charitable and philanthropic work in his home city of Montreal was of untold value.

Of a kindly and sympathetic nature, Col. Burland will long be remembered for his association with every movement for the public good. Among those receiving his special attention were the Society for the Prevention of Tuberculosis, the Boy Scouts, better homes for workmen, and that which of late has demanded and is receiving so much of the world's sympathy, the Red Cross Society, in the interests of which Col. Burland was in England at the time of his death. Col. Burland's death will be greatly regretted by his associates of the Commission of Conservation and by all with whom he came in contact.

## Fire Insurance is a Tax on the Consumer

Fire insurance is no doubt an institution of great benefit, especially after a fire loss. Nevertheless, it is a striking commentary upon the business judgment of the Canadian citizen that fire insurance is not also characterized as a tax, distributed, through the buying and selling process, upon the entire community; that every additional fire and every extra fire hazard tends to increase this tax, while every precaution for fire prevention and for the reduction in the number of fire losses tends to lessen the insurance rate. The business man must shift the cost of insuring his goods to the consumer, and, not only is the amount of this tax added, but, as this is part of the cost of doing business, he is entitled to a profit on it as well. Moreover, the amount of rent which the business man has to pay is influenced by the cost of insuring the premises occupied, and this tax too is concealed in the selling price of his goods. This fire insurance tax must also be added to the selling cost at every handling between the original raw material and the finished article.

## Lodgepole Pine For Pole Uses

When Treated This Wood Will Readily Take the Place of Red Cedar

Lodgepole pine, abundant in both the Rocky Mountain and Coast ranges, can be treated with preservatives and used as a substitute for red cedar, as a pole timber.

The tendency of lodgepole pine to decay rapidly when in contact with the ground has hitherto eliminated this timber as a competitor of the cedar, but the general adoption of preservative treatment by railway and telephone companies has changed the situation. At an additional cost for treatment, that still leaves the pine pole the cheaper of the two in most markets situated outside the cedar region, the pine may be made more durable than untreated cedar.

Fire-killed lodgepole pine, of which there is a vast quantity in the Rocky Mountain region, showed a strength, under test, equivalent to 80 per cent of that of live red cedar. In elastic values the two were practically equal, and, in stiffness, fire-killed lodgepole pine is quite comparable to the cedar. The prejudice against the use of fire-killed material is a mistaken one, for there is no inherent difference in wood seasoned on the stump and wood cut when green and then seasoned. On many areas, such material remains entirely sound for a number of years after the fire which killed it, and, therefore, is thoroughly seasoned and ready for preservative treatment as soon as cut.

## WIRE FENCING AND TREES

Occasionally, in running wire fences, it is necessary to attach the wires to trees. In doing this, it is bad practice to use staples to attach the wire directly to the trees, thus ensuring that the wire will become over grown and imbedded in the wood. Not only is the tree thereby ruined or injured but, further, it is impossible to remove the fencing without cutting either the wire or the tree.

A better way, protecting both the tree and the fence, is first to nail to the tree a strip of wood about four inches wide and one inch thick, of a length to suit the height of the fence. The wire fence can then be stapled to this strip. This will secure the fence and will not interfere with the tree growth.

A farmer in Eastern Ontario reports that his crop of roots for stock-feeding purposes was greater by two-thirds on the part of a field cultivated according to the suggestions of the Commission of Conservation than on the remainder of the field. Another farmer, a corn grower, had thirty bushels more corn to the acre.

## Alaska Coal Lands

Sections to be Reserved for Government Development and Use

The Alaska coal lands, which were so prominent in the conservation movement in the United States, after being locked up for a number of years are now available for mining under a leasehold system.

The bill, recently passed by the United States Senate, provides that the government shall reserve 5,120 acres of coal-bearing land in the Bering river field and 7,580 acres in the Matanuska, for government mining, the coal from these areas being reserved for the use of the U. S. government railways and navy.

Other lands are to be leased for not more than 56 years in 40-acre blocks and the maximum tract is not to exceed 2,560 acres. The royalty is to be from two cents to five cents per ton and rental twenty-five cents per acre for the first year, increasing to fixed charge of one dollar after five years; rentals are to be credited against royalty. Leases for local needs are to be made in tracts of not more than ten acres and without royalty or rental.

Attempts at monopolization are to be punished by forfeiture, and an eight-hour day underground is fixed as the maximum.—W. J. D.

## AND THE CONSUMER PAYS THE BILLS

Carelessness in packing goods for shipment results in breakages and loss. The cost is carried as an overhead expense and the consumer pays.

Accidents happen. The employer carries liability insurance. The insurance company pays, but collects from the employers. The employer in turn collects the additional cost from the consumer.

On account of our excessive fire loss, cotton and wool, from the raw material to its manufactured state, must carry a heavy insurance burden through every process. The consumer has to pay the additional cost.

Fires are, to a great extent, the result of carelessness. The insurance companies pay their proportion of the loss, but the consumer pays in the end.

Forest fires occur, causing immense loss to timber. To provide for these losses the lumberman must collect recompense from the consumer.

A municipality lays a new pavement; a public service corporation a few days later cuts holes in it, and crudely attempts to repair the damage. This is part of their cost of doing business, and the consumer pays the bill.

Through defective plumbing and wastefulness in the use of water, excessive pumping expense is incurred. The corporation pays the bill, but collects from the consumer.