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EDITORIAL.

Forest Protection.

Forest fires have raged during the present summer over large areas in widely separated districts of the Dominion, but the total loss accruing to the country from such havoc can never be estimated. British Columbia and New Brunswick have been the scenes of the greatest loss. In the former Province, the estimated value of the timber destroyed has been placed at \$2,500,000, and to this must be added the destruction of the young growth and the loss arising from the land lying idle until reforested or cleared for agricultural purposes.

These losses, and Canada suffers annually from such, indicate that the whole of the forest area of Canada is in need of a strong, efficient forest police or fire department, such as is maintained upon limited areas in several of the Provinces. In fighting forest fires, much can be accomplished by timely preventive measures. Unlike fires in cities, forest fires start slowly, and, in most cases, smoulder in the ground for days and weeks, until, fanned by a stiff wind, they spread and increase in fury. Such being the most common manner in which forest fires arise, it is at once obvious how much damage might be prevented were our forests patrolled by competent rangers during the dry seasons, whose duty it would be to put out small fires and summon assistance in cases where fire had gained considerable headway. The plan is perfectly feasible, and the increasing value of timber, together with the immense wealth Canada has vested in her forests, warrants the immediate installation of a protective force of rangers for our wooded districts. Our forests are too valuable as national assets to be entrusted to the care of the small population in the most heavily-wooded Provinces, and their protection from fire should be assumed by the nation at large. Such a work, we submit, is of infinitely greater moment than the protection of the nation from an invading army, and as a business proposition should commend itself to our legislators at Ottawa.

Factory Regulations.

Dairymen, particularly those interested in the management of cheese or butter factories, will appreciate the information which we have obtained and published in another department of this issue, describing in detail the system under which milk is furnished to the St. Charles Condensed-milk Company at Ingersoll, Ont. The suggestion has been made that similar regulations, if enforced at the cheese and butter factories, would obviate many of the complaints now made. In the case of cheese and butter, however, it is not necessary to put corn ensilage upon the "black list" of prohibited foods, along with turnips and brewers' grains. Sound ensilage has not proved prejudicial to the production of the finest dairy goods. The production of condensed milk is an extremely critical process. On account of the time that often elapses before it is used, and the distances and varying conditions under which it is transported, it must be absolutely free from any incipient flavor of an unfavorable nature. It will be noticed also that the patrons receive a very much better rate for their milk per hundred than the cheese-factory patron secures, as a rule, which compensates him for his extra trouble, and also for the fact that he receives no by-product, such as whey, in return. These regulations, it will be noticed, make no provision as to the condensed-

milk factory conditions, but for the preservation and success of their own business that company are bound to maintain it in a perfect sanitary state. It is no secret that too many of the cheese factories, curing-rooms and premises in this country have been allowed to lapse into a disgraceful condition, and when this fact is remembered along with repeated complaints about "off-flavored" cheese, we do not wonder that there has been a call for some more rigid oversight of these establishments, which, though privately owned, are yet an essential factor in an industry in which the public as a whole and the export trade of the country are concerned.

National Progress and Education.

The attention of every reader of Canadian newspapers must have been attracted, during the whole of this year, by the constant reports of new arrivals of immigrants, one thousand by this vessel, fifteen hundred by that, this train-load from Minnesota, that from Nebraska, until the number has been swollen into many thousands—and still there is room for more. "Where the honey is the flies will gather," is an old adage which has a germ of truth in it, and this tide of immigration most certainly shows where a goodly amount of the honey in North America most assuredly lies.

It is scarcely necessary, perhaps, to descant upon the tremendous natural resources of Canada. Every Canadian knows, every immigrant coming into the country must soon find out, the endless possibilities of the Dominion—its vast areas of plain as yet uncut by plowshare; its forests broad and deep through whose shades no echo of axe has as yet resounded; its endless chain of waterways filled with fish; its cliffs and mountain ranges, perforated with veins and ores which only lie awaiting the time when a greater industry shall send ten thousand shafts deep into the bosom of the earth, and a glare of a thousand smelting works shall shoot up the sky from Labrador to British Columbia.

The resources assuredly are here. The one thing remaining is to develop them. In consideration of this question, may we not, perhaps, with some profit to ourselves, glance, for a moment, at our neighbors across the line. We hold that there are many lessons which the Canadian nation is capable of teaching the United States. We hold, also, that there are many which she may well teach us. One of these, possibly, is the solution to the problem of the astonishing industrial progress which the United States has assuredly made, and which has been very well sifted out from a mass of "evidence" by Mr. Alfred Moseley, whose celebrated "commissions" of two years ago made a most exhaustive study of the whole question.

For the benefit of those to whom the "Moseley Commission" may have evaporated into all but a name, may we recapitulate. Some years ago, Mr. Arthur Moseley, an Englishman striving to win a fortune in the diamond fields of Kimberley, where the mining industry was then carried on in a desultory and non-paying way, was much impressed with the practical ability and business-like manner in which two American engineers, Williams and Seymour, who came into the district at that time, took hold of the business, and, in a remarkably short time, succeeded in placing the whole mining industry of South Africa on a firm and profitable foundation. From these men

his attention became directed to the country from which they had come, and he was led to inquire as to the system of training by which, presumably, such competence and ability had been evolved. With the liberal-mindedness by which an unbiased man is always willing to learn from others, and the patriotism which ever seeks the progress of one's own land, he determined to make the matter a subject of thorough investigation. To quote from his own words: "I felt that, not only must we investigate the educational system in vogue, but that the workmen, through their trades unions, should also be given an opportunity of seeing at first hand what is being done on the other side of the Atlantic. Holding these opinions, I organized my two commissions."

The conclusions reached as a result of the exhaustive examination of the industrial and educational systems of the United States by these two commissions, which, consequently, came out from England for this express purpose in 1902, are most interesting. While giving credit to the educational system, whose tendency toward a "practical education" is noted, and whose devotion to laboratory work, manual training, etc., is favorably commented upon, yet the almost unanimous decision of the Commission was, as summed up in the report of the Rev. T. A. Finlay, that "America's industry is what it is, primarily because of the boundless energy, the restless enterprise, and the capacity for strenuous work with which her people are endowed; and because their powers are stimulated to action by the marvellous opportunities for wealth-production which the country offers."

Now, while it would be a sorry sight to see the people of Canada resolved into so many millions of mere money-grubbing machines—there is a brighter destiny than that for the sons of the great Dominion—yet, to see her industries develop and her people prosperous is a consummation to be desired by every true friend of the country. We have as great "opportunities for wealth-production" as the United States. May these not be undeveloped while there is a single child of the soil, or a single longing immigrant, in want for a single necessity to life or comfort which he can wrest from old mother earth by honest toil. May our people be also marked by that "boundless energy" and "capacity for strenuous work" which have made our southern neighbor a nation to be, in many ways, envied.

In order to the achievement of these results, we believe Canada is disposed to learn from Great Britain and other countries the value of steadfastness of purpose and the superior quality and permanence of product due to education. Already the trend of our educational policy is in that direction, and we firmly believe that in the training of the generation now rising lie the possibilities of a greater nation than yet has been. But let us never forget that in the words of Goethe: "Energy will do anything that can be done in this world, and no talents, no circumstances, no opportunities will make a two-legged animal a man without it." And, while advancing in material gains, in the making of comfortable homes, the improvement of our lands, the beautifying of our houses, let us never be deluded into thinking that these things are all of life. Let the thinking head and the kindly heart ever go with the busy hand. Let not the glint of gold obscure the high ideals of culture, nobility of life, intellectual and spiritual progress, but let the added wealth to each bring but the greater responsibility for well-doing, the greater opportunity for accomplishing the summum bonum, the Great Good in all other lines.