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Fire Protection Proves Profitable

Railway Companies Save Money by Installing Efficient Systems of Inspection

As the result of a special campaign for improvement, an important saving in the amount of payments for fire losses along its right of way is reported by the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway. In 1910, the company had claims for 1,509 fire losses, amounting to $100,605. In 1911, there were 574 fires with claims amounting to $51,000. In 1912, the number of fires had been reduced to 135, and the expenditure for the payment of claims to only $6,000.

In order to secure these results, the efficiency of the spark arresters on locomotives was increased, and a more frequent inspection was provided, to ensure prompt correction of defects. Section gangs, trainmen, and other employees, were also impressed with the necessity of giving prompt attention to the suppression of fires in their incipiency. The co-operation of all employees was also secured in connection with the destruction of inflammable material on the right of way and the plowing of fire guards in cultivated fields.

The experience of the Sante Fe clearly indicates that efficient fire protection along railway lines is good business policy on the part of such companies.—C.L.

AB EQUIS AD ASINOS.

Garbage removal is as yet conducted along up-to-date lines in only a very few Canadian municipalities. In Saranac, N.Y., where a great deal of attention is paid to sanitary matters, it is customary to wrap all garbage of a vegetable or animal nature in newspapers before placing it in the garbage tin. This deprives the flies of their principal source of food and has other obvious advantages in connection with the handling of the refuse.

This method was adopted by a resident of an Eastern Ontario city who had seen it in use at Saranac. To his great disgust the garbage men, when they did come, carefully removed the paper wrappings and threw them carelessly round the yard. It was a sad outcome of an intelligent effort to better conditions.

Municipal Milk Department Would Minimize Mortality

Retailing of Milk by Civic Authorities Offers Many Advantages to Consumers—Dangers of Pollution Reduced Thereby and Economy in Distribution and Treatment Effected.

A chart with the following inscribed upon it was conspicuous in Booth 24 of the Baby Saving Show at Philadelphia:

> It is the duty of the Municipality to see that you get pure, clean and fresh milk.
> It is your duty to see that it is kept pure, clean and fresh.
> Don't buy milk unless you are sure it is clean.
> Milk not kept on ice is unsafe to use.

The foregoing statements are accurate. If we consider the latter statement alone, every consumer of milk in Canada may accept it as a fact that, during the hot summer months, very little of the milk sold in this country is safe to use because there is no attention given to the refrigeration of milk from the time it leaves the dairy farm until it reaches the cold storage plant of the milk vendors. Souring frequently occurs in the express car on the way to the city. This means increased cost to the consumer, who, though he may not appreciate it, is in every case charged with all losses incurred in handling.

If, then, milk not kept on ice is unsafe to use during many months of the year, and if it is the duty of municipal authorities to see that the consumer gets pure, clean, fresh milk, what are we going to do about it? The public will not tolerate a merely destructive policy; the sanitarian must suggest a reasonable and rational substantive course.

Some will suggest that the solution of the problem will be found in an elaborate scheme of inspection of dairies and dairy cattle; others will say that a rigid supervision of all milk delivered, including a straining of samples through cotton disks, laboratory examinations, and periodical examination of dairies will suffice. The former method is costly and has, so far, resulted in guaranteeing only a small percentage of the total amount sold. Almost invariably the result has been to increase the cost to the consumer. The latter method, where in operation, has proved that a better average standard can be assured to the consumer—the town-dweller gets less barnyard manure and less pump water—but it is not good enough, as judged by the standard set by the "Baby-Saving Show."

With a view to securing this desired standard, the suggestion is

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AN UNDESIRABLE SOURCE OF MILK SUPPLY.

Typical example of an unsanitary cow stable. Milk from cows housed in quarters of this kind is sold in almost every Canadian Municipality.

Fish Hatcheries and Fish Food

Available Food Supply Must be Considered

Some people have the idea that all that fishes require is water. Given a pond or lake or stream, all that is necessary is to put in a few thousand eggs or fry and a beneficent Providence will accomplish the rest. But no intelligent farmer would sow seed on soil not containing the plant food necessary to growth and fruition. Similarly, to ensure success in the introduction of fish fry, they must be introduced into waters in which it is known that food of the right kind and in sufficient quantity is present. Of this food, insect life forms, in fresh waters, the preponderating element.

For a number of years the Department of Marine and Fisheries has been carrying on the work of re-stocking and of introducing new species, on a large scale. The fish fry distributed in 1911 consisted (exclusive of salmon) of various species of trout and also of whitefish and pickerel. Altogether 332,278,000 fry of these species were distributed. In view of what we know as to the requirements of fishes in the way of food, the question naturally arises whether, in this distribution, the available insect food was sufficient and of the right kind. Are we certain that the species of trout placed in a certain lake would find the right kind of food there and sufficient quantity of that food?

If the farmer, wishing to sow his seed, finds the soil poor in nitrogen or some other necessary plant food, what does he do? Everyone knows he sows a crop such as clover, that will give the soil the necessary nitrogen, or, by many of the known fertilizers he supplies the deficiency, whatever it may be. In fresh-water fishery work, the same methods should be followed. Associated with the fish hatchery there should be, if it is found necessary ,an insect hatchery. When in fishery work, a stage of advancement equivalent to the present stage of advancement in agriculture is reached, we shall have the cultivation of the food of fishes carried on in conjunction with the hatching and introduction of the fry.—*Selected from an address by Dr. C. Gordon Hewitt, printed in the Fourth Annuel Report of the Commission of Conservation.*