

Conservation

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Vacations Should be Spent in Canada

Beauty Spots Invite Our People to Visit them this Summer

Planning vacation trips is one of the pleasures in the average Canadian home. The approaching holiday season tempts the mind to wander to shady nooks, to the seaside, to the fishing ground and the camp.

Canada offers to her people all the attractions it is possible to desire, either for recreation or change. We have all conditions of temperature and altitude from the sea level to the mountain heights. In our inland lakes and streams we have almost every variety of fresh water fish, with boating and bathing to satisfy the most exacting.

Why, then, should we look beyond our borders for summer resorts? There is an old saying that "the fishing is always better on the other side of the creek;" can it be that this is the reason why so many Canadians cross to the United States each year to spend their vacations, regardless of the superior attractions at home?

Canada wants us to see our own country. By spending their money at home, Canadians will realize more fully what a wonderful heritage we possess, and will help to overcome the discount to which our money is subjected on the other side of the line.

The Dominion Parks Branch and the passenger departments of our railway and steamship lines have much interesting literature on Canada's beauty spots, which will be sent free for the asking. These booklets contain much information that will help to decide Canadians to spend their vacations in their own country.

Wild Life in Dominion Parks

In his annual report for 1920, Mr. J. B. Harkin, Commissioner of Dominion Parks, reporting on the value of wild life protection, says: "The continued increase in wild life in practically all of the parks is most gratifying and affords the best evidence of the value of sanctuary protection. Reports from the various superintendents show that in the three parks on the eastern slope of the Rockies

Our National Wastes

FOREST FIRES

With the opening of another fire season, the question of forest fire losses becomes of direct personal interest to every Canadian. Forest protective organizations, Dominion, provincial and private, are increasing in strength and efficiency, but still the provision made is far from adequate in every forest province of the Dominion. Our average annual losses from forest fires still run into the millions of dollars. Most of these forest fires are preventable.

To check this enormous drain upon our resources, it is necessary that the individual citizen should interest himself and make his interest felt in the matters of improved administration, and increased appropriations for the better protection of our forests. Governments and legislative bodies are, for the most part, alive to the situation, but they are keenly susceptible to enlightened public opinion, and, in fact, require its support when measures are under consideration involving large expenditures or material changes in policy.

Expenditures on forest protection must be regarded as an investment not only for the future but for the present as well. If existing merchantable timber is to be kept from destruction, for immediate use, and if the vast areas of young forest growth are to be preserved, to comprise the forests of the future, very substantial expenditures must be incurred for this purpose and to so administer them that non-agricultural lands will be kept in a permanently productive condition.

The forest is a crop, which may be perpetuated by wise use, but which will inevitably be destroyed by unwise use. Irrefutable evidence of this may be seen over thousands of square miles in both Canada and the United States.

In all of our forest provinces, other than the Prairie Provinces, adequate protection will involve the expenditure of only a reasonable fraction of the Crown timber revenue. There has in the past been too strong a tendency to divert an unduly large proportion of the forest revenue to purposes of general governmental administration, leaving the forest to be regarded as a mine to be exploited, rather than as a crop to be reproduced.

Educational propaganda for greater care by the general public in preventing and extinguishing forest fires is of inestimable value, and can scarcely be over-done.

It is of the greatest importance to Canada to perpetuate the source of the raw material upon which are dependent the great timber industries of the Dominion. These industries provide employment for some 80,000 men and an avenue for the investment of probably more than \$400,000,000 of capital. Forest products comprise one of the largest items in our export trade and are a vital factor in the exchange situation.

With adequate protection, and scientific yet practical administration, these great industries may be still further developed and maintained for all time to come. Without, they must inevitably diminish, as are already the great timber industries of the eastern and southern States, for lack of these vital elements.

Really adequate protection from destruction by fire is the keystone of the forest arch.—Clyde Leavitt.

both big game and game birds are coming back in large numbers. The superintendent of Jasper park reports that this year the bighorn, which a few years ago in that park had been reduced to very small numbers, now total 5,000. In the Southesk River hunting country contiguous to Jasper park last season there were reported to be 2,000 bighorn, evidently an over-

flow from Jasper park. Similar reports of better hunting come from practically all districts outside park boundaries indicating that the protection afforded by the parks is not only increasing the wild life within their boundaries, but it is resulting, as predicted, in a natural overflow of game which is restocking the hunting areas."

Rodded Buildings Immune to Lightning

Fire Losses Almost Negligible in Buildings Protected by Lightning Rods

"We have not had a rodDED building burned for years, and the damage to them is very small. . . . We make a difference in rates in favour of rodDED buildings, and over half are rodDED."—Manager, Mutual Fire Insurance Co.

In 1919, Ontario alone had 1,104 fires caused by lightning, in all classes of buildings, the greater portion of which were farm barns and residences. The monetary loss on farm buildings and contents amounted to \$401,711, that on buildings being \$248,396 and on contents \$153,321. Insurance provided for \$223,144, while the farmers in whose property the fires occurred had to stand the loss of \$178,567.

It has been clearly established that installation of lightning rods constitutes an efficient protection against lightning fires. The Canadian Fire Underwriters' Association and farmers' mutual fire insurance companies have had the advantages of lightning rods so impressed upon them by actual results that most of them grant a preference in rates to rodDED risks.

Unfortunately for the lightning rod industry, some thirty or more years ago many farmers were swindled by unscrupulous agents, and the experience is still remembered in many farm homes, to the disadvantage of representatives of the companies now in the field. It would seem the part of wisdom for an educational campaign to be initiated by the farmers themselves, to impress upon the rural population, in an unbiased manner, the almost absolute protection to their lives and property which can be secured through the installation of an efficient and thoroughly inspected system of lightning rods. The Ontario Fire Marshal has recently published in pamphlet form an address by Mr. George F. Lewis, on *Lightning: its Origin and Control*, which will be sent upon request.

In New Brunswick, during 1920, there were 312 forest fires from all causes, burning over 94,787 acres, and representing a monetary loss of \$690,306.