

Conservation

A monthly bulletin published by the
Commission of Conservation, Ottawa, Canada.

VOL. VII

NOVEMBER, 1918

NO. 11

Preventing Waste of Human Efficiency

Social Conditions Need Improvement in Order to Check Appalling Loss of Life and Promote National Prosperity

Dr. Hattie, Medical Officer of Health of Nova Scotia, estimates that our economic loss from unnecessary deaths in Canada is \$150,000,000 per annum. Prof. Irving Fraser, of Yale, estimates that the saving possible from better conditions of public health in the United States is far greater than \$1,000,000,000 and may be \$3,500,000,000. It is estimated, on the highest authority, that in North America, we lose 690,000 people annually by deaths from preventable causes. These are appalling figures, even to-day, when we are accustomed to the toll of human life which it is being taken in Europe. Feeble-minded children cost America \$90,000,000, and crime costs \$600,000,000 a year. A great proportion of this loss could be saved if proper hygienic measures were taken by government authorities. We cannot estimate what proportion is due to individual neglect, and in any case, it may be difficult for us to secure any improvement in that direction; but we think that much of the loss is due to lack of intelligent development and to criminal indifference, and that we only need courage to remedy these evils by means of government organization.

The very sacrifices which are being made in the war demand that we who are at home should devote our attention to laying the foundations which will insure healthy living conditions and increased efficiency in the future. To make the following recommendations as being the first steps necessary to be taken to enable us to apply proper remedies for such social evils as we have and to promote national prosperity in the future:

The Federal and Provincial government machinery for dealing with the control of the planning, settlement and development of land should be extended and improved; the surveying branches of the government should be strengthened and more elaborate surveying work assigned to them; and a complete and co-ordinated system of federal, provincial, and municipal administration of land resources should be developed, with the whole organization centralized in a department or permanent commission of the Federal Government.

A comprehensive survey of the physical and industrial conditions
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Value of Property More Than Tripled

City Planning in Baltimore Raised Value from 60c to \$2.00 a Foot

"My seven years experience in the City Hall has emphasized the fact that planning is absolutely necessary if a city is to grow along the lines of the highest and best development," said Mayor Preston, of Baltimore, in giving an account of his year's stewardship to the electorate. "A city cannot grow haphazard," he continued, "without great detriment to property values, to commerce and business, and to the health and comfort and happiness of the people.

"Generally speaking, no city official or expert can know the needs of a community much better than the community itself. The knowledge and judgment of the community should be, in a large measure, a guide to the city planner, except that his expert knowledge may be used to solve the local problem in accordance with the experience of other cities. Representatives from the various sections should be heard and the needs and requirements of the several sections considered before the final adoption of any plan.

"The water, sewer, electrical subway and paving features of city planning will necessarily follow the street planning, so that the final development and the location of the streets and avenues for the future city will be of the first importance. Upon the determination of this question will rest very largely the beauty, convenience and value of Baltimore a hundred years hence.

"The Key Highway, I believe, to be one of the best examples of good city planning. The uses and purposes of that street are quite apparent, and the economic value to the city may be judged by the fact that in the con-

demnation of the land for this street, the city paid an average of 60 cents a square foot for the land, and has been making sales of its lots on the Key Highway at \$2 a square foot.

"The city, in all probability, will employ the most eminent authorities on city planning, and it is certainly to be hoped that the result may measure up to our expectations. We hope to lay down wise foundations on the water and on the land for the future city, but let our key-note be a reasonable, practical plan—one that we may expect to accomplish rather than hope to accomplish."

New Wood Found for Making Newsprint

Experiments Show Birch Can Be Used—Will Help Reproduction on Cut-Over Lands

The most serious obstacle to the proper handling of the mixed forests of eastern Canada has been the lack of utilization of the hardwood species, particularly birch. This is especially true of the mixed forest lands held as pulpwood limits, where, over vast areas, the coniferous species comprise only from one-quarter to one-half of the stand, the balance being hardwoods. The cutting of the conifers, especially spruce and balsam, has a constant tendency to convert the stand into a hardwood forest, partly because of the actual reduction in numbers of the conifers, while the hardwoods are left standing; and partly because the coniferous seedlings are prevented from actual growth, on account of the dense overhead shade of the hardwoods, which spread out and close in the spaces made by the removal of the conifers. If the hardwoods, particularly birch, could be used to commercial advantage, a serious menace to the continuity of our pulpwood forests would be removed.

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Community Nurses Combat Epidemics

Recent Epidemic of Influenza Showed the Need for Extension of Voluntary Aid Organization

Health is a great national as well as individual asset. Conversely, disease causes incalculable losses to nations, by unifying their citizens for active work and by necessitating hospitals, sanitariums, medical and nursing services, etc.

Fortunately much has been done to alleviate the suffering and reduce the losses caused by average morbidity conditions. But, when a disease becomes epidemic, it usually happens that the machinery for combating it proves insufficient. It is the literal truth that hundreds, and even thousands, of deaths occur at such times unnecessarily.

The recent epidemic of Spanish influenza afforded an excellent example of this lack of foresight. Emergency hospitals, bedding and equipment, nursing and other help, were quite inadequate in a great many places. If it had not been for the work of the Voluntary Aid Detachments organized some years ago by the St. John Ambulance Association, the epidemic would have been a veritable calamity. This experience indicated the importance and value of having an organized body of volunteer nurses, such as the V.A.D.'s, always available to meet similar contingencies.

The St. John Ambulance Association already has an extensive organization of V. A. Detachments all across Canada, but they should be extended to every community centre in the country. No village is too small to form the nucleus of a detachment and every city should have several well-organized units. These units not only acquire valuable instruction in first aid, home nursing and kindred subjects, but, where the citizens or the local authorities assist, they establish depots for sick-room supplies to be used in cases of emergency.

At present, the Association receives a small appropriation from the Government. It might be possible to have this increased and, in any case, every encouragement should be given the Association to perfect its organization in Canada. In Great Britain, such units have been long established and community nursing is being steadily organized in the United States.—A. D.

United States soldiers at Camp Dix, New Jersey, grew \$25,000 worth of vegetables last summer. About 400 acres were cultivated.



AN EYE FOR BEAUTY

Corporations are not all sordid and soulless—popular opinion to the contrary, perhaps. The tracks in this station yard of the Pennsylvania Ry. System have been constructed so as to preserve the fine old tree. The public prefer to travel on such railways.

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