

Government

Encouragement
of Fishing Industry

Improved Methods of Curing, Packing and Shipping would Greatly Increase Returns

"The fishing industry in the Maritime Provinces could be very considerably developed and be made to yield larger returns if improved methods of curing, packing and shipping were employed under proper government inspection, in this way improving the quality of the salt fish sent to market. The Dominion Government has recently made an appropriation of \$10,000 for the establishment of a Fisheries Intelligence Bureau with the object of bringing before the fisherman in some concrete way information with reference to the best methods of curing and packing their fish. The Government has also made provision for the encouragement of the trade in fresh fish between the Atlantic and Pacific seaboard and the interior parts of the Dominion by paying a portion of the regular express charges on all shipments of fresh fish from the Atlantic coast to all points in Ontario and Quebec and from the Pacific coast to all points as far east as Manitoba. While, owing to certain local causes, certain kinds of fish, such as shad, are less abundant than formerly, there seems to be no indication of depletion of our Atlantic fisheries as a whole. The fact that the catch has not increased more rapidly in recent years is owing largely to a restricted market."

—Dr. F. D. Adams, before the Royal Society of Canada.

Chicago Drainage Canal
Again to the Fore

Dilution of Sewage by Water Withdrawn from Lake Michigan Proved Unsatisfactory

The recent findings of the board of experts appointed to investigate the question of sewage disposal in Chicago again brings the Chicago Drainage Canal question into the lime-light. One of the first conclusions arrived at by the experts is that "dilution" cannot be relied on as a satisfactory method of disposing of the sewage.

The Chicago Drainage Canal draws a large quantity of water from lake Michigan for the purpose of "diluting" the city sewage and carrying it to the Desplaines river, thus diverting into the gulf of Mexico water which naturally belongs to and is required at Niagara and in the St. Lawrence river. It is not surprising that the scheme has met with opposition in many quarters and, two years ago, when it was proposed to increase the already too large volume of water being diverted, the Canadian Commission of Conservation entered a most vigorous protest. One of

the principal points made in this protest is in direct harmony with the recent findings of the experts, namely, that dilution was inefficient and that Chicago should have proper sewage treatment plants.—L. G. D.

Growing of Rape

Methods of Cultivating and Using this Valuable Plant Described

Rape can be grown on almost any soil that is rich in plant food. To give best results the land should be thoroughly cultivated and cleaned the previous summer and autumn. If barn-yard manure has been applied during the winter, plough it under about four inches deep. Harrow the surface thoroughly and sow about four to six pounds of Dwarf Essex Rape seed per acre. The seed may be sown by the ordinary grain drill with the grass seed attachment. The feed runs should be so blocked as to give a width of about 21 inches between the rows. Next, unhook the rubber or twisted feed conductors from the grain drill, and attach them to the ruts that are to be used in the clover box, allowing the lower ends to conduct the rape seed into the same place as the grain would drop, when using the drill in the ordinary way. Care must be taken not to sow too deeply. A careful man can cultivate successfully rows 21 inches apart. As rape is such a rapid grower, three or four cultivations will be sufficient; the land will soon be covered and will not require further cultivation.

Rape may be pastured or cut, and, for fattening hogs, the best results are obtained from feeding in pens, with outside yards for exercise. In addition, a small grain ration should be fed. For breeding sows, pasturing rape is preferable. A movable fence is a great convenience. If not pastured too closely, the feeding grounds may be changed and several crops thus obtained in the same season.—J. F.

Railway Commission
Orders Fireguards
in Prairie Sections

Obligations of Railways and Farmers Defined in Recent Regulations

According to regulations recently issued by the Fire Inspection Department of the Railway Commission, railway companies in the three prairie provinces must, except where impracticable or unnecessary, construct fireguards along their rights-of-way.

The railway companies will be made directly responsible for the fireguarding of open prairie and fenced grazing lands, while the situation as to grain-stubble land will be in the hands of the land-owners or occupants, who are to construct fireguards if they consider such action necessary, and to whom payment for this work will be made by the companies

upon a basis of \$1.75 per lineal mile of 4-foot ploughed fireguard.

In the case of open prairie or fenced grazing land, the fireguards must consist of a ploughed strip not less than 16 feet in width, and approximately 200 feet from the track. Where fireguards already exist at a greater distance, however, they will be left where they are to minimize the weed nuisance.

In all cases, dry grass, straw or other combustible matter must be removed between the fireguard or the edge of cultivation and the track. On grain-stubble lands, this requirement applies for 10 feet outside the right-of-way on private land. In the case of fenced grazing lands, burning of grass is not required outside the right-of-way, owing to the hardship that would be thereby imposed upon stock-holders.—C. L.

Local Initiative

in Conservation

Waterloo County Centre of Project for Conserving Magnificent Woodland Area

Waterloo county, which pioneered the Niagara hydro-electric power scheme, is again the centre of a project which cannot fail to arouse keen interest among Canadians desirous of a wise administration of their national domain. A movement has recently been inaugurated by a number of prominent citizens with a view toward conserving some of the county's remaining forest area. The organization originated as a result of the threatened destruction of a magnificent woodland property of about fifty acres in extent, situated on the Grand River. The property, known as Cressman's woods, has been pronounced by Chas. W. Leavitt, landscape engineer, of New York city, to be as fine a piece of timber as can be found in all Canada. Several gentlemen, who realize both the necessity of conserving the natural resources of the province and the desirability of preserving beauty spots situated within easy distance of our growing industrial centres, have already acquired the property, thus insuring its safety from the woodman's axe. Plans for the administration of the area have not been perfected as yet and it is still unknown whether ultimate control will be retained by a joint stock company or taken over by the combined municipalities interested. In either event, the movement is one of extreme interest and will, no doubt, be productive of similar undertakings in other counties. It furnishes an admirable illustration of the value of local initiative, in organizing enterprises of provincial and national import.—O. M.

The so-called Scotch pine is the principal tree in the Prussian forests. Its wood is much like that of the western yellow pine of the United States.

Ground Moisture

(Continued from page 25.)

At the same time, the soil is left cold and less pervious to the air. Frequent cultivation keeps the weeds down, allows more air to get into the soil, helps to warm the soil, and, by keeping a blanket of loose earth as a covering, the water is prevented from passing off into the air by evaporation and is retained for use by the roots of the crop. After a rain it is a good practice—as soon as danger from stickiness is past—to lightly cultivate or harrow the ground to a good plan to run a light harrow over unseeded cereals and corn after they are up. The corn may be lightly harrowed before it comes up, and a couple of times after it has come up. In harrowing cereals, care should be taken not to harrow when the grain is too small to allow it to get a good root hold. The increased moisture will more than compensate for any slight loss due to the harrowing.

Good tillage ministers to the needs of the plant in many ways. It may not always be possible to work the soil as frequently as theory requires, but it is well to follow as closely as practicable.—F.C.N.

Misuse of Coal as Fuel

At the recent meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, one of the subjects discussed in the chemistry section was the utilization of coal and its waste. There was general agreement that many methods of the present time involved serious wasteful destruction of a limited supply.

Dr. Beilby referred to the low temperature distillation of coal, which is coked at temperature of 400° to 450° C. thus furnishing valuable products now consumed to small purpose, while yet leaving the most valuable part of the fuel for its ordinary use. It was his task of the gas works to organize the market for this low-temperature coke. Dr. Colman called attention to the fact that 25 per cent of the heat units in the coke could be obtained as gas, 5 per cent as tar, and 50 per cent as coke, while expending 20 per cent in carrying on the process and noted the fact that the gas is worth more for its product than as fuel, while 20 per cent of the nitrogen in the coal is recovered as ammonia.

Dr. Lessing asserted that England there is an annual loss of more than 200,000 tons of liquid fuel carried away as steam enough to supply the whole of the oil demand of the British Navy. The fuel oil recoverable from house coals by low-temperature coking would amount to some 3,000,000 tons a year. The whole discussion left a serious impression of the awakening to the limited possibilities of the coal supply.—N. E. L. A. Bulletin