

season is estimated at 100 to 112 days. This may seem to indicate a limited and fluctuating supply which could scarcely be depended on to supply any extensive market. But just as soon as market conditions warrant it an extension of the plants might easily more than supply any demand which might be created.

The principal plants in operation at present are the Government plant at Alfred, Ont., and the plant of the Peat Industries Limited, at Farnham Quebec. Other bogs near London, Hamilton and Brockville have been partially developed but owing to the want of a successful method of preparation most of the work in these places has been stopped and the plants abandoned. Now that a successful means of production has been evolved an expansion should be seen in the development process and many of the other extensive peat deposits should be made to contribute to the maintenance of a supply of a cheaper and serviceable fuel for Canadians who should welcome it as a relief from the burdensome coal tax. Further development depends solely on commercial enterprise and the interesting of capital in the project. This should not be a difficult task since the value of the fuel is unquestioned, the raw material is almost unlimited, and the demand must grow as prices of coal increase and its value as a fuel becomes more widely known.

* This cableway is not used on the plant of The Peat Industries Limited, at Farnham, Que., but the peat is conveyed from the Macerator to the Spreader in small dumps cars running on a specially constructed track which may be moved sidewise as the peat is spread over the surface in order that the track may be in line with the spreader.

PLAY

By J. W. MACMILLAN.

You will find certain fingerposts on the roads which children frequent marked, 'The Way to Happiness,' 'The Way to Health,' and 'The Way to Useful Manhood.' If you turn at any one of these corners and keep straight on you come to a playground.

It is universally admitted that children have a right to be happy. Accordingly many well-fed people regard the Playground Associations with a smiling and half-contemptuous approval. They feel that it is well that somebody should be willing to act as a sort of public nursemaid, and devote himself to the amusement of children. But these well-fed people feel that they themselves have far more serious and important things to do, such as reading magazines, or trying on hats, or getting after business.

These well-fed and serious-minded people have never considered the true nature of play, and its vital function in the evolution of mankind. They know nothing of its illustrious pedigree, that it has been the chief educative force among primitive peoples and none the less the heart of the Greek system of pedagogy, where was produced the highest type of man, physically and intellectually that the world ever saw. "In physical beauty, courage and patriotism; in philosophy, literature, architecture and art; the Greeks have been the unsurpassed models of the ages, and are still the inspiration of our schools to-day."

Play is more than pastime. It does not require to apologize for its existence. The notion that the time to play is when the work is done

is wrong. It is itself an integral part of life. The child who has been denied his play has been cruelly victimized. The man who has forgotten how to play has lost something which gold and rubies cannot compensate him for. In short, play and work are not antitheses. They are tracemates. Play without work is frivolity. Work without play is drudgery. Play requires purpose and effort. Work requires zest and relish. "The measure of the value of our work is the amount of play we put into it and the measure of the value of our play is the amount of work we put into it."

Play is nature's matrix for the development of children. It provides the best stock of native interests and capacities upon which to graft the habits of action, thought and feeling desired by the educator. Mr. Joseph Lee puts it well: "Why have playgrounds? Why does a flower need the light? The child needs a playground because his growth is through activity, through those specific forms of activity which his nature has prescribed; and because, accordingly, he will never grow up—or will grow up stunted and perverted—if he is denied those opportunities and objects to which his vital, instinctive and formative activities relate."

All forms of exercise which tend to develop quick and accurate judgment, self-control, and prompt compliance with directions are also effective in character-building. Organized athletics and games develop these qualities, and in addition have social and ethical value in the development of co-operation, personal courage the sense of fairness, and the "give and take" so necessary in life itself. Fair play is justice, and team play is co-operation.

The motto of the Playground Association of America is, "The boy without a playground is father to the man without a job." The boy that passes into the domain of toil too young mortgages his manhood. Forced into productiveness without having served his apprenticeship of play, he helps fill the ranks of the inefficient. His health is below par, his abilities untrained. He is recruited into the casual laborers or becomes a tramp. Everybody knows the newsboys. They are the brightest of boys, keen-witted, full of push and adroitness—these merchants of the streets. What becomes of them? One social student made a study of the careers of seventeen boys who at one time had sold the papers of a certain New York daily. One would suppose that, being in such close contact with a great mercantile establishment, some of them at least would pass into it, and that their mental keenness would lead to their rapid promotion. One would expect some of these bright boys to become editors, some business managers or at least typesetters or pressmen. The facts are, on the contrary that only one of them continued in connection with the press. He drove a wagon which distributed the papers to suburban centres. The others had drifted into the lowest paid occupations or into no occupation at all. Only one was found earning more than four dollars a week.

The play of children requires supervision. It is not enough to just let them play. Just let them play in the streets and they soon get to playing tag with the policeman, from which it is a short step to playing tag with the laws. That is the short and easy way to manufacture criminals. Nor is supervision less needed in a playground. When the Playground Movement first began in America it was thought enough to provide the grounds and apparatus. The gates were thrown