

## Commission of Conservation

CANADA

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CONSERVATION is published the first of each month. Its object is the dissemination of information relative to the natural resources of Canada, their development and the proper conservation of the same, together with timely articles covering town-planning and public health.

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## Save Your Waste Paper

Heavy Drain Upon Canada's  
Forests to Replace Paper  
Material Lost through  
Waste

Waste in any form is extravagance, but when the material represented by waste constitutes a severe drain upon the natural resources of our country, it is all the more to be deprecated.

To-day the United States is suffering from a serious shortage of paper-making material, including old paper. In an endeavour to overcome this shortage, they are drawing heavily upon Canadian supplies, and one large Canadian manufacturer advises that this increased demand will result in an early shortage in Canada. This is especially true of waste paper, such as old newspapers, magazines, wrapping paper, etc. This stock is used in the manufacture of the cheaper grades of paper, building paper, tarred felt, patent roofings, millboard, and filling for cardboard, etc. There are at present three mills in Canada using reclaimed paper exclusively in their manufacturing.

Canada is wasting fully 500,000 pounds of paper weekly without any reasonable excuse. It is estimated that a ton of wood-pulp requires eight trees, averaging nine inches at the butt. To replace this waste of paper stock, therefore, necessitates the cutting of approximately 2,000 trees weekly, or over 100,000 annually in Canada's forests.

As an illustration of what may be accomplished when waste paper is saved and systematically collected, the results secured by the

Daughters of the Empire at Ottawa may be cited. In September last this organization undertook to collect waste paper, the proceeds from its sale to be used for patriotic purposes. Since this collection was instituted, approximately 15 tons have been secured monthly, composed almost entirely of old newspapers, which had been previously burned or otherwise destroyed. This material is deposited by the public in boxes distributed throughout the city, and later collected and baled.

The satisfactory results indicate that there is room for a considerable enlargement of this project. It is work that might be undertaken by municipal charities for the purpose of securing funds, or by other interests with a popular object in view. True, there are certain dealers carrying on this industry at present, but they have failed to secure the support of the public, which is necessary to the plan of saving the paper from the homes and delivering it to designated places.

When every effort is being made to conserve our forests, to protect them from the ravages of fire and wasteful lumbering methods, the public should give more attention to saving their old papers and to similar economies which may reduce the drain upon our forests and other resources.

### MOSQUITOES ARE DISEASE CARRIERS

To exterminate them, clean up, and thus destroy their breeding places.

Drain off stagnant water, or where drainage is not possible, spray with coal oil. Let the sunlight into damp places.

Cover rain-water barrels with a fine netting.

### LUMBERING INDUSTRY OF THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES

Although the prairie provinces are usually associated with but one pursuit, namely, farming, the forested portions give rise to a lumbering industry of importance, and, while inferior in development to those of British Columbia or the eastern provinces, are of great value to the immigrant settlement in the west. In 1913 some 188 mills in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta sawed approximately 250 million feet of lumber, valued at the point of manufacture at over \$4,200,000. Of this quantity, Saskatchewan forests produced approximately two-thirds, Alberta one-fifth, and Manitoba the balance.

The prairie market consumes about 1,434 million feet of lumber annually. Over one-half of this comes from British Columbia (in part from the Railway Belt portion), and the remainder is supplied from northwestern Ontario, the United States, and the home forests.—*Forest Protection in Canada, 1913-1914.*

## Lightning Rod Protection

Insurance Companies Appreciate Its Advantages to  
Rural Risks

An insurance authority, in speaking of the fire losses of April last, said: "Lightning has caused considerable loss during the month, especially throughout central and eastern Ontario and western Quebec. On the 25th and 26th of the month, 34 barns and nine dwellings were damaged in Ontario, and on the 27th, 18 buildings were struck in the province of Quebec. If enquiry were made it would doubtless be found that none of these buildings was rodded. When it is remembered that lightning loss upon farm property in Ontario and Quebec costs the insurance companies well over \$400,000 a year and that losses not covered by insurance probably amount to an equal or even greater sum, it seems strange that farmers do not more generally adopt so simple a means of protection as the lightning rod."

Much has been said and written of recent years as to the value of lightning rods as a means of fire protection. This question has especially interested insurance companies, who have to provide for the primary loss. When, however, insurance officials make such statements as that quoted above, it is apparent that only a small part of the ultimate loss is borne by them. Farmers, especially in eastern Canada, are paying this loss. True, the insurance companies collect the money from a large number and pay it over to those who suffer from lightning, but the farmers pay the price, as well as the cost of making the collection. The heavy loss by lightning must be provided for through an increased premium paid by farmers for their insurance. It is therefore advisable for those who must pay this heavy charge to take precautions to protect property.

The data collected by United States Farmers' mutual fire insurance companies demonstrated that lightning is one of the principal causes of fire in rural districts.

Canadian farmers' mutual insurance companies are also taking a great interest in lightning losses, and almost unanimously make a reduction in premium on protected risks.

In European countries, particularly in France and Germany, all public buildings are protected; school authorities insist upon lightning rods upon all school buildings.

With a very heavy fire loss in Canada, at a time when such wastes should be reduced to the minimum, some action should be taken to protect rural property against this destructive element.

## Vacant Lot Gardens

An Excellent Means of Reducing the Cost of Living and  
Securing Vegetables

Organization work for the promotion of vacant lot gardening should be taken up at once. Good work was done in many places last season and this year should show a large increase. Many months may be fed by this means; fresh vegetables, the most healthful food available, may be obtained with very little effort. In every city and town many vacant lots can be made available for gardens, requiring only the initiative of public-spirited citizens to start the movement.

Among the successes of last season, the results from vacant lot gardens in Ottawa may be cited. The enterprise consisted of 128 plots, fifty by one hundred feet, for which no fewer than 180 applications were received. No charge was made for the plots. The gardeners supplied their own tools and seeds, and, to minimize failures, were given until May 25th to begin work. If no work was done on a plot by that date, it was given to some one else. In this way several plots changed hands. June 15th was set as a second time limit when at least two-thirds of the plot must have been planted. Again a number of plots changed hands, as several gardeners failed to do sufficient work or showed a lack of interest. Of the one hundred and twenty-eight, only twenty were weeded out for failure to do justice to their plots.

The crops secured from some of these plots were as follows:—

Plot No. 13—12 bags of potatoes; a liberal supply of corn, pumpkins and squash. One squash measured 80 inches around and weighed 125 lbs.

Plot No. 31—10 bags of potatoes; 300 ears of corn; 1,200 cucumbers and 300 tomatoes.

Plot No. 20—9 bags of potatoes; a large crop of tomatoes, cucumbers and beets.

Plot No. 110—Potatoes, 6 bushels; carrots, 1 bushel; turnips, 1 bushel; beets, 2 bushels; cabbage, 36 heads; green beans, 16 gallons; peas, shelled, 10 quarts; onions, 2 gallons, corn, 13 dozen cobs; tomatoes, 314 lb.; ripe; 2 bushels, green.

Plot No. 121—For a family of seven, a constant supply of green beans, July 15th to October 1st, potatoes, 6 bags and sufficient carrots, turnips, parsnips, onions and cabbage for the summer, fall and winter supply.

The cost of living continues to soar in Canada, entailing an added hardship on the head of a family in supplying food. The cultivation of the vacant lot garden offers healthful and pleasant recreation and an effective means of augmenting the family income.