



DOUGLAS FIR REPRODUCTION AFTER FOREST FIRE, 17 YEARS OLD
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Natural Resources and National Health

Health Society of Denmark has Made Country One of the Most Prosperous in Europe

Denmark affords an interesting example of the connection between the promotion of health and the promotion of material prosperity. According to a special correspondent of the *London Times*, who recently visited Denmark, a great deal of its prosperity in later years has been due to the operations of the Danish Health Society.

Twenty-five years ago Denmark was fared with despair and to-day she is one of the most prosperous countries in Europe. The *Times* correspondent ascribes this largely to the work of Lieut.-Col. Henric Mylius Dalgaard, who founded the Health Society of Denmark. It is so customary to associate a health society with medical propaganda that it is somewhat astonishing to find that one of the principal activities of the Danish Health Society has been the reclamation of barren heaths and moors and the irrigation of dry waste lands in Jutland. The Society has a membership of 9,416 and obtains a contribution towards its work from the State. To quote:

In 1860 there existed in Jutland 2,244 square miles of heather, 396 square miles of marsh, and 220 square miles of uncultivated downs. Now this area of unproductive land is reduced by more than one half, nor will the Health Society relax its labours until not one ounce of soil remains that does not contribute its share to the national economy.

The work of the society, like that of the Commission of Conservation in Canada, is educative and advisory. It teaches scientific method and wise co-operation to the farmers and by persistent advocacy ensures the development of woods, forests and lands that were formerly waste. For example, there are in Jutland over 2,220 plantations and the number is constantly increasing. The society's membership is continually expanding.—*Thomas Adams.*

Reconstruction of Shell-torn Areas

French Government will Compel Communities in the War Zone to Prepare Town Plans

The French Government passed a Town Planning law in March, 1919, which made it compulsory for every city and town of over 10,000 inhabitants to prepare, within three years, a plan for its improvement and extension. The act further required that any town or village which was destroyed or partially destroyed by earthquake, fire or any act of war must have a plan made for its reconstruction, and that plan must be approved by the authorities of the Department before any building might be commenced.

France has a very large problem to solve with reference to the reconstruction of the area devastated by war. For planning purposes that area has been divided as follows:

- Areas where there was very little destruction.
- An area of nearly two million acres, related to districts more or less injured by shell fire.
- Land so shorn up by shell fire that it would cost more to deal with than the land was worth. (There are about 275,000 acres of this obliterated land, including seventy-five villages that have been absolutely destroyed.)

Little permanent reconstruction has taken place as yet because of the delay consequent on the preparation of plans necessary for over 3,000 destroyed towns and villages.

The Germans stole plans of many of these towns from the offices of the municipal surveyors. The only copies extant are in the offices of the Prefectures of the various Departments, and, at best, many have not been revised since 1825.

One reason for holding the Inter-Allied Town Planning Conference in Paris in June was to show what other countries are doing, particularly Great Britain, which is in the van of the movement.—*G. H. Ferguson.*

Forest Reproduction in British Columbia

Data are Insufficient but Indicate that Better Protection of Young Growth is Needed

As regards the reproduction of the forests in British Columbia, with the exception of one season's work, conducted by Dr. C. D. Howe, for the Commission of Conservation, no concrete information has been secured concerning the extent or nature of the young growth which is replacing the original stands removed by logging or destroyed by fire. In this investigation, typical areas were carefully studied, and the results obtained are of great practical value in establishing the following facts:

- On about one-half of the area logged and burned in the past 20 years, the forest reproduction is not sufficiently abundant to ensure the re-establishment of the commercial forest. The other half, however, is well stocked with young trees and, if not burned, a forest yielding saw-logs is assured.
- It is evident that light burning of the slash and dense undergrowth gives the best reproduction of Douglas fir.
- Better protection of the reproduction of Douglas fir already established is imperative, since second and subsequent fires have already destroyed about one-half of the reproduction originally established.

The continuation of this work in other forest regions, and in connection with other species of trees, is necessary, in order that methods of exploitation and protection may be adopted which will encourage reproduction.

The rate of growth of the various species of trees in British Columbia is a subject concerning which no information is available. To conduct investigations along these lines, permanent experiment stations should be established in the forests, where all the conditions affecting the forest, from the seed to the mature stand, can be observed and controlled for a sufficient time to secure reliable conclusions.—*R. D. Craig*

Forest Survey of Ontario under Way

Experts Employed by Commission of Conservation Engaged in Taking Inventory of Province's Forest Resources

The Commission of Conservation has made an excellent beginning upon the survey of the forest resources of Ontario, under the direction of R. D. Craig, assisted by G. H. Edgecombe and A. V. Gilbert, both of whom are returned soldiers and graduate foresters of considerable practical experience. The Ontario Government has recognized the value of this project by affording co-operation in the securing of much data of great value from departmental records, as well as by instructing its field staff to assist with further information, to the fullest possible extent. Splendid co-operation in the collection of information relative to timber stands and forest conditions generally has also been afforded by timber owners, both individuals and corporations.

Only to a limited extent is it physically possible for the Commission to make actual cruises or first hand examinations of timber stands. Experience has, however, shown that highly valuable results can be secured by collecting all available data from timber owners, governmental agencies, explorers, surveyors, cruisers, etc., checking one source of information against another, and verifying the data by a limited amount of field observation.

A project of this character necessarily requires considerable time for completion, particularly with only a limited staff available. It is, however, of great practical value in dispelling current ideas of *inexhaustible* forest resources, as well as in laying an intelligent foundation for a sound national forestry policy. In any such policy, increased protection of the forests from destruction by fire is an absolutely essential element, together with such practical regulation of cutting methods as will make the production of a second crop possible on logged-over lands.—*Clyde Leavitt*



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