

## 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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### RESULTS OF THE "GREATER PRODUCTION" CAMPAIGN

The results of the Greater Production campaign far exceed even the most sanguine hopes. Canada has harvested a crop of wheat estimated at over 336,000,000 bushels—more than double that of the previous year, and 45 per cent more than any previous wheat crop in her history. The dairy industry sent from the port of Montreal butter and cheese valued at \$23,705,000, exceeding the exports of 1914 by over \$5,000,000.

In mineral production Canada has made numerous advances. Copper and zinc refining plants have been established at Trail, B.C., and are treating native ores. Improvements have been made in certain steels to enable them to be used for shell purposes. Improvements have also been made in the concentration of molybdenum ores, the molybdenum being used in the manufacture of big gun linings and high speed lathe tools. The recovery of benzol from by-product coke ovens has been developed. Benzol is used in the manufacture of explosives. In Western Canada the discovery of phosphate of lime in Rocky Mountains park should prove of great value to the agricultural interests.

Canada's fisheries have received special attention, not only in the production but in the marketing. Both on the Atlantic and Pacific coast advances have been made. Due to conditions brought about by the war, Canada last year placed her fish upon the British market, and it is hoped that some species may be permanently established there.

Progress has been made in the cultivation of ideals looking to improvements in our homes and our municipalities. Conferences and meetings have been held from coast to coast. Nova Scotia today pos-

sesses advanced town-planning legislation. Other legislatures have special town-planning acts under consideration. On January 20th next, there will be held at Ottawa under the auspices of the Commission of Conservation, a conference for the formation of a Civic Improvement League, to embrace all Canada, and to endeavour to secure betterment of conditions in the cities, towns and minor municipalities of the Dominion.

While greatly increasing her wealth through the output of natural resources, Canada has also made a very large saving by reduction of her fire losses. While the figures are not yet available, these, it is expected, will show substantial progress toward the standards of other countries in the ratio of fire losses.

The past year has been an era of awakening in Canada, and the earnest endeavour has been made to eliminate waste, not only in manufacturing but in mining and in the development of all our natural resources.

### Civic Improvement League for Canada

At a conference held at Ottawa on the 19th November last, under the joint chairmanship of Sir John Willison (Toronto) and the Hon. J. J. Guerin (Montreal), a resolution was passed to the effect that a Civic Improvement League be formed for Canada.

It was decided to hold a conference for the purpose of launching the League and deciding upon its constitution. This conference will be held at Ottawa, on Thursday, January 20th, following the annual meeting of the Commission of Conservation, which will be held on January 18 and 19. This conference will be addressed by prominent public men and important matters relating to civic government and future municipal developments in Canada will be discussed. In view of the present and probable after-effects of the war on Canadian municipal life, and on social conditions generally, there are many questions on which it is important to have an interchange of views between representatives of all provinces in the Dominion. These questions affect rural municipalities, as well as cities and towns, and will naturally include those which relate to the apportionment of responsibility between provincial governments and local authorities in regard to such matters as public health, town planning, immigration, unemployment and the expenditure of public funds.

Arrangements are being made to secure for those attending the conference transportation at reduced rates.

Great care should be exercised when thawing frozen water pipes with a naked flame. Hot water is more effective and is absolutely safe.

## Street Noises

### Municipalities Should Enforce Regulations

Noises made upon the public thoroughfares are one of the chief sources of annoyance to the residents of cities. These are numerous and varied, and, except in very rare instances, are unnecessary. Many municipalities have regulations covering this nuisance, but they are seldom strictly observed. In fact, in some cases, while the municipal code prohibits street shouting, license departments issue licenses to street-hawkers, to ply their trades upon the streets in as noisy a manner as they may wish.

Not the least offender in the category of noise-makers is the freak automobile alarm. Many varieties are in existence, and, as there are also various kinds of freak drivers, the combination becomes nerve-racking. Attempts have been made, but without much permanent success, to regulate these alarms and to secure uniformity. This would also be of advantage in accustoming horses to the approach of automobiles.

Boards of health and other organizations should undertake a campaign to secure a considerable reduction of these street noises and a consequent more enjoyable city life.

## Danger Threatens Our Native Birds

### Embargo on Foreign Plumage Encourages Domestic Slaughter—Supplementary Legislation Needed

The skins of two chickadees were noticed on a lady's hat the other day by an official of the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa. The chickadee is one of our most beautiful and widely distributed birds, 70 per cent of whose food consists of injurious insects. To all lovers of the Canadian woods, it is a general favourite. There is every reason, humane, aesthetic and economic, for preserving it; yet thoughtless, fashion-crazy women persist in wantonly sacrificing it and others of man's feathered friends to decorate their millinery.

Not all women are included in this indictment, but the law should be amended to reach those who will not refrain from patronizing the slaughter of innocent and useful birds. Already, our legislators have forbidden the importation of foreign plumage, but this must be supplemented by an act to suppress the traffic in native birds. It should be made illegal, not only to kill useful, rare and insectivorous birds, but the vendors and wearers of the plumes of such birds should be punished likewise.

## Backyard Environment

### Untidiness of Home Surroundings the Cause of Many Children Leaving the Farm

A great part of the home life of families on farms is associated with the backyard, which, of all places around the farm home, is usually the most neglected. The front yard may be fairly well attended for the occasional passer-by to see, but flowers and shrubs should be placed where they will do the most good—where they will be seen and enjoyed by the occupants of the house. Children and young people especially are often influenced by their environment more than they know, or are willing to admit, and the unattractiveness of the home surroundings has driven many boys to the city.

The backyard, seen and traversed many times daily, should receive special attention. If it is a bare place with muddy pools and unsightly accumulations, it should undergo a radical change. Such change costs little but, when made, should be carried out with care and a view to permanency. Take time to plan the planting and decide once and for all where the shrubs will be most effective and attractive.

The women usually have to take the initiative in work of this kind, and should be given every assistance possible by the men. During the winter the subject should be discussed at Farmers' Clubs and plans made for an active campaign in the spring. Several clubs in Quebec have organized competitions in this line of work with excellent results. These improvements involve little or no expense and may be accomplished in the time that the busiest farmer and his family can easily find if they appreciate the importance of the work and are disposed to undertake it. The farmer owes to his wife and to himself, but chiefly to his children, the best that he can do toward increasing the attractiveness of his home. The improvement often need not cost a cent. The first item, greater neatness, costs only an effort. The second item of improvement, the plan, costs nothing but study. The third item of improvement, the plants, can often be wholly secured from the wild.—F.C.N.

It has been figured that the average cost of apprenticeship, including the cost of bringing a man to the working efficiency necessary to profit, is approximately \$1,000. If this man is disabled from any cause, the employer must immediately recognize a charge for the cost of training another workman, in addition to whatever damage he may be called upon to pay as a result of the accident.