

# Conservation

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## Canada's Fisheries

Meeting of the Fisheries Committee of the Commission of Conservation - Many valuable discussions - A report to be issued

How to conserve Canada's fisheries, was the theme discussed by the Committee on Fisheries of the Commission of Conservation on June 4th. Canada has exceedingly valuable fresh water and coastal fisheries, but there are indications of a steady depletion of some important species. This is perhaps especially true of the oyster, the shad and the whitefish. Much valuable information was brought together and presented to the meeting by Dr. Joseph Stafford of McGill University, who spoke on the "Conservation of the Oyster" by Messrs. W. A. Found, and J. J. Cowie of the Department of Marine and Fisheries, who spoke on phases of the Atlantic coastal fisheries. Dr. Howard Murray contributed a paper on "The Needs of the Fisheries of Nova Scotia." Mr. M. J. Patton one on "Whitefish in the Great Lakes," while Premier Mathieson of Prince Edward Island spoke on the oyster industry in that Province.

Copies of the resolutions passed by the Committee, as well as a list of the members of the Committee are given elsewhere in this issue.

A stenographic report of the meeting was made and will be published in book form early in the autumn.

## FUR FARMING IN CANADA

INVESTIGATION BEING MADE—REPORT TO BE ISSUED

As announced elsewhere in this issue, the Committee on Fisheries and Game, at its meeting on June 4, passed a resolution approving the preparation of a bulletin on *Fur Farming in Canada*.

Mr. J. Walter Jones, B.S.A., a native of Prince Edward Island, who has made a close study of fur-farming in the United States, has been engaged to carry out the work. Mr. Jones will visit as many of the fox and mink farms in Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Ontario, as time will permit. He will make a close study of the condition of the industry including the cost of the farms and the necessary buildings, the number

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Inexpensive Roadway on Residential Street

## Economies in the Construction of Streets

Street planning bears a vital relationship to a city's tax rate. Several European cities have demonstrated the truth of this axiom. In Canada, however, comparatively little attention is given to it. As a result there are many streets in our cities and towns which have roadways either too wide, or of too expensive a construction for the traffic they have to carry. For such errors the ratepayer must foot the bill in increased rents and taxes.

### Nature of Traffic Important

It is first of all, important for a city to study the character of the traffic if its several streets will have to bear. Thus, there are many streets which it is obvious will never be required for heavy or general traffic and where the bulk of the traffic will consist of nothing more than delivery wagons. In such cases it is quite unnecessarily expensive to construct wide paved roadways. The roadway in such cases should be say, twenty feet wide with grassy boulevards, planted with shrubs and trees.

### Building for Future Growth

In cases where the thoroughfare seems likely to become in time a leading street, the roadway should be constructed so that an extension of its width can be accomplished without any great increase in the cost of construction. It is important where this is done to have the trees so placed that it will not be necessary to move them when the roadway is widened. If this work is begun in good time a city can have avenues of trees growing up to beautify the newer streets as the city expands. The experience of German cities would indicate that well kept boulevards, with properly selected and well set shade trees are not at all out of place on a business thoroughfare. Certainly the effect from the aesthetic standpoint is always improved by shady, well kept boulevards.

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Roadway Rather Wide for Residential Street

## Lobster Fisheries of Canada

Sketch of the Industry—Work of the Department of Marine and Fisheries

There are probably 50,000,000 lobsters taken from the coastal waters of Canada every year. During the fishing season, which extends from April 27th to June 30th, roughly, 11,000 men are engaged in actual fishing, and 8,000 people are employed in the 682 canneries. In short, Canada possesses a more extensive and valuable lobster fishery than any other country in the world. Lobster canneries were first established in Canada in 1869, and in that year 61,000 one lb. cans were put up. By 1881 the maximum pack in the history of the industry was reached, when over 17,000,000 pounds were canned. Since that year there has been a decline. In 1898 the production was about 10,000,000 pounds and since 1909 there has been a further falling off.

In addition to the canned lobsters a very important trade is carried on in live lobsters. There is an active demand for live lobsters wherever they can be shipped in cold storage. Anywhere from 100,000 to 120,000 hundredweights of live lobsters are annually shipped by Canadian fishermen.

The Department of Marine and Fisheries has tried a number of experiments in the hope of regulating the lobster fishery with a view to its better conservation. Hatcheries have been encouraged and efforts made to have the fishermen bring the egg-bearing female lobsters to these hatcheries. This has been fairly successful. There are now thirteen lobster hatcheries on the Atlantic coast, and millions of lobster eggs are artificially hatched annually and the young fry planted. This has been found very beneficial, because it saves the destruction of the female lobsters by the fishermen, as well as preserving large numbers of lobster eggs which would be lost if they are deposited in the open sea. There is, however, still a great loss of fry after it is planted. No economical means have yet been devised for preserving the fry until they have reached the grounding stage, before planting. If this could be accomplished, a very great advance would have been made in the conservation of the Canadian lobster industry.