

have definite things to accomplish. The reading of the various articles in this issue will show some of these things, and it is the intention to present the leading issues in concrete form in the *Journal* from issue to issue. The views of those interested in forestry on subjects coming particularly within their ken will be welcomed.

Under the auspices of the Touring Club of France an international forest congress will be held in Paris, France, June 16-20 inclusive. The Government of France is assisting in this work and is inviting representatives from different countries of the world. Two of the leading topics will be, first, co-operation in forestry which will take in the question of relation to agriculture, relation to credit societies, banks, etc.; and, second, the creation of an international forestry bureau similar to the International Agricultural Institute which has its headquarters at Rome.

WANT NATURAL RESOURCES.

At the opening of the Alberta Legislature the speech from the throne concluded with the regret that 'the promises of the federal authorities in regard to the handing over of their natural resources to the prairie provinces has not yet been implemented in the slightest degree. Although requests for conferences on this question have been made, no time has yet been fixed by the federal authorities and I bring this matter to your attention for such action as you may desire to bring in the interests of the province of Alberta.'

TEN THOUSAND A DAY.

Our Dumb Animals.

In Louisiana alone it is reported that during the short season 10,000 robins a day are killed by brutal men and boys. They are shot, clubbed to

death in the trees where they roost at night in great numbers, slaughtered by the wholesale to be sold for a few cents apiece. And yet the robin and its nestlings are perfect gormandizers when it comes to making a meal of bugs and caterpillars, the fledglings eating one and two fifths times their own weight of worms and insects each day. No wonder men speak of many of these little birds as 'worth their weight in gold.' How magnificent the economic wisdom of the state that allows their destruction at the hands of men who sell them for less than an ounce of copper!

WIRELESS FOR FIRES.

Lumbermen of Spokane are seriously considering the adoption of the wireless telegraph as an effective aid in fighting fires in the great forests of the Pacific Northwest. On the success of a test to be made next spring by the Marconi company in one of the forests near Spokane hangs the future of wireless as a means of fighting fire.

Special apparatus will be placed on the trails used by the forest rangers, who will carry emergency aerials to string between two high trees at any point in the woods. By this means it is proposed to have reported to a central station any incipient blazes, so that fire-fighting squads may be rushed to the scene in time to prevent the fire from gaining headway.

The weekly report of the Department of Trade and Commerce of Canada recently contained a paragraph from the Birmingham, England, representative of the Department in regard to sugar manufactured from sawdust. The correspondent stated how Mr. A. Zimmerman described the process. In its natural state, he said, wood contained no sugar, but when sawdust was digested with a weak sulphurous acid solution under a pressure of six to seven atmospheres as much as twenty-five per cent. of the material was converted into sugar. This, he said, made a valuable feeding stuff for horses and cattle. He gave instances showing that the food had been tried with good success in different parts of England.