

Conservation

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Serious Shortage of Anthracite Coal

Strictest Economy Necessary—Wood Fuel Should be Used Wherever Possible

A survey of the coal situation by the Commission of Conservation proves that a coal shortage next winter, and possibly next autumn, is almost a certainty.

Up to June 7th of the present year, the total production of anthracite was only 33,349,500 net tons, as compared with 42,858,000 tons in the corresponding period of 1918, a decrease of 9,500,000 tons, or 22 per cent. It is a fair assumption that the production during 1919 will be less than 80,000,000 tons, whereas the production in 1918 was 99,514,334 tons. If this prediction be verified there will be a shortage of 20,000,000 tons, or 20 per cent. While the production is falling off, retail dealers in the United States continue to be deluged with orders from customers, who are insistent upon prompt deliveries.

The shortage is due to a number of causes, not the least of which is the migration of tens of thousands of Jugo-Slavs, Czecho-Slavs, Hungarians, Poles and other Europeans who are returning to Europe.

In addition, if there is such a serious shortage, we may confidently expect much higher prices for anthracite. Therefore, the Commission of Conservation advises consumers to purchase their winter supply of hard coal at the earliest possible date.

During July, the Commission circularized the towns and villages of Ontario and Quebec, inquiring as to supplies of anthracite and prospects for the coming winter. The returns generally show very limited quantities on hand, while the prospects for a winter coal supply are decidedly pessimistic.

HOW WOOD CAN HELP

Experience has shown that it is altogether feasible to materially relieve the coal shortage by a more extensive use of wood fuel in at least the following directions:—

1. Farmers and rural communities generally, within easy reach of wood supplies, should make as general use of this fuel as possible, to relieve the demands for coal.

2. The general substitution of wood for coal in furnaces and

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Col No. 120.

KEEP THE CHILDREN OFF THE STREET

Until an alternative playground is provided, shall our city children be compelled to spend their play hours and their summer vacation under such conditions as the above? With such a start in life, with such a cramped area in which to secure that exercise necessary to absorb the superfluous energy of youth, we can not expect to find in later life that incentive to do things which is essential to make Canada an A1 home for A1 men and women.

Public safety requires that children be kept off the street. Can children be blamed for exchanging surroundings like the above for the open roadway, even at the risk of life or limb? And yet Canada has land to give away.

SAFETY ON THE STREET

The rapidly increasing number of motor cars and trucks in use on city streets is demanding the more effective enforcement of traffic bylaws. Most of our larger cities have parking restrictions for motor cars, but, as these rules are not closely observed, cars stand for long periods on the streets. This is an extremely dangerous practice, especially if building construction in progress confines the thoroughfare to a narrow limit. In one eastern city, a situation of this nature existed; as it was the main artery for the fire department to reach a portion of the business section, one accident resulted, and many were very narrowly averted.

When municipalities make by-laws they are responsible for seeing that they are carried out. The best time to secure their enforcement is before an accident.

KEEP THE STREETS CLEAN

Drop it anywhere! Nobody cares! Anyway, one little cigarette box, or the wrapper off chewing gum, or the envelope from the letter—surely, one would not call dropping them on the sidewalk, littering the street. But, if each citizen, young and old, drops a paper on the public streets, the cumulative effect will not be pleasant to behold.

In many of our towns and cities, boxes are placed on the streets for the deposit of waste paper. Where such are not available, however, it is no hardship to carry small paper wrappers until they can be properly disposed of. Cigarette and gum containers are not out of place in the pocket until empty: Keep them there, and, for the sake of cleanly appearance of the streets and of that civic pride which is essential to the general prosperity of the home town, keep scraps of paper off the street.

Parliament Takes Drastic Action

Communication of Venereal Disease Made a Serious Criminal Offence

How to control the spread of venereal infection has received the careful consideration of our leading sanitarians, physicians and moralists. The difficulties have appeared almost insurmountable. Venereal diseases stand pre-eminent as a menace to the race, and incidentally to the nation. The physical and social evils following in their wake are well known to the whole medical profession. In Canada for many years these diseases have been permitted to spread under cover, misguided prudishness believing that the effects would work their own cure. We have, however, simply been blinding ourselves, until we have reached a condition little better than that in the Old World, where venereal diseases have played such a prominent part in the lowering of the vitality of the race.

The Commission of Conservation at its meeting in January, 1917, after having brought before the public the serious conditions being established by the rapid spread of venereal diseases, passed the following resolution:

"Resolved, that in view of the prevalence and increasing spread of venereal diseases in the greater cities, and from those centres into the country, and from province to province, and also of the great menace to the health of human kind and future generations of our people, this Commission is strongly of the opinion that the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of venereal diseases is a matter of urgent and grave national concern. This Commission is also of the opinion that the Dominion Parliament and Government should undertake, by means of legislation, or otherwise, such action as will lead to the control and reduction of this scourge."

Some of our provincial health departments have adopted stringent regulations regarding the registration and treatment of venereal diseases, and, at the last session of the Dominion Parliament, drastic action was taken, in an amendment to the Criminal Code, to prevent the spread of such diseases. The amendment is as follows:

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Municipal Salvage of House Refuse

Collection and Treatment of Waste Material to Redeem its Value Yields Good Results

The War has not so much taught us certain things, as it rather has demonstrated facts previously recognized but considered as of little moment, things which in times of peace it would have taken many years of persistent propaganda to awaken an extravagant and indifferent public to the importance of.

Among other questions, that of the salvage of house refuse was not the least important. The most successful, and in many ways, the most advanced municipality in this regard is the Salvage Department of Birmingham, Eng., and a brief study of its successful operation cannot fail to be of benefit now.

Here the question is one of the adoption of new processes of waste prevention and not merely that of waste disposal.

In the matter of treatment of condemned meat and fish, whereby valuable fertilizers and fat are produced, Birmingham has long been active and, recently, a laboratory for analytical and research work has been added with a view to further developments in the treatment of all kinds of refuse.

The results obtained during the war, in connection with the waste paper campaign, unquestionably warrant the continuation of this part of the work of the department. To insure saving the waste paper of the city, and to permit of easier separation of the garbage generally, a system of dual refuse bins has recently been adopted by the Birmingham authorities. One bin, for the reception of domestic ashes and sweepings only, must be provided by the householder; the second is provided gratis by the corporation. This is the salvage bin for all other household wastes, such as rags, tins, bones, scrap iron, paper, glass, etc.

In like manner, the garbage will be collected separately in newly provided electric vehicles, these vehicles being divided into two groups. The ashes, on arrival at the works, will be screened; the fine portion, constituting approximately one-half of the whole, will pass direct into waggons or boats and will be disposed of to mix with heavy clay land; the coarser material will be used as fuel.

The contents of the salvage bins will be sorted and graded. The tins are first de-tinned, then de-shouldered, and subsequently banded by means of hydraulic pressure. The rags are sorted by a mechanical picking belt into cotton and woollens, passed through a mechanical washer, a turbine hydro-extractor and, finally, into a mechanical dryer and then baled.

It may not be possible for Canadian cities to carry on this important work of municipal salvage on the same lines as Birmingham, but there is certainly room for improvement everywhere in the col-

lection, separation and subsequent disposal of the municipal wastes of large as well as of smaller municipalities.

Birmingham has passed the experimental stage, has profited by its own war experiences and is satisfied with its system both from the economic and the hygienic standpoint.—C.A.H.

Serious Shortage of Anthracite

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stoves during early autumn and late spring, as well as during mild weather in the winter, when only a moderate fire may be required. Where wood is to be burned in a stove or furnace intended for coal, it will be found desirable to cover the grate partly with sheet iron or fire brick, to reduce the draught. If this is not done, the wood is wasted, by being consumed too fast, and, while it makes a very hot fire in a furnace, it may damage the fire box.

3. The heating by wood, of churches, lodge-rooms, halls, etc., where warmth for only a limited period of time may be necessary.

4. In many cases, it will be quite feasible to eke out limited stores of coal by burning wood in the daytime, reserving coal for holding the fire over night.

5. Furnaces may be run low, keeping the house in general only warm enough to prevent water pipes from freezing, supplementing this by the use of wood fuel in stoves or grates to keep the living and dining rooms comfortable.

6. Wood can be used much more generally than at present as a substitute for coal in cooking.

7. A great saving of fuel can be accomplished by making windows and doors tight against the entrance of cold air from the outside, through the use of weather stripping, etc.; also, by the insulation of furnaces and pipes with coverings of asbestos and other suitable material.

Bringing the Fire Loss Nearer Home

Amendment to the Criminal Code Established Personal Responsibility for Fires

At the last session of the Dominion Parliament, amendments to the Criminal Code, dealing with the fire waste, were passed at the recommendation of the Dominion Fire Prevention Committee, and following up the suggestions of the Commission of Conservation as contained in the report *Fire Waste in Canada*. The amendments place the responsibility for outbreaks of fire and for failure to provide proper apparatus for the extinguishment of fire or the escape of persons in the buildings in case of fire. The amendments were as follows:

1. Section five hundred and fifteen of *The Criminal Code* is amended by inserting the following subsection immediately before subsection two thereof:—

"(1A). Every one is guilty of an indictable offence and liable to two

years' imprisonment who by negligence causes any fire which occasions loss of life or loss of property.

"The person owning, occupying or controlling the premises in which such a fire occurs, or on which such fire originates, shall be deemed to have caused the fire through negligence if such person has failed to obey the requirements of any law intended to prevent fires or which requires apparatus for the extinguishment of fires or to facilitate the escape of persons in the event of fire, if the jury finds that such fire, or the loss of life, or the whole or any substantial portion of the loss of property, would not have occurred if such law had been complied with.

2. The said Act is further amended by inserting immediately after section five hundred and fifteen the following section:—

"515A. In any case where any fire insurance company which carries any policy of fire insurance on the property, or any Dominion, provincial or municipal fire officer or authority recommends that the owner, lessee or other person controlling or operating any building, structure, factory, shipyard, vessel, dock, wharf, pier, sawmill, or yard in which logs or lumber are stored or alteration in such building, structure, factory, shipyard, vessel, dock, wharf, sawmill, pier or yard, remove any material therefrom, or supply any apparatus therefor, with a view to reducing the risk of fire or for the extinguishing of fire, and such recommendation is approved by any officer in the service of His Majesty, thereto authorized by the Governor in Council, and notice of such recommendation and of such approval thereof has been served personally upon or forwarded by registered mail to such owner, lessee, or other person, and such owner, lessee or other person refuses or neglects to forthwith carry out such recommendation, such owner, lessee or other person shall be liable upon summary conviction to a fine not exceeding one thousand dollars, or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding six months, or to both fine and imprisonment."

At the meeting of the Dominion Fire Prevention Committee at Ottawa on May 9, Mr. G. D. Findlayson, the honorary secretary, and Superintendent of Insurance, interpreted the first clause of the amendment as follows:

"Under the first clause, any person upon whose premises fire occurs is deemed to have caused the fire by negligence if he has failed to comply with any regulations designed to prevent fire. Non-compliance is the proof of negligence, and this is a question of fact to be determined by a jury. Notification of a breach of the law is not provided for, as every person is presumed to be familiar with the law."

This drastic legislation should be given widespread publicity, as it will have a most important bearing upon the enormous fire losses of Canada, as well as upon the great loss of life therefrom.

Object Lessons in Mothercraft

Science of Rearing Babies Taught During Girls' School Life

One elementary school in East London teaches mothercraft to the older girls. It is a Jewish school, and is certainly an example worthy of emulation by the schools in this Dominion. The head mistress states that the pupils "are awakened to the fact that there is a science in rearing babies. In addition they learn to respect their mothers more for nursing their babies." We need more of this respect for parents in Canada. The programme is, briefly, as follows:

Time Spent: During the last year of the girl's school life (13-14 years), one hour a week for six months is spent on definite lessons in infant care. In addition, two visits, each lasting about two hours, are paid by every girl to a local day nursery.

Theory: In preparation for the work, the science lessons preceding the infant care lessons include the physiology of the adolescent girl. Physiology is taught for a year, one hour a week.

The infant care lessons include care of the mother, how to feed, clothe, wash and instil good habits, and the treatment of minor ailments of infants.

Practical Work: At the Crèche the work includes weighing, bathing, dressing, preparing bottles and barley water. The girls also prepare the food and feed the children and play with those from two to five years of age.

It is admitted that the standard of maternal care in East London is highest in Jewish homes. No wonder!

Solomon said of the Jewish mother: "Her price is far above rubies; strength and honour are her clothing; she openeth her mouth with wisdom and on her tongue is the law of kindness; she looketh well to the ways of her household and catcheth not the bread of idleness; her children arise up and call her blessed; her husband also."

CONSERVATION OF SALMON

The reduction in the run of salmon in the rivers of British Columbia has greatly increased the utilization of the fish. When the runs were large, some canneries merely used the large or central portion of the body, the remainder being sold as offal to the fish reduction works, to be converted into and guano, or thrown away.

The canneries report that, at present, nothing is wasted in any species of salmon, as the supply is not equal to requirements. The backbone is never cut out, and the flesh is used as close to the head and tail as possible.

This closer utilization is a measure offsets the shortage of fish and increases the supply which would otherwise be available.

**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 proper conservation, and the publication of timely articles on planning and public health. The newspaper edition is printed on one side of the paper only, for convenience in clipping for reproduction.

OTTAWA, AUGUST, 1919

A CHALLENGE

"...if we can find anyone loyal enough to the interests of the Dominion to enforce the law."

In the above words, Mr. W. H. Shapley, chairman of the Dominion Fire Prevention Committee, has issued a challenge to the Canadian people—individually and collectively—on our standing in the matter of the enforcement of the law.

The occasion was the meeting of the Dominion Fire Prevention Committee in Ottawa, on May 9 last, and Mr. Shapley's remarks, contained in the minutes of the meeting were:

"In these days when so much money is needed to meet expenditures incurred by the war, it is the short of criminal to waste \$5,000,000 a year by fire. If half this loss can be prevented, this committee will accomplish a splendid piece of work. The change that has been made to the Criminal Code should have a good effect, if we can find anyone loyal enough to the interests of the Dominion to enforce the law."

LIGHTING ESSENTIALS

Efficiency in lighting promotes good work in offices, factories, stores and wherever work is carried on indoors. It improves the quantity and quality of the work turned out, while inefficient lighting is known to be a cause of eye-strain and headache and thus to be prejudicial to health. It may also be a fruitful source of accidents.

The lighting of buildings must be considered from two aspects, (1) the distribution of daylight admitted through windows and (2) artificial lighting.

As regards daylight, the best method is undoubtedly through skylights, so that all parts of the rooms are lighted about evenly and the light is uniformly diffused. For this reason, many modern factories have been built of only one storey. Owing to high land values and other considerations, such buildings are not always possible. But much can still be done by proper arrangement of work-tables, etc., with relation to the windows. The shadow of the worker's body, head or hands should not to be thrown upon his work. Often it may be necessary to supplement the daylight by

artificial light which is kept burning all day, but this is a wasteful condition to be avoided wherever possible.

Artificial light has this advantage over daylight, that it is absolutely under our control. One should not imagine that mere brightness or quantity of light constitutes good illumination. On the contrary, a glare is unpleasant and injurious to health. For large areas of work, the light should be overhead and as uniformly diffused as possible, direct glare being avoided by the use of frosted globes. For example, such lighting would be suitable for warehouses. But for some operations, the light needs rather to be focused on the work, for example, for office work, where usually all that is necessary is a desk-light which illuminates the paper without shining directly into the eyes of the worker.

An English author gives the following five tests for good illumination:

1. It must furnish the user sufficient light so that he can see;
2. It must be so placed that it does not cause the user's eyes to change the size of the diaphragm when ordinarily using the light;
3. It must be steady;
4. There shall not be any polished surfaces in its vicinity that will reflect an unnecessary bright spot anywhere that can be seen by the eyes of the worker;
5. It must be protected so that it does not shine in the eyes of some other worker.

The Fur Resources of the Northland

An Exceedingly Valuable Asset among the Natural Resources of the Dominion

"Our fur-bearing resources are very extensive in what are known as the 'barren lands', but which are in no sense barren lands, because no barren land can sustain the animal and plant life that these lands sustain. In that district, therefore, there are tremendous possibilities of greater fur-bearing and, indeed, meat-bearing development. I think it was Seton Thompson who fixed the number of caribou of that country at very many millions, and that it was Mr. J. B. Tyrrell who referred to them as being like the sands of the sea, not capable of being numbered, but only to be estimated numerically on a square-mile basis. It is impossible to conceive that we are not going to do something to extend the geography of Canada, so far as civilization and utilization are concerned, nearer to the Arctic, and make use of these vast domains which, while not comparable with the rest of the Dominion, will, if properly administered, become an exceedingly valuable asset among the natural resources of Canada."

Hon. Arthur Meighen, at the Conference on Wild Life Protection of the Commission of Conservation.

Full Utilization of Water Powers

Conserving Water and Regulating Flow on Streams is Important Problem for Canada

A water conservation work of vast importance is that at present under construction at Big Eddy, on the Spanish river, Algoma district, Ont., for the International Nickel Co. The conservation dam will raise the level of the river 100 feet, and will create a lake with an area of 15 square miles. Combined with the storage in the upper third of the Spanish River watershed, it will increase the minimum flow to over 1,800 cubic feet per second, or almost three times the natural low-water flow, viz., 675 cubic feet per second. It will also create a power site where 15,000 h.p. can be continuously developed.

The engineer who designed this work, Mr. Henry Holgate, of Montreal, in reporting on the matter to the Commission of Conservation, states that:

"When this work is complete, the waters of the Spanish river above the township of Hymnan will be conserved to their full extent, and this will be one of the most complete systems of water conservation in Canada.

"Conserving water, and regulating flow on our streams, is one of the most important subjects we have before us, and merits the co-operation and assistance of the Government, as it should be a cardinal principle in power development that the full efficiency of the water in the watershed be made use of, and this cannot be done unless carefully considered systems of storage are provided, so as to equalize the flow as nearly as possible throughout all seasons of the year."

Parliament Takes Drastic Action

(Continued from page 31)

"316A. (1) Any person who is suffering from venereal disease in a communicable form, who knowingly or by culpable negligence communicates such venereal disease to any other person shall be guilty of an offence, and shall be liable upon summary conviction to a fine not exceeding five hundred dollars or to imprisonment for any term not exceeding six months, or to both fine and imprisonment."

"Provided that a person shall not be convicted under this section if he proves that he had reasonable grounds to believe that he was free from venereal disease in a communicable form at the time the alleged offence was committed.

"Provided, also, that no person shall be convicted of any offence under this section upon the evidence of one witness, unless the evidence of such witness be corroborated in some material particular by evidence implicating the accused.

"(2) For the purposes of this section, 'venereal disease' means syphilis, gonorrhoea, or soft chancre."

CARE OF THE TEETH

It is a peculiar physiological fact that at birth the jaw contains the already calcified crowns of the temporary teeth and also that of the first molar of the permanent set. This fact alone is sufficient to direct attention to the care with which the mother should diet herself during the prenatal period.

The next interesting physiological fact is that, at the age of six years, the child has a greater number of teeth than at any other age, there being then the milk set and all the permanent set except the wisdom teeth.

To ensure that both sets of teeth shall be normal and healthy it is essential that there be most careful feeding of the infant and child, for any condition causing malnutrition will interfere with the proper formation of the cap of dentine and permanent defects will result. Defective dentition causes the teeth quickly to become carious after being out.

The health of the child requires that the temporary set should be sound, otherwise it cannot properly perform the process of mastication. The lowering of the vital functions of the child results on the permanent set of teeth and too often they reach the surface in a diseased condition.

It will not do to feed the baby on patent foods, cabbage, fried fish, etc., the same food that the parents eat, as it ruins the digestive apparatus and results in bad teeth. It is a fact that children's first teeth decay soon after they appear and, from growing beside the bad first teeth, the second set decay too.

It is therefore essential that proper attention be given to the careful and systematic cleaning of the teeth night and morning. Indeed the mother should anticipate trouble by a careful wiping of the child's mouth before the teeth appear, using either a solution of boracic acid or of salt. With the appearance of the teeth a soft brush should be used in place of the clean linen wipe.

As all decay begins on the outside of the tooth and works inwards and no pain is complained of until the decay gets near to or actually reaches the live part of the centre of the tooth, parents should systematically examine their children's teeth and, thus, by early dental treatment, save the live part of the teeth, remembering that treatment is necessary although there may be no toothache with the decay.

As to the decay of teeth, matter forms and, in most instances, passes into the digestive tract. This poisons the system—in adult life a similar condition occurs in pyorrhoea and, as a result, debilitating diseases follow.

We should therefore resort to preventive measures in the care of the teeth—give the teeth work to do, keep them clean and continue with systematic dental supervision.

Twenty-five per cent of the diseases of adults are traceable to the teeth.

Helping the Forest Renew its Youth

Replanting of Forests to Sustain the
Pulp and Paper Industry

Perhaps the largest reforestation scheme ever undertaken in Canada is being carried out in Quebec this year. The Laurentide Company, of Grand'mère, is planting over 1,000,000 seedlings, mostly Norway spruce, with some white, Scotch and jack pine and balsam. The Riordon Company, of St. Jovite, is also planting about 750,000 seedlings. Much the greater number of the seedlings used are imported from forest nurseries in the United States, which, in turn, procured the seed some three or four years ago from Northern Europe.

These companies hope soon to plant every year at least one tree for every one removed by them. Naturally, such a large scheme of reforestation demanded the building up of a large organization, as well as the carrying out of much experimental work, all of which involved a large outlay of capital. It goes without saying that such a task would not have been undertaken if the men who control the companies were not convinced that it was a good investment, and that only by such means could their deforested lands be made productive before their available supplies of timber were exhausted. Forest culture presupposes long-term investments and, consequently, the necessity of a minimum outlay in land and preliminary expenses. For this reason it is generally considered to be an undertaking which governments can handle to better advantage than can private corporations or individuals. The Quebec companies, however, have acquired considerable areas of cheap land in fee simple. They established their own nurseries and these will be gradually enlarged until they will furnish sufficient seedlings to keep pace with the planting. As practically no seed of Canadian trees is now obtainable, it is being imported from Europe, but in time it should be possible to obtain native seed. It is, for example, not yet definitely known how Norway spruce will grow under Canadian conditions. A vast amount of experimental work, requiring several years' time, will be necessary to decide this point. In order to avoid any delay, the companies are engaging in this experimental work in co-operation with the Commission of Conservation co-incidentally with their planting.

It is to be regretted that the several provincial governments which have control of their forests should permit great areas of cut-over forest lands to remain idle until the time has been reached when private enterprise "must" undertake the task in order to prevent the decline of the timber and pulp industries. The provinces might well learn from the peoples of Europe, who have been practising state forestry for more than a century. It is long past the

time for heeding the warnings of those who, for more than a generation, have been pointing out the menace of permitting a great national resource to become depleted. Anyone who now prates about "Canadian forests being" "vast beyond comprehension," "illimitable", or "inexhaustible" should be regarded as an enemy of the country.—A.D.

Defective Leather.

It is a common experience that the soles of boots and shoes of a given thickness have different degrees of durability. Doubtless not a little of the difference in the quality of the leather is due to the way which the hide was tanned, or whether the hide was from a healthy animal; but there is a type of defect sometimes noticeable in the leather from the tanned hides of bulls, buffaloes, oxen, or cows, when it is cut with a sharp knife, that the ordinary manufacturers of belting and of boots apparently know nothing about. The nature of the defect is that, instead of the leather appearing uniform in texture and quality through its thickness, it is streaky, one or more layers of fleshy or horny streaks being seen on the cut surface or section. The cause of this defect is that when the growing animal has an illness its coat is affected, it loses its usual lustre, and a layer of inferior hide is put on. Such leather must be regarded as wasteful, whether it be used for boots or for machinery belting, etc.—"Wealth from Waste," Spooner.

Carelessness in Marketing is Costly

Attention to Appearance Tends to
Greater and More Rapid Sales

Booksellers state that one of the first essentials in introducing a new novel is an attractive cover.

This same consideration holds good no matter in what line of commerce it may be applied. Two market gardeners stand side by side, one has his vegetables washed, neatly trimmed, if necessary tied up in bunches, and in every way presentable. The other has economized in time at home, with the result that his supplies are anything but appetizing. In competition with his careful and cleanly market neighbour, he always loses. His rival will secure better prices and will be sold out much earlier.

Canada produces more than sufficient for the wants of Canadians. One thing is often lacking, however, and that is attractive marketing of the product. In many cases, imported fruits and vegetables are being sold, to the detriment of local products, due entirely to the lack of appreciation of the selling value of appearance.

The green vegetable season is now at its height. If this produce is presented in attractive condition it will greatly increase the sales, thus reducing to a large extent the large amounts which annually go to waste. The results would be worth the effort.—J. D.



Call No. 181
A YARD IN PRICE'S LANE, TORONTO. NOTE HOUSE AND STABLE IN BACKGROUND

Cleaning of Slums is Urgent Problem

Health Authorities have the Powers—
Will they Use them?

Modern town-planning schemes are most excellent, as, by their establishment, they will tend to improve conditions and provide better homes for certain classes of our people; they will also relieve the congestion which occurs amongst those who cannot afford what to them is a luxury in housing accommodation.

We desire to emphasize at the present time, however, the necessity of action for the immediate improvement, and the putting into better sanitary condition, of the homes of the masses—those who,

during their lifetime, will, perhaps, not receive any benefit; in other words, they, and probably many of their offspring, will succumb while waiting for the dawn of the long-promised day when they are to occupy a good healthy home.

That these are not idle words is quite evident from the finding of the Royal Commission on Industrial Relations. In its report of June 25, 1919, it says:

"Another cause of unrest, which we met with at practically every place we visited, was the scarcity of houses and the poor quality of some which did exist. . . . The existing condition for the worker is not only the absence of sufficient housing accommodation, but the inadequacy of those that are in existence.

Poor sanitary conditions and sufficient rooms are the chief complaints. . . . Some new should be adopted, with as little delay as possible, to remedy the defect."

"Poor sanitary conditions in insufficient rooms" are emphatically the "chief complaints" respect to the homes of the workers in our factories and workshop but it is equally true of millions of thousands of our people who do come within this class. Our slums can and should be improved. These homes must be the abode, for a long time, of those condemned for various reasons, to be the occupants. From such homes come the many funerals of babies and infants, and it is in these places we are raising the immediate men and women of Canada.

Therefore, the suggestion of the Commission is most opportune, viz., "means should be adopted with as little delay as possible, to remedy this defect." The only criticism that can be made is the recommendation is not strong enough. The subject was worth of further elaboration when considering industrial relations as the "unrest" of to-day.

The work of modern town planning and housing must be continued, but health authorities must more determinedly than ever carry on their battle with the slums. If we cannot demolish them because of lack of better accommodation we can and should improve the interior and exterior of our slum homes. Rags, when clean, are not a disgrace, provided the wear cannot afford better apparel. It would be much better to have clean rooms and clean environments in the slum quarters than allow people to exist in squalor and dirt such as the illustration herewith depicts.

That Canadian municipalities are at fault in this matter is quite evident from the report on undesirable living conditions in "the Ward", Toronto, issued by the Bureau of Municipal Research in 1918.

The reader has but to study the illustration and therein find food for thought and convincing evidence that action—immediate action—is necessary in Toronto that the slums of that city be removed or abated.

Health authorities must initiate and energetically carry on a campaign to clean the slums, until such time as they can be eliminated altogether. This will result in a lessened infant mortality, and less disease and suffering; a gradual education of the slum dwellers in all that appertains to better social conditions, and life by the social worker will also become possible. It is only a temporary measure, awaiting the brighter era of the slumless city, but it must be done with as little delay as possible.

We must bear in mind that Canada has its devastated areas equally as important to rehabilitate as those of France and Belgium, and what is more serious they are of more than recent origin.