

Conservation

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Waste of Natural Gas in Canada

Relative Efficiency of Gas and Steam Engines—Waste at Wells Should Be Prevented

Much has been written about the saving effected by using natural gas in gas engines to generate power, instead of burning the gas under boilers to generate power from steam. Experiment has shown that the amount of gas required per hour, for the development of one horse-power, varies from 9 cu. ft., with the highest type of large internal combustion engine, to 130 cu. ft. with the ordinary steam engine. In other words, the efficiency of the gas is over fourteen times as great when used in gas-engines as when used for generating steam under boilers.

It has also been suggested, in other countries, that provisions be made for preventing the use of natural gas for such purposes as lime and brick burning, etc., in order to conserve this ideal and economic fuel for domestic and other less wasteful industrial purposes, for which, owing to its nature, it is especially useful.

Reckless Waste in Canada

We, in Canada, need not at present consider the above refinements in the use of natural gas. Such a course, particularly in Western Canada, would seem like trying to stop a leak in the bung before "heading" the barrel.

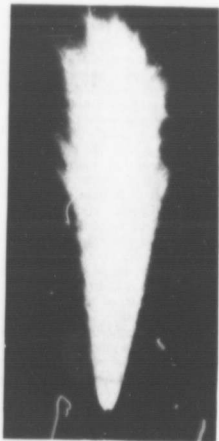
Natural gas rights in the provinces of Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and North West Territories are disposed of under Dominion laws. These laws make no provision for preventing the waste of natural gas, and the consequence is that considerable waste occurs.

The importance of natural gas in Alberta may be realized when it is considered that a company is now

Teaching Buyers How to Test Eggs

What Kansas is Doing to Improve the Quality of Eggs Marketed

Kansas has a college for egg buyers. It was started by Prof. W. A. Lippincott, of the Kansas State Agricultural College in an endeavour to raise the standard of eggs marketed. The students are full-grown men—egg-buyers from all over the State. The school moves about from place to place.



The photograph illustrates how natural gas is being wasted under existing laws. This burning gas well is situated within 165 miles of Edmonton, so that it is some twenty miles nearer to that city than are the Bow Island wells to Calgary. Edmonton is not yet supplied with natural gas.

pipng natural gas from Bow Island to Calgary, a distance of 175 miles. In addition to supplying Calgary, the company has branch lines to Lethbridge, MacLeod, Granum, Nanton, Claresholm, Brooks and Okotoks.

The province of Ontario has reduced the waste of natural gas to a minimum by causing all abandoned wells to be plugged and by levying a tax of two cents per thousand feet, with a rebate of 90 per cent. when the gas is used.—W.J.D.

It was first opened at Wichita, where forty-seven egg-buyers attended.

The eggs are graded to a nicety, distinction being made between absolutely fresh eggs, eggs with black rot, eggs with rings, eggs with spots and shrunkened eggs. Professor Lippincott estimates that the farmer who can produce eggs that will stand a strict candling inspection will be able to get three cents a dozen more than the farmer whose eggs prove to be merely seconds under the candling test.—M.J.P.

Prevention of Railway Fires in Quebec

Special Patrols to be Established by the Railway Companies

The province of Quebec has taken a very advanced stand with regard to the prevention of fire along railway lines. For the control of the fire situation along lines having Dominion charters, the Hon. Jules Allard, Minister of Lands, has entered into a co-operative arrangement with the Railway Commission for the handling of inspection work under the regulations of Order 16570, which provide for the establishment of special patrols by the railway companies, the reporting and extinguishing of fires by railway employees, and the regulation of the burning of inflammable material along rights of way during the fire season. The control of the fire situation along Provincial chartered railways is most effectually provided for through the recent issuance of a general Order by the Quebec Public Utilities Commission. The provisions of this Order are substantially identical with the Order of the Dominion Railway Commission. Provision is made in the provincial Order for the appointment of a fire inspector, with authority to prescribe the measures to be taken by the railway companies.—C.L.

FIRE INSURANCE A TAX

The payment of a fire insurance premium, fundamentally considered, is the payment of a tax. The supervisors of this taxation are the fire insurance companies, who make the assessments upon which this tax is collected—not haphazardly, but upon a scientific basis—administer the funds and for their remuneration retain, by way of commission, what remains over from the premiums collected after they have paid all the claims upon them for future losses and paid their expenses.

For what purpose is the fire insurance tax? For the purpose of distributing over a large part of the community, the losses which happen to fall upon one individual. Fire insurance is, in fact, under another aspect, a system of co-operation. Losses which would ruin one man if he had to bear them by himself are borne with comparative ease, when distributed pro rata throughout the community. This co-operation does not, of course, replace capital which has been destroyed by fire; that is an impossibility. Merely there is a distribution of the loss. The actual loss of

Preventive Medicine

A New and Important Profession—Its Possibilities of Usefulness

Modern cities have been made possible, in large measure, through advances in transportation. Their continuance will depend, to a large degree, on sanitary engineering. Fortunately, the science of bacteriology, and preventive medicine generally, have made possible great advances in municipal sanitary practice. The day when the family doctor can be considered to possess the hygienic wisdom of the town or the city, is well nigh passed. In his stead men are being trained in the larger universities in mechanical and biological engineering, with a view to preparing them to prevent disease. Such training involves mathematics; statistics relating to the sick and the dead must be constantly and daily used, in order to show what forces of disease are at work, and where the attack is next likely to be made. It involves engineering; for the public must be provided with properly ventilated buildings, pure water, and clean streets. It involves chemistry; for the people must be protected against adulterated foods. It involves bacteriology; for infectious diseases must be traced and antitoxins provided. Then, too, the health officer should make his department an educational centre, to which the people can safely look for guidance in all hygienic matters. Sanitary engineering is a new and promising profession. Its advance will make disease epidemics municipal and national disgraces, and will vastly improve the conditions of life in the modern city.—A.D.

Pollution of Waterways

Two important bills are now before the Federal Parliament. Both have to do with the prevention of the pollution of navigable waters by sewage and by industrial and other wastes. One of the bills, sponsored by Mr. Bradbury, is at present in progress in the House of Commons; the other has been presented to the Senate by Senator Belcourt. The bills are very similar in all essential points and the disgusting and disease-producing practice of polluting streams and waterways will, in all probability, be made illegal within the course of a few months.

wealth caused by the fire to those who pay fire insurance premiums and to the nation as a whole, remains. Nothing can replace that.—The Shareholder.

Care is Needed in Planting Trees

Causes of Failure in Planting—Points to be Observed in the Handling of Nursery Stock

How many attempts at planting shade or ornamental trees have been failures, in whole or in part, and how many times is the tree-planter at a loss to understand the cause of his failure? The following discussion by Dr. B. E. Fernow, Dean of the Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto, will throw much light on this problem, and should assist many who will plant trees next spring or fall.

The first cause of trouble and of death in transplanted trees is not infrequently to be found in the ignorance and lack of care exhibited before and during transplanting. Many trees set out are dead or are doomed to death before they reach the plant hole. *Transplanting a tree from one site to another is a surgical operation during which the patient needs special attention.*

Feeding System Impaired

It is rarely, if at all, possible to take up all the fine rootlets with their root-hairs intact; these adhere closely to the soil particles, hence, in the attempt to remove them, a portion of the feeding apparatus is always mechanically destroyed. Next, the delicate root-hairs, and fibrils are apt to dry out when exposed to the air, especially in windy, sunny, dry weather, and thus another portion of the feeding apparatus is lost. Lastly, with larger specimens, the far-lying roots can practically not be reached and a third portion of the root system is cut off. Furthermore, if the plant material is shipped any distance, the vital activities are interrupted, temperature and moisture conditions may be unfavourable during transshipment, and a partial drying out of roots, buds, or foliage is the consequence.

As a result of these losses, the balance between crown and root, between consumption and supply of water, is disturbed, and, unless this balance is at once re-established by pruning at the top and by favourable conditions for replacement of lost parts at the root, a part of the crown must die.

How to Transplant Trees

This trouble may be nearly or entirely avoided by transplanting with a ball of earth, when the root system is not at all disturbed. This is usually practicable only with small trees; as a rule, transplanting is done with the naked roots. Care should then be had to take up as much as practicable of the root system, keeping it intact, using a fork rather than a spade, and keeping in mind that the *root tips are the important part*; then the roots should be immediately protected against drying out by covering with moist soil, wet bagging, moss, etc., and be kept moist until the tree is reset.

If it has not been possible to secure the entire root system prac-

tically intact, then a proportionate amount of the crown system should also be removed by cutting back branches, using at the same time the opportunity for correcting the form. This pruning is best done just before setting the tree, or, more conveniently, at once after setting while the knowledge of the conditions of the root system is still fresh in mind. If it is neglected, parts of the crown will die, and these may not be the parts we are willing to spare. It does not matter much if the pruning at the top is more severe than necessary; sparing the knife unduly matters much more.

Nursery stock, when received, should be opened at once in a shady, cool place and the root packing examined. If it is dry and hot, the chance of securing a living plant is small. Nevertheless, by proper treatment, plants may sometimes be resuscitated; some species especially will stand a good deal of maltreatment and are able to recover. "Heeling" them in deeply in a trench under shade and in fresh soil, and drenching them thoroughly with water, keeping them drenched for a day or two, or even keeping them entirely submerged under water may restore what appeared quite hopeless material. Even if the leaves of conifers have suffered, so long as the buds are still fresh looking, the case is not quite hopeless provided proper care is applied in keeping roots and tips moist, and, especially, if rainy weather sets in.—C.L.

Mine-Rescue Work in Canada

The Commission of Conservation will shortly issue a report on Mine-Rescue Work in Canada. The report which was compiled by W. J. Dick, M.Sc., summarizes from an historical stand-point, the growth of the use of Mine Rescue apparatus in Europe and in the United States. A summary of European and American mine-rescue legislation is given.

British Columbia is the only province in Canada that compels the installation of mine-rescue equipment at coal mines. However, some of the mine owners in other provinces have installed them on their own initiative. These stations are fully described in the report, which is illustrated by excellent half tone plates. The report should arouse a more general interest in the prevention of coal mine accidents in Canada.

A by-law was recently passed by the Council of the city of Toronto, limiting the height of buildings in the city to 125 feet. This is a step in the right direction. It is not too much to hope that the future will see restrictions, limiting the height of all buildings to one and one-half times the width of the street on which they are erected.

The Prevention of Occupational Disease

The Relation of Occupation to Disease—What is Being Done to Make Clear this Relationship

In spite of the importance of industrial processes and labour conditions upon the health of the community, our knowledge and statistical data are meagre, and this is due largely to the following causes:

(1) With few recent exceptions, occupational diseases are not under the law reportable to the health authorities. (2) Physicians are not sufficiently familiar with industrial processes, or even with the processes in trades designated as dangerous, so that they fail to recognize the relation of morbidity to occupation. (3) Statements of occupation on morbidity and mortality records are too general or inaccurate to be of any great value. (4) Inspection of industrial establishments is, as a rule, carried on by men entirely unfamiliar with health matters. (5) There is a lack of realization, both among employers and employees, of the dangers involved in certain processes.

Massachusetts has now for seven years carried on careful investigations on occupational hygiene. In 1907, the late Dr. Charles Harrington submitted a report to the Massachusetts legislature which dealt in a systematic manner with the effects upon the health of operatives in the various industries of Massachusetts. In the same year, a law was enacted whereby the state was divided into 15 health districts and a physician was appointed in each district as State Inspector of Health.

Massachusetts was thus the first state in the Union to recognize that sanitary inspection of factories is essentially a health matter, and should be under the charge of the central authority of the state. During the five years of their work the State Inspectors of Health have carried on extensive investigations in which special attention was given to the health of young persons employed in industrial establishments. As a result, a law was enacted in Massachusetts whereby minors are excluded from trades and processes designated by the state board of health as injurious to health.

What is Needed

To protect the workers from the ill effects upon their health from industrial processes or unsanitary conditions the following measures should be adopted:—

(1) To collect complete and accurate data about industrial processes and about conditions under which the various industries are carried on.

(2) To obtain more accurate and detailed information relative to occupation on morbidity and mortality records.

(3) To instruct the medical student in this important field of preventive medicine by a course of lectures on the more important

industrial processes and the diseases to which they give rise.

(4) To place the specific industrial diseases on the list of diseases notifiable to the central health authority.

(5) To examine periodically all workers in certain industries, these industries to be named by the central health authority.

(6) To exclude minors and women from certain industries which are designated by the central health authority as injurious to health.

(7) To have adequate laws regulating sanitary conditions and protective devices in industrial establishments and to have such laws intelligently enforced.

(8) To have the central health authority issue regulations for certain dangerous trades with instructions to employers and employees how to guard themselves against the ill effects of their work, and to have such instructions posted in the workrooms.

(9) To carry on an extensive educational campaign both among employer and employees as to the value of protective measures and good sanitary conditions.

Town Planning Act

New Brunswick Enacts Important New Legislation

The Town Planning Act passed by the legislature of New Brunswick this year, places wise restrictions on various phases of city and town development. A brief summary of the principal clauses is given herewith:

Any town or city council may prepare a town planning scheme, but before it is acted upon, it must be approved by the Government. Thus, all future developments in the towns and cities of the province are carried out under Government supervision; and ample provision has to be made for suitable traffic highways, proper sanitary conditions, open spaces for parks and playgrounds, the number and nature of buildings per acre, etc.

Local commissioners, appointed subject to Government approval, shall be the responsible authorities for supervising the development of new town areas. These commissioners are given important powers in order to compel conformity to the law, but private rights, when injured, must receive compensation.

It is perhaps unfortunate, that city governments require such paternalistic regulations on the part of the provincial authorities. Past experience has made it plain, however, that such regulations are, in the case of most cities, absolutely essential if cities and towns are to be developed along sane and healthful lines. It would be to the advantage of the other provinces to follow the lead of New Brunswick in this important matter.

Taking Care of Farm Implements

Keeping Implements in Repair—Work for the Winter Months

The care of farm machinery may be treated under three heads: First, housing or protecting from the weather; second, repairing; third, painting.

Housing.—On the average 160 acre farm there will be needed an equipment which will cost at least \$1,000. Let this stand out during each winter and it will not do good work for five years. If well housed, every tool will do good work for 10 to 15 years or longer. An implement shed to house all these implements can be built for \$200. If a \$200 shed will double or treble the life of machinery costing \$1,000, it is a splendid investment.

Repairing.—Repairs should be systematically made in order to have the machines ready for use at the time wanted. It is a good plan, when putting the machines away, to make a note of what is needed in the way of repairs. This note may be attached to the implement. If repairs are needed which must come from the factory, NOW is the time to let the local agent know, so that they can be obtained in time.

The question as to how far to undertake to do repair work on the farm will depend largely upon the personality of the farmer himself and his ability to handle tools and execute the work. With a little training and practice, he can repair all ordinary injuries to the farm equipment, and, as a rule, in less time than it would require to go to the blacksmith shop.

The taking apart of machinery should be avoided, except in cases where it is absolutely necessary to do so. The binder and mower and machines of this class are securely put together in the factory, and if taken apart it is difficult to restore them to their proper adjustments. There are, however, many minor repairs which the farmer can make himself.

Painting.—This is an age when appearances count for much, and a farmer's standing in the community is often governed by the appearance of his farm equipment. Paint not only adds to the appearance of an implement, but acts as a preservative to many of the parts, especially if they are made of wood. Always have the surface dry and clean before applying the paint. As a rule, hand-mixed paints are the best. A good metallic paint may be made by mixing red lead and raw linseed oil.

The use of tools on the farm is of great value as an educational feature, especially when the work is carefully performed. The boys should be encouraged to use tools, and held responsible for their care and the character of the work performed. The tool outfit will be of special service in keeping the boy employed and interested, and contented to remain at home.—F.C.N.

Advanced Method of Selling Timber

A Unique Illustration of Modern Forestry—Perpetual Income from Estate

The sale recently by George W. Vanderbilt of standing timber in Transylvania and Henderson counties, North Carolina, at the purchase value of \$816,000 affords an object lesson on modern forestry methods that is interesting and valuable. The sale involves the timber on 68,000 acres and specifically includes all chestnut more than 14 inches in diameter, all spruce 12 inches or more, and all other timber larger than 16 inches in diameter. The timber thus specified is of the estimated average value of \$12 an acre, and must be cut and removed during the ensuing 20 years. The transaction also provides that the woods involved shall be cleared of slash, thus leaving the ground free from special fire hazard and in a condition to promote the growth of the immature trees left standing. Under this arrangement, it may be assumed that upon the expiration of the 20 years' period or presently thereafter, the forests involved will admit of another contract of substantially similar character and effect.

The transaction may justly be regarded as an epoch-making event in that there are other tracts of large, if not equal, expanse that may be susceptible of a similar system of development. The operation of such a system, so far as it hereafter may be found practicable, will be to conserve the timber supplies of the country, and, to a like extent, moderate the prevailing apprehension of the impending timber famine. On the other hand, however, it will be reflected that not many such tracts are available for such a purpose and that there are not many George W. Vanderbilts among the timber owners of the country. The incident is otherwise significant in that the same or adjacent timberlands were, as late as 1900, sold at \$2.50 an acre, including the land and, of course, all of the timber.

Suggestions for Civic Improvement

The time seems opportune for municipalities to seek, through their civic improvement committees, such legislation as would facilitate desirable civic improvements. This legislation might include, amongst other enactments:

1. Provision for Civic Improvement Commissions in the smaller cities.
2. Provision, applicable to cities smaller than already provided for in the Ontario Act, for the purchase by municipalities of lands required for opening streets, not only sufficient for the streets themselves but for an adequate margin on each side which, after the opening has been completed, can be re-sold as lots, thus producing a revenue to help meet the cost of the improvement.

3. Provision for municipalities to secure streets wider than 66 feet in new sub-divisions when necessary to conform to a town planning scheme.

4. A practical method for any necessary widening of business streets already built up.

5. An adequate control over new sub-divisions so that the layout will conform to modern requirements and so that misrepresentation cannot be practiced. The embodiment of such information as contours and elevations is to be recommended.

6. Provision for the control, by the municipality, through the "Ontario Railway and Municipal Board" of the layout and street-planning features of sub-divisions outside the city limit for a stated distance.—From an Address by C. H. Mitchell, C.E., at Berlin, Ont. Dec. 1912.

Intensive Farming Must Come

Between 1900 and 1910 the number of farms in the United States increased 10.9 per cent. and the acreage in farm land increased only 4.8 per cent. In 1900, the average value of land in farms was \$24.57 per acre; in 1910, it was \$46.04, an increase of 91.4 per cent. during the decade. In 1909, the average value of farm crops per acre of land under cultivation was \$16.30, as compared with \$9.77 in 1899, an increase of \$6.53 per acre. Canada is travelling agriculturally over much the same course as the United States and the time when we, too, shall reach this stage of intensive agricultural development will arrive proportionally much sooner in our national development than it did in the case of our neighbour. The man who recognizes and takes advantage of this trend of affairs will benefit both himself and his country.—M.J.P.

Forest Revenues in Russia

According to a report made by Consul General John H. Snodgrass at Moscow, Russia, the Government forest revenues of Russia last year amounted to \$42,525,810, an increase over the previous year of \$3,912,915. The amount of forest land held by the Government was approximately \$64,025,000 acres. The greater part of the revenue came from forest land in European Russia, totaling about \$39,861,000, or over 95 per cent. of the entire revenue.

The Government forests of the Caucasus occupy an area of about 8,000,000 acres and brought a revenue of \$603,065 in 1911. Siberia and Turkestan, in which the area of Government forest land totals about 228,650,000 acres, brought a total revenue of \$2,054,335. Government forestry department officials in Russia estimate that the net profits from the forest land, in 1911, reached \$28,659,922, or approximately 67 per cent. of the gross revenue.

Farm Wood-Lots

Area is Falling Off in Eastern Canada—Ontario Shows Decrease of over 36 Per Cent.

Farm wood-lots are being steadily depleted in the older portions of Canada. In Ontario, for example, the statistics compiled annually by the Bureau of Industries show that there has been a decrease in area of over 36 per cent. during the past twenty years. Already there are, in some portions of the Province, indications that wood for local uses is becoming very scarce. Planting is being resorted to in places, but so far this has been largely under Government supervision. Such work, will, for many years, be too costly for the average farmer to carry out.

In Quebec, too, there are indications that wood-lots are failing. The provincial government maintains a staff of lecturers and instructors to encourage farmers to take better care of their wood-lands. Further, a Townships Forest Reserves Act was passed in 1911, which aims at providing farmers with timber in districts where it is scarce. Prince Edward Island has also been practically stripped of its once splendid forest cover.

There can be little excuse for such a condition of affairs. Almost every farm contains a piece of poor land that could profitably be maintained in bush. A ten or fifteen acre wood-lot under proper management would supply the average farm with wood, poles, etc., in perpetuity.

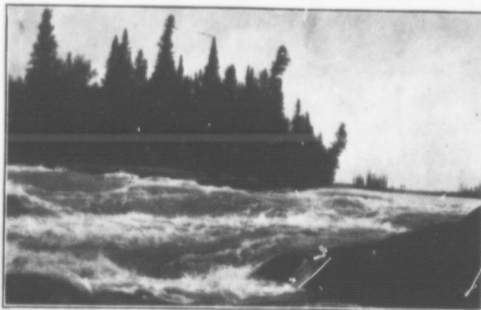
When it is remembered that reforestation is a very slow process, and that it is a problem which will ere long force itself upon the people in many sections, the wisdom of avoiding all unnecessary destruction of wood is plainly evident.—A.D.

Railway Company is Practising Forestry

The Canadian Pacific railway exemplifies the extent to which forestry may profitably be practised by corporations. This Company has reserved from disposal considerable areas of its non-agricultural forest lands in the West as permanent tree reserves. Great care will be taken to protect these areas from fire and the cutting of timber will be done in such a way as to ensure the permanency of the forest as such. In this way, large quantities of timber for the land and other railways will be available annually forever. It is now announced that the same enlightened policy is to be inaugurated in the eastern provinces through the purchase of waste lands along its lines for the purpose of growing timber. This work is to be under the Natural Resources Department of the Railway.—C.L.

During the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1912, Canada exported 58,809 lbs. of home-grown tobacco, valued at \$25,944.

UNUSED POWER ON NORTHERN RIVERS



A View of the Fort Smith Rapids on the Slave River

These rapids are situated at the northern boundary of Alberta, 340 miles north of Athabaska Landing. See article on "Northern Water Powers."



A Rapid in the Peace River Canyon

The photo was taken near the western boundary of the Peace River block in British Columbia, about 122 miles due north of the Grand Trunk Pacific railway. The intervening region is, of course, mountainous.

Canada's Northern Water Powers

Potentialities of Two of the Great Rivers of North-Western Canada

Very little is yet known of the value of the natural resources of Canada's far Northwest. Explorers have, from time to time, described, in general terms, the great rivers, such as the Mackenzie, the Athabaska, the Slave and the Peace. In still more general terms, the forests and mineral resources, and even the agricultural possibilities, have been described.

During the past two summers, the Commission of Conservation has had its Hydro-Electric engineer at work gauging streams and examining possible water-power sites in this region. Two of the rapids thus examined are described herewith:

Fort Smith Rapids

The Cassette, Mountain, Pelican and Drowned rapids, collectively known as the Fort Smith rapids, are situated on the Slave river and extend from Smith Landing to Fort Smith, a distance of some 16 miles.

The various rapids, whose descents, taken separately, vary from 10 feet to 38 feet, may be considered as a continuous rapid from head to foot, broken by short intervals of swift water, giving a total descent, in the 16 miles, of some 135 feet.

It would probably be difficult to group all these rapids into one development, although it would be very desirable to do so from the standpoint of conservation, but numerous islands and projecting points from the mainland afford natural conditions for easy development.

The volume of water in these rapids is enormous, being the combined flow of the Peace and Athabaska, and their tributaries, with one of the great northern lakes, lake Athabaska, acting as a reservoir to regulate the flow. The total power available during the season of navigation (May to November), by utilizing the total head of 135 feet, is estimated at 1,000,000 h.p.,

and is divided among the different rapids in proportion to the head in each. Raw material for pulp and lumber industries is found all along the river and at the rapids.

Peace River Canyon

The Peace River canyon has long been renowned for the wild character of its waters, and no white man or Indian, be he ever so experienced in river work or egged on by foolhardiness, ever attempts to run its rapids. Rafts or boats which, by carelessness or otherwise, are allowed to drift past its upper gates are never seen again, being engulfed by some of its many powerful whirlpools. It is little wonder that the so great when one considers, as has recently been ascertained, that the descent from head to foot is some 225 feet in a distance of less than 18 miles. This immediately suggests its possibilities as a water-power development.

The total minimum power available during the open-water season (May to November) is estimated at 400,000 h.p. This is based on the assumption that the total head of 225 feet can be utilized. Its development for water-power purposes will involve rather intricate problems, but to compensate for this, one must consider its situation near the raw material for pulp and lumber industries. It is also at the head of navigation of the Peace river and lying adjacent to it are immense coal fields, a large portion of which have already been staked out.—L.G.D.

WANT MERIT SYSTEM IN FORESTRY SERVICE

On December 6, a delegation representing the Canadian Forestry Association urged upon Premier Borden and the Minister of the Interior, that all appointments to the outside Dominion Forest Service be based on capability and experience ascertained by examination conducted by the Civil Service Commission. These representations are the result of recommendations made at the last meeting of the Association held at Victoria, B.C.—M.J.P.

National Aspects of Public Health

Present Organization Incomplete and Inefficient—Re-organization Essential

The fathers of Confederation apparently knew little, and certainly thought less, of health matters than they did of the political and economic factors which make for national existence. This is not to be wondered at, for in the early sixties of the nineteenth century but little attention was given to health questions by the governments of the older countries. As an indication that health questions were considered as coming under the purview of the Federal Government, it is of interest, as it is of importance, from the standpoint of those who believe that Public Health is a national question, to note that, for several years following Confederation in 1867, public health questions were handled directly by the Government at Ottawa. Unfortunately for the people of Canada, the question was relegated to the Provinces, not by any direct legislation, but by the inertia which existed at headquarters, or rather, by the failure on the part of the Dominion Government to fully realize that health was as important as agriculture, commerce and the many other activities, which go to make for the greatness of a people.

Present Status of Health Affairs

The position of health affairs in the Dominion at the present time, is that the Dominion Government controls the quarantine service at the head of which is the Director General of Public Health, who is an officer under the Minister of Agriculture; the so-called medical inspection of immigrants is in the hands of the Minister of the Interior, while the inspection of food is by statute supposed to be administered from the office of the Minister of Inland Revenue.

A glance at the situation of the Federal Government, will reveal

the fact that in every instance the medical work of each department is a mere side issue to a mass of other official work handled by the Deputy Minister who, when he comes to deal executive with a medical subject, is handling something of which he has no technical knowledge and, therefore, cannot be expected to pass thereon in an intelligent manner.

What is within reason and will give the desired results, is not so much a Minister of Health as the bringing together of the scattered and isolated medical and health units which are to be found in the federal service, and co-ordinating them under a Deputy Minister of Health. There is fully enough work even now for the employment of such federal officer, and if he is given that which the Commission of Conservation of Canada has recommended, viz., a Federal Laboratory, which would be the workshop and centre around which and in which the medical members of the staff could gather, work, and be trained, it is not indulging in any idle prophecy to say that there would be such a stimulus given to health work throughout the whole Dominion as has never been witnessed under the present method of disorganization.—C.A.H.

To Study Farm Finance

The United States is sending a commission to Europe to study agricultural finance. It will sail on April 26 next and will be absent three months. From two to five delegates from each state will accompany the commission. Canadian provinces are making application for representation and arrangements have already been made with Premier Scott to have Saskatchewan represented.—M.J.P.

In making tons of lead pencils, Europe has depended on the imports of American cedar. A firm in one German city has made 300,000,000 lead pencils a year from this cedar.