(onservation

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Canada's Inland

Large Lakes of the Middle West Which are only now Being Appreciated

Comparatively few persons have any adequate appreciation of the extent and value of the great inland water resources of portions of Canada. In this connection a few brief statements, respecting the lake of the Woods watershed will be of interest.

The area of the lake of the Woods is 1,485 square miles. The area of Rainy lake is 345 square miles. Lake Winnipeg has an area of some 9,400 square miles, which is about 2,000 square miles larger than lake Ontario.

The area of the lake of the Woods watershed, 26,750 square miles, is only about five per cent less than the area of the province of New Brunswick.

What is known as the Lake of the Woods Investigation is being conducted by the International Joint Commission, under the Boundary Waters Treaty, of 1909, between Great Britain and the United States. The chief purpose of the investigation is to secure the most advantageous use of the waters of the lake of the Woods and of the waters flowing into and from that lake on each side of the boundary for domestic, anitary, navigation, transportation, fishing, power and irrigation purposes; and also to secure the most advantageous use of the shores and harbours of the lakes and the waters flowing into and from the late.

To indicate the volume of water corresponding even to one foot of depth on some of these lakes, on the lake of the Woods a depth of one foot is equivalent to 41.4 billion cubic feet, while the corresponding volume for one foot of depth on Rainy lake is 9.6 billion cubic feet. Thus, a depth of one foot on the lake of the Woods would supply 1,313 cubic feet per second for one year, while one foot depth on Rainy lake would supply 305 cubic feet per second for the same period.

Canada Pays the Penalty

Carelessness of Our People the Cause of One of the Heaviest Drains Upon Our Resources

An analysis of the fire losses in Canada during 1914, as compiled by the Monetary Times, discloses some interesting conditions. This statement substantiates and verifies the charge that carelessness is the cause of seventy-five per cent of Canada's fire loss.

It would naturally be expected that the greater number of fires would be in factories using power or fires for manufacturing processes, and where accumulations of shavings and other waste are exposed to fire from friction, spontaneous combustion, or other causes.

Such is not the case. By far the greater number of fires were in buildings in which none of these risks occur. Factories contributed only 59 fires; various mills only 12; laundries, 5; engine houses, 1; machine shops, 3; sawmills, 12; foundries, 2; while power-houses, blacksmith shops, canneries and others had a clean record.

Against this and constituting a record which should be a disgrace to any country, were 676 fires in dwellings, 138 barns and stables, 384 stores, 46 hotels, 44 business sections and blocks, 26 warehouses, 18 offices, 11 schools and colleges and 29 sheds.

Some of the causes of the fires were: Electrical defects, 55; lamps and lanterns, 20; defective and overheated stoves, furnaces and chimneys, 113; sparks from chimneys, 41; candles, etc., 6; ashes, 8; matches, 69; cigar and cigarette stubs, 15; defective gas appliances, 21; oil stoves upset and exploded, 13; spontaneous combustion, 18.

All of the foregoing causes may be overcome by the exercise of only ordinary precautions, Not one of them needs to be repeated during the current year. Canada cannot afford to burn up her resources as she has been doing. As in Great Britain, there is need of husbanding all our available assets for the great national work in hand, and it behooves Canadians to make every effort to reduce in a large degree the fires resulting from causes entirely under control.

Storing the runoff in lake of the Woods, Rainy and other lakes can thus exert a marked beneficial influence upon water powers receiving supply from this watershed. The International Joint Commission, in making its recommendations respecting a proposed regulation of the lake of the Woods, will consider the advantage which would result to power interests, and also take into account any disadvantages that may result to riparian owners living in Minnesota or elsewhere, whose lands, bordering on the lake, may, under certain regulations of levels, be subjected to damage by flooding.—A.V.W.

Many houses are burned by sparks igniting clothes or kindling placed near the stove to dry.

RESULTS OF SAFETY WORK

A large United States industry gives the following analysis of accidents in its plant for the first half of 1915. Safety work has been systematically carried out since January, 1915, only, and excellent results have been secured.

In the same period there were 1.168 days' time lost, as a result of accidents, compared with 3,164 days lost in the corresponding six months of 1914.

One of the chief essentials of alone three training been established.'

Technical Training for Fishermen

China and Japan Making Advances in this Important Industry.

At a recent meeting of the Committee on Fisheries of the Commission of Conservation, Dr. J. W. Robertson, C.M.G., gave an interesting address on "Tech-nical Training for Fishermen," deploring the fact that we have no schools in Canada for training fishermen, and giving instances of what European countries are doing. Not only to Europe may we turn for examples, but to Asia as well. Japan has given very great attention to instruction respecting her fisheries, and her neighbour, China, is also rapidly coming to the front, as is shown in a recent China edition of the Manchester Guardian, which says:

"Much has been done by the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce to encourage fishery on the high seas. On April 28, 1914, regulations to promote the fishing industry on the high seas were issued. A sum of \$50,000 was set aside in that year, and this has been made an annual appropriation for the encouragement of the industry. Fishing vessels must be inspected before they can engage in this business. Not a few fishing boats have since been rewarded for meritorious service, and it is expected that more money will be devoted to this purpose.

"The first fishery school was established at Woosung in 1994, by the Kiang-Chi Fishery Co. The Provinces of Chi-li and Mukden followed successively, and the curriculum in these schools was moreled after that of the Woosung school. Besides these schools, there have also been established fishery training schools for the practical improvement of fishing methods. In the third year of the Republic (1914) the Ministry of Agriculture and Commerce started to established in the Provinces of Chi-li, Chekiang, Fengien, Fukien, and Kwang-tung. In the Province of Chekiang alone three training schools have been established."

Conserve all Fertilizer Elements

Valuable Advice on Means for Sustaining the Froductivity of the Soil

A recent United States Agricultural Bulletin says:

'In the unusual conditions existing in the fertilizer trade, it is important that all fertilizing materials on the farm, especially those containing potash, should be con-served. The fertilizer ingredients already existing in the soil should be utilized and developed to the fullest extent. A great deal can be accomplished in this direction by deep ploughing, constant cultivation, and thorough tillage. There should be a proper system of rotation. Especially where one crop has been grown for several years, a different one should be planted this year. Green manures and cover crops should be used as much as possible in their proper rotation.

"Of the organic substances, manure, both solid and liquid, is the most important and should be utilized wherever possible. All material of an organic nature, such as leaves and bedding of various sorts, should be composted and the compost applied to the soil. Special attention should be given also to the conservation of wood ashes. Depending on the character of the wood, they contain potash in quantities varying ordinarily from 3 to 10 per cent. All tree trimmings, brush cuttings, etc., should be burned and the ashes derived therefrom utilized.

"The application of lime to many soils is of undoubted benefit. Though the availability of the fertilizing elements in the soil may not be greatly increased by its use, the resulting improvement in physical and bacterial conditions may increase considerably the productiveness of the

Ruthless Hunting by Stoney Indians

Rocky Mountains Game Threatened with Extinction by Improvident Tribe

To the Stoney Indian, there are two kinds of cattle, that with brand, which belongs to the white man, and that without a brand—the wild game of the Rocky mountains-which belongs to the Stoney. He usually chooses the easiest way of rounding up his wild cattle. He kills moose when yarded up in the winter; he exterminates whole bands of sheep or elk whenever possible; he kills game regardless of age or sex and harries or slaughters it ciations.-C.L.

regardless of season; he makes use of dogs and organizes drives in which the whole camp, men, women and children, participate. In short, the Stoneys are the most serious menace to the wild game of the Rockies and the restriction

of their operations is imperative. Controlling the tribe, It comprises about 500 individuals, living in almost an aboriginal state, and wild meat, with a little flour, sugar and tea forms their entire ration. Mr. W N. Millar, of the Faculty of Forestry, University of Toronto, estimates that the annual slaughter by the Stoneys is probably not less than 2,000 head, of which about one-third is Rocky Mountain sheep and the rest deer and moose. In 1913, he visited eight Stoney hunting camps, and in these alone found that nearly 100 head of sheep had been killed, in addition to numerous deer. About the same time, certain forest officers visited six or eight additional camps and found about an equal number of sheep, with many deer, five elk, some moose and bear In one camp, it was afterwards ascertained that 25 sheep, all ewes and lambs, had been surrounded in a blind valley and completely exterminated.

Fire-Ranging Services

Lack of Field Supervision Not Conducive to Economy

At the fifth annual meeting of the Commission of Conser-vation, Mr. H. R. MacMillan, Chief Forester, British Columbia Forest Service, emphasized the need for thorough supervision to make a fire-ranging system really effective. He stated that, because of lack of field supervision, more money is being wasted in fire protection than is used econo-While this is a broad statement, it is believed that the

facts fully justify it.

Taking both Ontario and Quebec as examples, there is good reason to believe that the amount of co-ordination between the head office and the field is too limited to exercise really adequate supervision over the fire-ranging staffs. The one great secret of the success achieved by the St. Maurice and Lower Ottawa Forest Protective Associations has been organization. The principal feature of these organizations has been the thorough supervision exercised over the men by the relatively great number of inspectors, all of whom are, in turn, closely supervised from the head office. It is believed that the several provincial governments could materially increase the efficiency of their fire-protection work by taking advantage, in this respect, of the experience of the British Columbia Forest Service and of the St. Maurice and Lower Ottawa Forest Protective Asso-

Stream Pollution

Serious Conditions due to the Discharge into them of Un-treated Sewage

Sewerage and sewage disposal is dealt with thoroughly in a "Water Works and report on Sewerage Systems in Canada, to be published shortly by the Commission of Conservation. The gravity of the problem of stream pollution in Canada is shown by the great number of our inland waters receiving raw or untreated sewage. Particularly is this the case in the eastern portion of the Dominion. In the west we have the excellent example of the Province of Saskatchewan where 80 per cent of the sewerage systems have treatment plants.



Cut No. 31 Sulphite Mill discharging directly

The supply of water to communities is universally recognized as the most important function of inland waters. If these waters are allowed to become polluted, they constitute a grave menace to public health. This may be the case even where filters are employed, as a grossly polluted source of supply may overload the filter. which latter should only be regarded as an additional safeguard in an operation which should begin with the proper treatment of the sewage before it is discharged into any body of water.-L.G.D.

Protecting Game in Dominion Parks

Detection of Offenders now Rendered Certain-Penalties Rigidly Enforced

A stringent and effective system is now in force for protecting game in Dominion Parks. All guns and firearms brought within the boundaries must be sealed by a Government officer and all un- within two thousand feet of such sealed firearms are liable to con- wells.—W.I.D.

fiscation. In addition, all parties travelling through the parks are compelled to register at the office of the Superintendent and to declare their intended routes of This makes it possible travel. to notify the game wardens, who patrol the trails in question, that such a party will be travelling in that direction at a particular time. The wardens are then on the alert and are enabled to follow them up, visit their camps and search for evidence of infractions of the law, thus rendering it very difficult for an offender to escape detection.

Recently, a number of hunters left Banff, in Rocky Mountains park, to hunt big game on the British Columbia side of the mountains. The warden in charge of the trail along which they traveled inspected their vacated camps two days after they had the park and found that they had "cached" two goat heads, evidently intending to pick them brought to Banff, tried before the resident magistrate, convicted and fined. The maximum penalty for killing game in Dominion Parks provides for the confiscation of the entire outfit, packhorses, ponies, guns and camp equipment and, in a case recently tried in Banff, the property confiscated amounted to over \$1,000. Convictions such as these have convinced old-time hunters and residents of the park that the Department intends to enforce the Parks Regulations without respect of persons.

Records of **Bore Holes**

Favourable Action Secured with this Object in View

The Commission of Conservation has repeatedly recommended that records of all holes drilled through coal formations in the West be filed with the Government to protect future coal mining If holes are drilled operations. through coal measures to reach the oil or gas zone below, and. after finding natural gas, the casing is withdrawn and the well abandoned, the gas "feeders" will be of great danger to future coal mining unless accurate records are kept.

In this connection it is of special interest to note that in Alberta an order-in-council was passed last June requiring that all mine plans be made only by persons holding mine surveyors' certi-ficates, under the Mines Act The order-in-council also provided that the mine plans should show the position of gas or oil wells with relation to the workings of any mine which had approached

Commission of Conservation

CANADA

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OTTAWA, FEBRUARY, 1916

FOREST PROTECTION IN CANADA

According to press reports, Sweden proposes to cut off the export of chemical pulp to Great Naturally, all eyes are immediately turned to Canada to supply the threatened deficiency.

The Commission of Conservation has just issued a report on "Forest Protection in Canada, 1913-14," which is of particular which is of particular interest in this connection. It pecting the work of the provincial forest services and of the federal departments intrusted with the care of our forests.

Forest fire protection is assuming a large place in public attention. It is obvious that, if Canada is to continue as a wood-producing country, she must conserve her resources of this natural product. The report treats exhaustively of the fire protection of forest lands along railway rights-of-way. Through co-operative action, great headway has been made in securing the reduction of forest losses through fires traceable to railway

The forests of British Columbia and on Dominion lands in the West have been dealt with in reports containing the results of special studies conducted by Dr. C. D. Howe and Mr. J. H. White. The Trent watershed in Ontario. has also received especial attention, in a report of an investigation by Dr. C. D. Howe in the townships of Burleigh and Methuen. This district is important in that, while of very little value as an agricultural area, it is being re-peatedly overrun by forest fires and the little remaining merchantable timber destroyed. It is suggested that the area be placed under the control of the Dominion Forestry Branch for protection from fires and for reforestation.

Social Conditions on the Farm

Rural Churches can Largely Assist in Keeping Young People on the Farm

During the year 1915, the Commission of Conservation conducted an agricultural survey on 400 The survey farms in Ontario. included 100 farms in each of the Counties of Dundas, Waterloo, Northumberland and Carleton. Various phases of farm life were investigated, and some interesting conditions presented.

Social conditions, and other incentives to keep the young people on the farms are to a great extent neglected, as may be seen from the following report of the

survey.

Ten per cent of the farmers visited have had boys leave and go to the city. Seven per cent have sons married who are farming. Nineteen per cent stated that they were following some form book-keeping, but only one man was following a complete method. Sixty-seven per cent take agricultural papers, seventeen per cent take story magazines, and seventy-seven per cent take a daily paper.

In 53 per cent of the families visited there were young people over 14 years of age while 31 per cent had a horse and buggy or an automobile for the young people. Sixty-one per cent of the farmers attended some kind of community event or events during the past year, chiefly church socials and picnics.

Here it may be stated that the rural churches have a great op-portunity to develop the social side of their activities, to reach more of the young people in the country and interest them in clean amusements, sports and recreations. The local fairs also are prominent among the community events attended by the In Dundas and Carleton counties no organized clubs for games were met with, while in Waterloo, 13 reported a football club, and in Northumberland, six reported baseball clubs. Only one of the 400 farmers visited mentioned attending a literary society. Twenty-five per cent of the homes had no musical instrument of any kind; 39 per cent had pianos.

—F.C.N.

Farm Labour Conditions

Solution of Farm Help Problem in Farmers' Own Hands

Of the 400 farmers visited last summer in connection with the survey conducted by the Commission of Conservation, 15 per may add to their luxuries.

cent employ male help by the year; 11 per cent by the month; 31 per cent by the day; the balance employing it in various Sixty-four per cent employ ways. Canadian born help; 13 per cent British born help, while two per cent employ help of alien birth. A large majority report the labour satisfactory, while four per cent report labour unsatisfactory. Fourteen per cent employ married men but only ten per cent have a house on the farm for the hired man. Unfortunately many of those who have houses are employing single men and only a few cases were found where the farmer employing a married man had a house for him to live in.

It is the general opinion among the farmers who have little or no trouble in securing satisfactory help that the solution of the farm help problem is largely in the farmer's own hands, in wages, treatment and hours.—F.C.N.

Musk-Ox Pelts **Highly Esteemed**

Rare Northern Ruminant Following Buffalo to Extinction-Protection Urgently Needed

Robes made from the skins of musk-oxen are very valuable. As the musk-ox inhabits high latitudes, it has a coat capable of withstanding cold. base of its long, flowing hair is a thick coat of wool, thus making a pelt which is both beautiful and warm. Musk-oxen are not plentiful and as they inhabit the desolate barren lands of the north. the supply is very limited.

The musk-ox is not difficult to kill, as it is not dangerous and does not seek safety in flight. hunted with dogs, the herd will stand at bay as with wolves, presenting an invincible front of horns to their animal foes, but an easy mark for the man with a gun. As a result, musk-ox robes promise to become as rare as buffalo

robes to-day.

The question of the protection of musk-oxen is an important one, in view of their diminishing numbers, the ease with which they may be shot and the high market value of their skins. not to be completely exterminated. the Dominion Government must do as it has done with the buffalo. namely, provide a reserve within which musk-oxen will be absolutely protected at all times. Such a reserve would serve to maintain a nucleus herd, from which the surrounding country could be restocked.

Musk-oxen form an important item in the food and clothing supply of the Eskimos, and we owe it to our northern people, who live in a country where nature is niggard of her resources, to see that they are not deprived of necessaries that our wealthy classes

Depletion of Plant Food

Continuous Cropping Removes Enormous Quantities Fertilizer Must Be Used.

In 1914 the wheat production of Canada amounted to 158,223,000 bushels—the average yield per acre being about 15.37 bushels. Allowing two pounds of straw as removed for every pound of grain, and taking the average analysis of wheat and straw, the following amounts of plant-food were removed from the soil during that year by the wheat crop alone. Nitrogen 300,000,000 pounds Phosphoric acid 95,000,000 Potash 137,000,000

While the virgin soils of western Canada and especially the very deep rich soils of Manitoba, continue for years-and in some cases for many years-to produce heavy yields even under continuous cropping, they are by this process gradually depleted, and as the supplies of plant food become reduced, the signs of exhaustion will be manifested in decreasing returns. As a matter of fact this depletion is already manifesting itself.

To maintain fertility, the valuable constituents taken from the soil must be returned to it. these, as has been mentioned, the most important is phosphoric acid.

In 1913 there were 16,726,400 acres of land under cultivation in the three Prairie Provinces and the depletion per acre annually may be taken as equivalent to the phosphoric acid contained in 60 pounds of high-grade phosphate rock. At this rate 501,800 tons of high-grade phosphate rock would be required each year simply to offset the depletion of the land already under cultivation in Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Al-berta.—W.J.D.

Will Investigate Fire Causes

Municipal Action which Should be Copied by other Cities and Towns

Kenora, Ont., has taken a firm stand in the matter of investigating the causes of fires, and at a recent meeting of the town council the following resolution was adopted:

"Whereas several fires of unknown origin have recently occurred within the town of Kenora resulting in the destruction of considerable property; and whereas it appears to be in the interests of the citizens generally that such fires be investigated; therefore, be it resolved that this Council is of the opinion that fire inquests should be held with respect to all fires of unknown origin."

Permit Systems for Settlers

Clearing Operations Responsible for Starting Many Fires

Slash-burning operations by settlers now constitute probably the greatest single source of forest Sometimes the fire danger. settler merely exercises poor judgment as to the time of setting out a fire, or fails to have enough men on hand to prevent its spread; again the trouble is simply due to carelessness or recklessness In other cases, however, it is only too evident that the destruction of the forest by fire is intended, on the theory that fires facilitate The use of fire is settlement. undoubtedly necessary in preparing agricultural forest land for cultivation, but some means of controlling this situation is essential to efficient forest protection on adjoining lands. The most satisfactory method so far discovered is the system of prohibiting the setting out of clearing fires except under permit issued by a government officer. Reports from British Columbia and Quebec, as well as from a number of States, show that this system has proved a notable success wherever given a fair trial, and that the cost is reasonable. The adoption of the permit system in certain portions of Northern Ontario is particularly suggested. In Quebec, an increase in the organization of the Forest Protection Branch is necessary, to provide for the administration of the permit system outside the territory of the St. Maurice and Lower Ottawa Forest Protective Associations, on the same basis of efficiency as within, where a sufficient staff has been provided to give the permit system a fair trial, and where it has proved an undoubted success. Also, the close season should be extended to cover the period between April 1 and November 15, instead of the shorter period now New Brunswick has in effect. authorized the permit system in Hazen and Grimmer settlements, Restigouche county, but this provision should be somewhat extended, with adequate provision for enforcement.

In Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba, legislation by the provinces is necessary to regulate settlers' burning operation proximity to forest reserves. is suggested that the permit system be authorized in a belt extending six miles outside of forest reserve boundaries. Some amendments to Dominion legislation are also required to supplement provincial legislation along the lines of fire protection.-C.L.

Prohibition of Sale of Game

Cutting off the Pot-Hunter's Market Only Way to Prevent Wholesale Slaughter

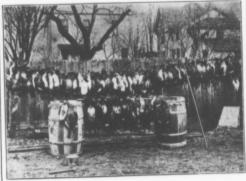
"The very best way to exterminate any species of wild life is to put a price on its head As long as there are dealers in game, you will find men who will kill it in spite of anything you may do to the contrary. Before the Act prohibiting the sale of game was passed in New York state, one dealer in New York city admitted that he sold 1,000,-000 wild birds for food each year." In these trenchant words, Mr. F. K. Vreeland, of the Campfire Club of North America, before a recent meeting of the Fisheries estimate of damage from these

be sold when marked by the wardens with an official tag. As a result of this law, a new industry of some importance has been built up and those who have a liking for wild game can satisfy it in a more humane manner than heretofore.

Nova Scotia Secures Results

Small Loss by Forest Fires-Satisfactory Operation of Permit System

The Crown Lands Department of Nova Scotia reports a total of approximately 13,000 acres burned over by forest fires during 1915. On a considerable portion of this area, no merchantable material was destroyed, so that the total



Cut No. 118

Ducks netted illegally in Lake Ontario.

mission of Conservation, succinctthe case for cutting off the market for game as the only effective means of preserving our vanishing wild life. The accompanying illustration

puts the case even more forcibly. These ducks have not been bagged by sportsmen; they have been netted wholesale on lake Ontario to satisfy the demands of the Fortunately, in this warden a game instance, confiscated the birds and thus kept the pot-hunters from deriving profits from their nefarious work.

It is interesting to note that, when the Hornaday-Baine law, prohibiting the sale of game, was before the legislature in New York, the hotel men agreed not to oppose it, provided raising in captivity were permitted. Accordingly, the law provides for the issuing of licenses to those who desire to raise domesticated game The game so raised may only

and Game Committee of the Com- | fires is but \$15,000. Nearly all of this damage was caused by a single fire, in the vicinity of the Intercolonial railway.

> The system of forest fire protection in Nova Scotia is among the most effective in Canada. An important feature is the provision that no person shall start a fire for the purpose of clearing land, or other like purposes, nor operate a portable steam engine within 990 feet of any woods, between the fifteenth day of April and the first of December, without first having obtained leave in writing from the chief ranger or sub-ranger. Such leave is granted only when, in the judg-

ment of the ranger, the action may be taken safely.

Similar provision for the regu-lation of the setting out of settlers' fires exists in British Columbia, on Dominion forest reserves in the west, in Quebec, and in a portion of New Branswick. It does not exist in Ontario, nor on Crown lands or lands in private ownership outside of forest reserves n the Prairie Provinces.-C.L.

Statistics of **Forest Fires**

Compiling of Information Necessary as a Basis for Fire Protection

The collection and publication of statistics of forest fire losses is a matter to which increasing attention has been paid in recent Progress in this respect is notable in Western especially notable in Western Canada. In Eastern Canada, as a whole, the forest fire losses have not been known, on account of the incompleteness of the data published. It is important that information be collected on all fires, not only as to the area covered, but also as to the amount, character and value of the property destroyed. This is necessary in destroyed. This is necessary in order that the intensity of fire protection may be adjusted to the conditions as well as to afford a basis for the administration of the area in other respects.-C.L.

Conservation of Forests

Lumber Companies Engage Foresters to Ensure Closer Utilization of Material

The latest lumber company to engage the services of a professional forester is J. B. Snowball & Co., Ltd., Chatham, N.B. This company has employed Mr. J. R. Gareau, a graduate of the Quebec Forest school, Laval University, to have general supervision over the woods operations on the company's He will also make limits. map and timber estimate of thes limits, as well as enforce close utilization of all merchantable material. Cutting operations will be regulated with a view t ensuring the perpetuation of the forest, and particular attention will be paid to fire protection Other companies in eastern Canada employing professional forester are the Laurentide Company, the Riordan Pulp and Paper Company the New Brunswick Railway Com pany, and the Canadian Pacifi railway.-C.L.

TO NEWSPAPERS

To further public interest in conservation subjects, the Commission will lend to Canadian journals the cuts used in this bulletin. It is requested that cuts be made use of at the earliest possible date, and returned promptly, enclosing note showing by whom returned.

As the Post Office Department will not permit the franking of cuts, the Commission of Conservation will pay the postage on out-going packages on the understanding that publications requesting the use of cuts prepay return postage.