

Conservation

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No. 6

Baby Welfare Week Held at Montreal

Various Associations Co-operate to
Secure Success of Particularly
Instructive Exhibit

As an evidence of the widespread interest in, and the many varied public activities directing their efforts towards, the grand work of "saving the babies," the recent exhibit held in the city of Montreal stands out prominently.

The exhibit demonstrated that the infant mortality rate was incalculably high and the reasons for it were made equally plain; nothing in respect to the unsatisfactory conditions conducive to this high mortality was concealed. A particularly gratifying feature was the outstanding fact that so many organizations were harmoniously co-operating to prevent the existing conditions, to assist the mothers and babies who need help, to educate the mothers in their sacred calling, while, at the same time, arousing that great, lofty, abstract entity—public opinion.

It is impossible to do justice to each of the organizations which were represented by a separate booth, where the ladies of Montreal were in attendance to set forth the importance of their particular sphere of work. What struck the visitor was that not one seemed to strive for pre-eminence; they seemed agreed that "team work" was the thing for Montreal if the victory was to be won for the babies. In this we may heartily concur. Such a demonstration is a sure indication of success and the citizens of this great city should assist this deserving work to the utmost of their financial ability.

Without in any way wishing to detract from other features of the exhibit, but with the hope that the idea may be copied in other places, reference must be made to "The Motor Traveling Clinic," which was first operated in the autumn of 1918. This is a motor bus equipped with scales, measuring board, diagrams, literature, case-cards, etc., which visits the lanes and byways in the poorer section of the city. The need for a properly equipped motor ambulance to carry on the work of "first aid to the babies," particularly during the summer months, has been made apparent and it certainly commends itself as a means of carrying on this most useful and efficient work.

The booth in which a demonstration was given of the proper class of foods most suitable for the feeding of children after the first twelve



MONTREAL BABY WELFARE WEEK
Booth in which demonstration was given of proper feeding of infants
Cut No. 148

Water Storage on St. Maurice River

New Power Developments made Possible
by La Loutre Reservoir

The great benefit derived from water storage is soon to be further demonstrated on the St. Maurice river where a large water-power undertaking will soon be started.

The increased power made possible at the various sites on this river by the La Loutre reservoir, the largest but one in the world, is a strong incentive to prospective power users. It is estimated that the conserved water thus made available represents a total increase of over 500,000 h.p.

The proposed development above referred to is reported to be in connection with the operations of the St. Maurice Paper Company, the latter having leased two sites in the lower portion of the river, known as Les Forges and La Gabelle. It is intended to combine these two giving a total effective head of 33 feet, while the regulated flow from the La Loutre reservoir increases the power now available at this site, namely 20,000 h.p., to 42,000 h.p.

Another proposition reported in this connection is the construction of a hydro-electric plant utilizing the combined sites of La Gabelle and Les Grés, the latter site being controlled by the Shawinigan Water & Power Company. The latter power company would carry out the development and supply hydro-electric power to the St. Maurice Paper Company under a special contract.

Insects and Fungi Injuring Forests

Ravages Greater than by Fire—Balsam
Threatened with Destruction

We are beginning to realize at last that our Canadian forests are disappearing very rapidly, but very few, even among those of us familiar with our woods, appreciate how fast this process has actually become. Fires, insects and fungi are the greatest enemies we have to deal with. The fire problem is rapidly being solved. The injuries by insects and fungi, on the other hand, have, until recently, been practically unrecognized. The actual conditions, however, indicate that these injuries are annually much greater in our forests than those caused by fires. We have a most disheartening example of combined insect and fungous destruction sweeping through the balsam forests of Eastern Canada at the present time. Upon hundreds of square miles of forest the balsam has been very seriously injured or killed within the last eight years, and on large areas of this practically all the balsam is already dead. The injury appears to be spreading rapidly in the balsam and a similar trouble is affecting the spruce in a much smaller degree. How far this is to spread we do not know, but certainly all balsam in infested forests is threatened with destruction. This subject is of the utmost importance to the lumbermen and provincial authorities of Eastern Canada and should receive immediate and very serious consideration.—J. M. S.

Some Don'ts for Realty Buyers

Things to Avoid in Buying Land

The following are a number of "Don'ts" for the benefit of buyers of real estate:

1. Don't buy land for speculation, but for use.
2. Don't be misled by the fallacy that of necessity it is better to be a landlord, with a mortgage hanging over your head, than a tenant.
3. Don't buy a bare lot in instalments or with borrowed money, unless you have reasonable expectations that you will have sufficient capital to erect a home in the near future.
4. Don't expect to get a loan from the Government, or from any other source, to build a house unless you have enough at least to pay for the lot on which to build it.
5. Don't imagine that land always increases in value even in the city, or that, even if it does increase, the tax collector will allow you to get the benefit of it.
6. Don't buy a lot on which to build a house unless you have some security that houses as good as your own will be built upon the adjoining land.
7. Don't be carried away with the idea that land is worth more to you if you have the right to do with it as you like, as this means that your neighbor will have the same liberty to use his lot as he likes. If you do not do something on your lot to injure his property he may do something on his to injure yours.
8. Don't buy land having no local improvements without calculating that it will cost you \$10 per foot front, more or less, to make it fit for use for residential purposes. Even if the city does the work and charges for it as an improvement tax, you have to pay.
9. Don't buy water-logged land or land with heavy clay sub-soil or land which is not provided with sewers and watermains, unless you are certain that these can be provided at reasonable cost whenever you want them.
10. Don't think that because land fronts on a car line, it is therefore a "sure" site for a store or is more valuable than land not fronting on a car line. It may be worth less for that very reason.
11. Don't pay more for your lot than one-tenth of what you expect to spend on building your house.
12. Don't pay more for a lot than half the price you think it is worth for a home-site if you will not be ready to build on it in less than six or seven years.—T. A.

(Continued on page 26)

Considerations for Purchasers of Land

Why One should Buy for Use and Not for Speculation

It is human and natural that those who have land to sell should desire to obtain the best prices. Owning or selling land is not less legitimate than dealing in any other commodity. Criticism of real estate owners and operators is often unfair and many men who are engaged in land dealings suffer from the odium drawn upon their profession by unscrupulous vendors. People, however, should blame themselves when they are deluded by improper speculative real estate operations.

It is in the interests of those who own land or those who represent the best type of real estate operator that the public should be educated to understand what should be avoided in dealings with land. During the past ten years, millions of dollars have been lost in real estate speculation. This has destroyed confidence in land investment; has increased municipal taxation and created incalculable hardship to small purchasers.

One of the fallacies which receives general acceptance is that there is no distinction between the ownership of property through borrowed money and the renting of property. Ownership of houses and land only possesses the merit that is claimed for it when it is free or comparatively free of mortgage. When property is heavily mortgaged, the payment of interest is equivalent to paying rent and is often more burdensome and irksome than the payment of rent to a landlord.

The following facts should be considered by those contemplating the purchase of land for building:

1. If land is purchased for immediate use, a higher price can be paid for it than if purchased for future use. If held for future use, the cost of the lot will increase by reason of the taxes plus compound interest on the purchase price. To a purchaser of a lot costing \$400 and held for six or seven years without being built on, the real cost will be about \$800. If the purchaser proposes to hold land for six or seven years, he should only pay half the price he thinks he can afford to pay for a site for his home.

2. In the final analysis, the cost of land should be estimated to include the capital cost of local improvements, and these may be roughly estimated at \$10 per foot frontage or \$500 on a 50 foot lot. If, therefore, \$400 is paid for a lot 50 feet wide, its real cost when improved for the purpose of a residence, will be \$900. Thus, fully improved land at \$18 a foot front is worth as much as unimproved land at \$8 a foot front in a case where the local improvements are paid for and are of reasonably high quality.

3. A purchaser of a lot at \$400 in 1919—to use exact figures—must estimate that the lot will cost \$701 in 1924 and \$983.50 in 1929, allowing compound interest at the rate of seven per cent and without any allowance for taxes, which should also be capitalized during these periods. Negotiable bonds paying 5½ to 6 per cent are as good or better than money earning 7 per cent if tied up in real estate.

4. When land is unbuilt upon and is held for speculative purposes, it injures the person who wants to buy for immediate use, inasmuch as the price is increased to the latter by the competition of men who buy for speculation. Any one who speculates should take into account the fact that he is working against the interests of those who wish to buy for use.—T. A.

Conservation of Wild Life

Importance of Game Resources—Difficulties to be Overcome—Remedies to Adopt

That Canada, which was not being but a vast happy hunting ground for the Indian and teeming with game and fur-bearing animals, has now become a country where stringent restrictions are often necessary to preserve the wild life from actual extinction, is a fact of which the seriousness is not generally appreciated. The condition is casually dismissed as being due to the spread of settlement and civilization and as therefore inevitable, even if regrettable from certain aspects.

It is not necessary, however, that our wild life be exterminated and there are many reasons that precautions should be taken to prevent this. Let us remember that, in this respect, we are trustees for posterity in a very special sense, since the injury we may do will be irreparable. We ought also to recognize that our wild life constitutes a natural resource of great present and future value.

Game is still a necessity for food purposes in certain frontier districts and for thousands of Indians. The fur-bearing animals constitute a resource which, in the last fiscal year before the outbreak of the war, provided exports valued at \$5,569,476, while even in 1916 the exports amounted to \$4,778,337. In addition to the furs exported, large quantities are used in Canada and the severity of our winters makes it certain that this home demand will be permanent. Further, it will naturally increase with the growth of our population.

Mankind has other needs also than food to eat and clothes to wear. People need recreation. There is no healthier form of recreation than that which is carried on with rod or gun or camera along the streams, in the woods, across the plains or among the mighty mountain ranges. The attraction of game, big and little, is one of the most powerful lures that leads men into these healthful surroundings. Canada is famous as a sportsman's paradise. She must not lose that pre-eminence. Her splendid stretches of unspoiled nature, still within easy reach of her largest cities, are perhaps the greatest advantage she possesses over older lands.

The biggest difficulty in the way of wild life conservation is wholesale indiscriminate killing for commercial purposes or even, in some cases, from pure wanton lust of slaughter. Much complaint has been made that certain tribes of Indians are the greatest sinners in this respect, but white men are not free from blame. If this ignorant waste is stopped in time by well-enforced close seasons, the wild life can be preserved and there will still be

enough for legitimate taking. New Brunswick is an example of a province where this has been done and where the number and value of the game has actually greatly increased in recent years. But in the Northwest the big-horn sheep and the wapiti and some other animals are as much in danger of extermination as the buffalo and beaver. It has, therefore, been found necessary to prohibit altogether, for an indefinite period, the killing of certain species.

One of the most effective methods of preserving at least a nucleus of the game and other wild creatures is to provide sanctuaries within which they shall never be molested. This has already been done in the Rocky Mountains, Waterton Lakes and Jasper parks and the increase of wild life has been astonishing.

Electrification of Railways in Canada

Density of Traffic not Usually Sufficient to Warrant Change from Steam

The question is often asked, "Why are not more of our railways electrified?" It is pointed out that Ontario and Quebec, abounding in water-powers from which cheap hydro-electric energy can be made available wherever required, are coal-less and the coal necessary to operate our steam roads in these, our largest provinces, has to be hauled long distances and almost all of it has to be imported from the United States.

In view of these facts it would seem at first sight hard to explain why all our railways, at least within these provinces, have not already been electrified. Although electric tramways and interurban electric roads have rapidly developed, the electrification of heavier traffic roads has been confined mainly to very short distances in connection with operations imposed by special conditions, such as the Montreal terminal and Mount Royal tunnel of the Canadian National railway, the St. Clair tunnel of the Grand Trunk, and the Detroit tunnel of the Michigan Central.

An explanation is found in the fact that, although electricity fills every requirement of railway service, the problem of electrification is not one of mere ability to secure cheap power but is governed rather by the volume of traffic or amount of power necessary to operate the line. To use electricity, a large investment in equipment and installation must be made and this is little less for sparse than for dense traffic. Electrification has so far progressed slowly even in the United States because railroad executives were not convinced that the advantages to be gained are always worth the cost. From their angle it is purely an economic question with the amount of traffic as the principal factor. But, for us, there is also a national aspect in that it means substituting the utilization of our own water-powers for the importation of foreign coal.

When a section of railway has become ripe for electrification the additional advantages gained by the conversion are almost numberless. In a recent paper before the American In-

stitute of Electrical Engineers, Mr. Calvert Townley states: "The service performed on the electrified section comprises practically every kind of railroad transportation. The Bluefield division of the Norfolk & Western R.R. in West Virginia is an example of an important coal road operating through the mountains. The Chicago Milwaukee & St. Paul 440-mile main line, through Idaho and Montana, demonstrates what can be done by a transcontinental carrier on a large scale with through traffic, both freight and passenger. The New York, New Haven & Hartford R.R. stretch of 73 miles between New York and New Haven shows how through freight and a heavy passenger traffic can be taken care of on the most congested four-track section of an important eastern carrier and what is possible for complicated freight-yard operation, with the New York Central and the Pennsylvania out of New York city are splendid examples of our greatest modern passenger terminal electrifications."—L. G. D.

Australia Leads in Forest Legislation

Canadians should Recognize that Trees are a Crop which Belongs to the Nation

Canada may well profit from the example set by the states of Australia, Victoria and West Australia, in particular, have recently enacted forest legislation so progressive in character that our position in Canada seems backward by contrast. Their legislation sets a new pace, particularly as to land classification, forest reservation, control of cutting operations, reforestation, and the amount of money to be spent on the protection and development of state forests generally.

Our forests have a wealth-producing capacity, the possibilities of which, from a long-time viewpoint, have as yet been realized only in small part. To transmute these possibilities into permanent actualities requires, however, the general acceptance, by the people in general, and by government in particular, of the fundamental principle that the forest is a crop, not a mine, and that cutting operations on non-agricultural lands must be conducted always with a view to the perpetuation of the forest as such.

The practice of silviculture is still in its veriest infancy in Canada, as it is over most of North America. The tendency is to practise it anywhere except in the woods. It must, of course, be realized that forestry is essentially a business proposition, and that business considerations place definite limitations upon what it is feasible to do in the direction of intensive methods.

However, the forest lands of Canada are predominantly Crown lands and are, therefore, for the most part, the property of the people of the country. It follows that the public interest, from a long-time viewpoint, should govern in determining the conditions under which exploitation takes place. With the present increased stumpage values, many things in the direction of better management are now becoming economically feasible which would have been out of the question in years past.—C. L.

**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 town-planning and public health. The newspaper edition is printed on one side of the paper only, for convenience in clipping for reproduction.

OTTAWA, JUNE, 1919

MENACE OF THE TRASH PILE

"Mobile fire-swept, and 1,500 people homeless. Trash pile origin of \$500,000 property damage." Thus read the newspaper headings of a despatch describing a destructive fire, which ought never to have happened. From one side of Canada to the other, the sort of carelessness which provokes similar destructive blazes is encountered. Only one thing is lacking, a glowing match, cigar or cigarette stub or a spark from a chimney, and the favourable conditions for a big fire lead to disastrous results.

How close some of our towns and cities are to a conflagration is not recognized by those responsible for public safety. Any minute, day or night, piles of trash dumped in yards and vacant spaces may provide the initial blaze that will wipe out our home, our workshop, or perhaps the lives of our family.

Is it too much to ask of our people that the dangerous trash pile, composed of packing boxes, waste paper, cotton rags, etc., be removed and that such material be no longer permitted to accumulate?

DANGERS OF SPECULATION

With the war over, and with easy financial conditions among farmers and certain classes of workmen, the old-fashioned temptation to speculation is again brought into prominence by those always ready to supply the means.

All kinds of highly speculative stocks are now being offered for sale. The prospectuses are composed of enticing arguments showing how a stock at a few cents per share may return the investor many hundred per cent.

It is only necessary to ask the question: If these stocks are so valuable and so promising, why does it require so much effort to dispose of them? Further, some of these stock jobbers are offering to accept—and would be very glad to do so—Victory Bonds in exchange for their stock certificates, although Victory Bonds draw but 5½ per cent interest. These adroit manipulators are wise enough to know that is really a good investment; they have no faith in the stocks they offer for sale.

It is of great importance in these days of reconstruction that the people should practise thrift and not throw their money away on worthless enterprises. By thrift is meant, not hoarding, but the wise investment of

surplus capital. There are plenty of gilt-edged stocks and bonds earning 6 per cent or better. For example, cities, which have had to curtail their expenditures during the war, are now floating loans to catch up with arrears of necessary public improvements. These loans are offered at attractive rates of interest and the man with money to invest can, besides profitably placing his funds, thus aid in one necessary branch of reconstruction work.

Even very small sums today can be advantageously invested by buying War Savings Stamps which give a return of 5 per cent per annum for five years. Left in a savings bank for the same period at 3 per cent compound interest, \$4.00 will only amount to \$4.63 at the end of the 5th year, in place of \$5.00 as offered by the plan of buying the Government's stamps.

MATCHES AND CHILDREN

"Another death due to carelessness is recorded in the Kunnymede district, and this time, it is matches which were the cause. Little Annie Nowiski, aged six years, while playing with matches, lighting them and burning straws on the kitchen floor, set fire to her dress, then ran upstairs and hid in bed fearing her father would give her a spanking. By the time she got under the bed clothes she was in flames and set fire to the clothes and mattress, causing such a volume of smoke that she was suffocated."—*Regina Leader.*

Children will play with matches when given the opportunity. Fire has a fascination for them. They know not the dangers.

Can your little girl secure matches? If so, she may be the next to lose her life from this cause.

CLEAN THE SLUMS

Don't forget health work in the slums, for "a better housing scheme" is not an immediate cure-all for this disease of modern town life.

We cannot clear people out of the slums all at once but we can create the desire on the part of the slum-dweller for cleaner and more healthy surroundings. The great field for work here must not be forgotten or passed over. A house is like a garment; it may be old but it can and should be clean. It is the duty of the health authorities to see that every home and its environment are clean.

All this work is preparatory for the better housing scheme, for large numbers of our people are as yet unprepared for the new surroundings which the future has in store for them.

MORE-FARMERS KEEP ACCOUNTS

The beneficial results of one phase of the agricultural survey of the Commission of Conservation are already being noticed. Investigators sent out over the same ground, namely, the county of Dundas, by the Ontario Department of Agriculture have observed a higher percentage of farmers who keep a complete set of accounts. Exact figures are not available, but there is undoubtedly a distinct improvement.

Farming is a fairly complex business, as a farmer's income comes from

a variety of sources. It is, therefore, essential that he should know which departments of his business pay him best as well as the income from the whole farm. He should also be able to arrive at his own labour income as distinguished from return on capital invested.

To encourage farm book-keeping, the Commission of Conservation drew up a "Farmer's Account Book" which is simple to follow and sound in principle. Any *bona fide* farmer can have one by applying for it. The investigators state that the improvement noted in Dundas country is undoubtedly due to the use of this publication.

SEE CANADA FIRST

"Distance lends enchantment to the view." This proverb probably explains the annual exodus of so many Canadians to the United States and European countries at vacation period.

Holiday time is again at hand. Many are considering where they will spend their period of relaxation, and to these we would make the appeal to "see Canada first." Within our borders we possess scenery and climate which cannot be excelled by any country. The sea coasts of the east and west, for example, the refreshing coolness of the gulf of St. Lawrence and the lovely fiords of British Columbia with their grand setting of forest and sierra, the lake districts of Muskoka, the Rideau lakes, lake of the Woods, the Thousand Islands and the peerless Great lakes, as well as the awe-inspiring ranges of the Rockies and the Selkicks, invite the seeker for rest and quiet or the jaded traveller seeking further excitement.

Sunny France has long been before the public mind in Canada as a tourist centre. Many of our soldiers saw the fair regions of Normandy, of Artois and of Picardy, parts of which are still unspoiled by the hand of the Hun; many had leaved to Paris and some even to Nice and other places far afield. Ask our returned men if they can't have as good a time in Canada. The unanimous answer will be, "Much better."

Last year, a young office girl said to the writer: "I spent sixty dollars to visit the Adirondacks in New York state. I could have had as fine scenery close to home at one-tenth the cost." She would, at the same time, have kept her money in Canada.

Many are the regrets over wasted summer vacation periods which might be avoided were less heed paid to flowery advertisements of foreign resorts and more attention given to studying the advantages of our own country. For this season, get acquainted with Canada.

In the United States, our dollar is at 3 per cent discount. National pride would suggest that we limit our spending there and confine it as much as possible to Canada.

The G.W.V.A. of Windsor, Ont., has passed a resolution condemning the practice of some landlords of discriminating against families which include children. Perhaps soldiers returning from Germany have remarked that this condition does not obtain there. They are naturally indignant at meeting it in Canada.

**Duties of Fathers
Little Understood**

Work accomplished in the Education of the Mother should be Supplemented by Teaching her Life Partner

The work of those who, for the past couple of decades, have been appealing to the mothers of the Empire on behalf of the baby has slowly won general recognition. The schools for mothers and other institutions for infant welfare, each of which has for its object the lessening of infant mortality, are daily gaining the confidence of the mothers of our country. The results are not so apparent in figures as are the facts that many thousands of those mothers whom we are striving to reach come voluntarily day after day and week by week to receive instruction and professional advice in motherhood. The figures do, however, indicate that the death-rate during the first year of life has shown a decline during the present century.

This work had to overcome much of prejudice and still more of ignorance on the part not only of the public but of the medical profession. The instruction of mothers on infant hygiene and the care of their own health during pregnancy and lactation by doctors and nurses was a new departure and presented great difficulties. These have, fortunately, been partially overcome and no one now doubts the good that can be accomplished or the untold benefits which would follow the general adoption of systematic education regarding motherhood and child life.

A good beginning has thus been made in the instruction of mothers, but what can we say of the fathers? We wish each father to learn that he too has a responsibility—a twofold responsibility relating to both mother and baby. It is not for one moment suggested that the responsibilities of the mother are diminished but it is his province to co-operate with and assist her as a joint partner in the duties of parentage.

How many married men clearly understand and recognize the responsibilities of fatherhood? We fear but few; their number today is certainly less than the number of women who possess a modicum of knowledge in respect to motherhood.

It is clearly the duty of each man to possess sufficient information to permit of his discharging the duties of this important and sacred trust. How can he obtain it? Certainly it should be the duty of some organization to provide it, since it cannot be obtained by chance or intuition any more than any other kind of knowledge.

What is required is the specialist qualified in physiology, medicine and hygiene, who will, by tactful handling, in a practical manner, impart to the fathers and to the young men the facts they should know and the duties they must meet and should discharge, in co-operation with their mother, in all that relates to the birth and upbringing of their offspring.

Fatherhood is the highest and best of all the duties of citizenship and happy and prosperous indeed will the nation be when each man knows his duty to his progeny and faithfully discharges it.—C. A. H.

Defects Pointed Out in Forest Services

Anomalies of Federal and Ontario Services Should be Corrected

While Ontario has made rapid strides in forest fire protection during the past two years, she still lags greatly behind other provinces in at least two vital respects affecting the conservation of her forest resources. One of these is with respect to the utilization of men with technical forestry training in the actual administration of Crown timber lands.

The provinces of British Columbia, Quebec and New Brunswick maintain provincial forest services, with a considerable staff of trained foresters. In each case, the forest service is in direct, first-hand charge of all timber business on Crown lands, inspecting cutting operations and enforcing the regulations. Nova Scotia will, in all probability, organize a provincial forest service in the near future, with duties including not only fire protection but the general handling of the timber business on Crown lands. Similarly, the Dominion Forestry Branch is responsible not only for fire protection on Dominion Crown timber lands in the western provinces, but has full charge of the enforcement of technical cutting regulations in the Dominion forest reserves, exclusive of licensed timber lands.

As to all licensed timber lands, however, the Ontario Government and the Dominion Government are in the same unprogressive stage of development, in that, while each has a technical forestry organization, this organization does not, in either case, have any direct administrative connection with the enforcement of regulations calculated to ensure that cutting shall be so conducted as to leave the cut-over lands in the best condition to produce another crop.

In another respect, also, the situation in Ontario compares unfavorably with that in other provinces. This is with reference to the machinery provided for the selection of the forest personnel, particularly the ranger staff.

In both British Columbia and New Brunswick, a board or commission is appointed, on which both the Provincial Government and the timber owners are represented, and all forest appointments must receive the approval of this board or commission. As to the Dominion Forestry Branch, all appointments are subject to the approval of the Civil Service Commission. In all these cases, the influence of politics and patronage upon appointments is largely or wholly eliminated.

The rapidly increasing importance of our forest resources in the economic development of the provinces individually, and of Canada as a whole, makes it entirely logical, as well as highly necessary, that both Ontario and the Dominion Government should, at the earliest possible date, correct these administrative anomalies with respect to the perpetuation of their great forest resources.—C. L.



MONTREAL BABY WELFARE WEEK
Booth in which babies were weighed

Cut No. 187

Baby Welfare Week Held at Montreal (Continued from page 23)

months is shown in Cut No. 186, together with a group of mothers and babies who have already come under the educational influence of the committee. In Cut No. 187, is seen the nurse busy in the booth where the babies were weighed, and where she fully explained the correct method and the reasons for this important phase of the work.—C. A. H.

Ontario's 1918 Forest Record

Revenue Largest since 1913 — Permit System works Well for Settlers' Clearing Fires

During the year ending October 31, 1918, the Ontario Government derived a forest revenue of \$1,756,085 from its Crown lands. Of this, nearly half was derived from timber dues and approximately \$190,000 from the fire tax of one cent per acre per year for lands under license. The total revenue for the year is the largest since 1912-1913, when the revenues closely approximated two million dollars. The area under license at the close of the fiscal year is reported at 16,888 square miles, or 574 square miles greater than for the previous year. These figures indicate the vital importance of Ontario's forest resources in furnishing revenue for the support of the provincial administration, as well as in furnishing supplies of raw material for the hundreds of wood-using industries of the province.

The permit system for regulating settlers' clearing fires is working out splendidly in practice. During 1918, 9,590 permits for the burning of slash by settlers were issued as against 3,486 for the previous season. According to the report of the Forest Service, the acreage covered by these permits amounted in 1918 to 39,683, as against 15,186 acres for the previous season. The permits are issued by members of the fire ranging staff, and the Provincial Forester reports that, generally speaking, the settlers cooperate heartily and appear to appreciate the wisdom of the new regulations.

The maximum number of rangers and supervisors was 1,190.—C. L.

Slash Burning in New Brunswick

Rules that Other Provinces might Well Adopt or Imitate

The safe disposal of logging slash is one of the most important features of any really comprehensive and adequate scheme of forest protection. This is true whether the slash is from a lumbering operation or from the clearing for agricultural lands. The following rules, issued by the New Brunswick Forest Service, are equally applicable in other provinces:

1. Burn in the early spring and fall, preferably when the slash is dry but the soil damp. When the soil is very dry a fire will destroy the humus or vegetable matter which enriches the top layer of the soil, and also is much more difficult to handle.
2. If possible, have one or more neighbors assist in the burning so that the fire may be kept under control at all times.
3. Always make a light fire-break around the slash by throwing any brush or litter in for 50 feet, especially on the side adjacent to timber. This will help to confine the fire and let you get around it quickly should it start to spread.
4. If the slash adjoins timber, burn it if possible when there is a light breeze blowing away from the timber, and start the fire first on the leeward side. If the slash is on a sidehill, start the fire first on the upper side, and burn downhill. When a good guard has been burned along the top, fires may set at the foot of the slope and allowed to burn up.
5. If conditions are at all dangerous, never start a fire in the morning. The best time to start burning is after 5 o'clock in the afternoon of a calm day. The slash is then dry and burns readily, there is little danger of wind, and the fire burns out during the night, when it is least apt to escape.
6. Keep close watch on the area until all fires are completely out.

Be careful with that cigarette stub. The Germans won't pay for our fire waste.

Wapiti Saved from Extermination

Permanent Close Season Now Established throughout Canada—Drastring Action Necessary

A recent act of the Saskatchewan legislature has established an indefinite close season for the elk or wapiti. This animal is now permanently protected throughout its entire range in Canada. This result has been achieved by the continued activities of an ever increasing circle of persons who take a keen interest in the conservation of our wild life. Various conferences of those interested have been held from time to time and their recommendations have been gradually adopted by the various provincial legislatures. Moreover, these conferences have done much to arouse and increase public interest.

The elk or wapiti, one of the largest of North American fauna, once ranged nearly the entire continent, its incredibly large numbers, but has now become so greatly reduced that to-day a few scattered bands along the Rockies between Colorado and the Brazeau river and some isolated herds in the forests of northern Manitoba and Saskatchewan comprise the entire wild elk left in North America.

Although now almost exclusively found in forests, the wapiti, which was originally an animal of the open plains and park-like regions, is unable to subsist on browse alone and is dependent, therefore, upon grass and weed range for its food supply. This peculiarity introduces an important element into the problem of its conservation, as the animal is obliged to expose itself more to the hunter than those species which never need to come out into the open. Consequently, only very drastic measures taken at one will save the wapiti from extinction.

Wood Fuel Should Be Sold by Cord

Selling by Load is Injust to Consumer—Need for Using Less Coal

"The Dominion Government should be urged to require wood fuel to be sold only by the standard cord of 128 cubic feet, or fraction thereof, rather than by the load. The latter practice militates strongly against the most general use of wood fuel, besides constituting an injustice to the consumer."

The above is the text of a recommendation of the Committee on Forests of the Commission of Conservation. Wood has always been very important as a fuel in Canada. Last winter, on account of the scarcity of anthracite, its importance was greatly enhanced. Coal supplies for Ontario and Quebec come from the United States; wood fuel, on the contrary, grown at home, and there is therefore a national advantage in substituting wood for coal as far as practicable. The practice of selling wood by the load discourages the consumer, as he is never sure how much he will get for his money. Hence the desirability of enforcing the use of a uniform standard of wood measurement.