

**ELECTRICITY IN HOMES**

Canadian Housewives Encouraged to Use It in Summer

The use of electricity in the home is gradually developing. Its original utility as a source of light has been extended to the supplying of energy for the electric iron and toaster, the sewing and washing machines and the vacuum cleaner. Electric ranges are coming into general use, the first objection, the relatively high initial cost of the range, having been overcome. One domestic use which electricity seems admirably adapted but which, thus far, has received insufficient attention is that of providing hot water. In many Canadian homes, the furnaces or coal ranges are provided with attachments to supply hot water for the kitchen, bath room and laundry during the winter months. As the furnace remains unused from the middle of spring and coal ranges are not regularly used during summer, the supply of hot water throughout the house is lacking from May to November. Supplying this service by electricity is a great convenience to the householder, and, at the same time, opens a new field for the desired summer load to the central station or other organization dealing in electric energy.

Several Canadian central stations, aware of the benefits to be derived from such a load, have introduced special systems of charging for this service. In Toronto, one organization has an arrangement with one small (500 watts) and one large (2,000 watts) heating unit; the idea is to charge for the small unit on a moderate flat rate basis and keep it operating constantly for ordinary domestic needs, while the large unit, which need be used only for abnormal requirements, such as laundering is charged for at a low meter rate. The cost of the installation, including jacketed tank, plumbing, etc., is \$30.00. Many companies do not meter the consumption of the hot water heater, charging a monthly flat rate for this service.

These companies have also been encouraging the "cooking-by-wire" movement; usually, it is stipulated that water heater and range are to be served through the same double-way switch so that both the range and the heater are not operated at the same time. The water heater is usually kept on continually except when using the range; thus, the boiler is heated over night and, if properly jacketed with non-conducting material, remains hot enough through the day to supply the demand while the range is in service.

**SPRING FIRE-PEAK**

If the forest fire ranger was represented by a line rising and falling as the danger increased or decreased there would be a sharp rise or "peak" in the few weeks after the winter snow leaves the woods. This is so much the case that the term "Spring Fires" is well known to every forester. The ground is dry, the dead leaves and herbage are sapless and tundry, and the least spark may start a fire that will sweep whole miles of forest. All who go to the woods are cautioned to see that they are especially careful to put out completely their camp fires, and to see that no fires start from matches, pipes, cigar stubs or fire arms. Canada has many fire guardians on duty in the spring but if these rules are observed much more timber will be saved than can be saved through the most strenuous efforts of the fighters. The time to stop a forest fire is before it starts.

**PRUSSIANIZING SWISS**

French Model Does Not Suit the Free Republic

The sympathies of the aimes in many cantons of Switzerland continue an anti-German agitation. At Louanne they held a mass meeting to protest against the "Prussianization" of the army of the republic. The meeting passed resolutions demanding the recall of Swiss officers who were at the different German fronts as neutral observers and the cancellation of all orders for arms and ammunition placed by the Federal Government in Germany. One of the resolutions says in part: "There is a growing tendency among our military authorities to ape the alleged German efficiency and to make our army more and more like the barbarian hordes of Germany which are detested throughout the world. This cannot be tolerated. If our military system really needs improvement the French army must be taken as our model. There is no necessity for buying German guns and shells, as we can manufacture them ourselves or get them cheaper and better from France. Our representatives in the Federal Council are requested to demand that the contracts of our army administration with German firms be cancelled at once."

**IRISH VS. PRUSSIAN**

Amusing Story of Love For France and Wife-beating

A good story by the late Mr. A. M. Sullivan, M.P., may not inaptly be reproduced at this period. During the Franco-Prussian War of 1870-71 the people of Ireland were most enthusiastic in their support of the French, and many hundreds of Irishmen went into the French army. So intense was the feeling in favor of France that

picard boards outside news agent shops on several occasions irate citizens were known to kick the boards to pieces.

It was during this period of excitement that Pat Malone was brought before the stipendiary for assaulting his wife. Pat pleaded provocation, and the stipendiary told him to tell his tale. "Well, your worship," said Pat, "I went home solid an' sober, an' the wife started to nag because I was late for my dinner. She called me 'a loungin' moucher'; I stood it. She called me a 'renegade' an' a 'traitor,' an' she threw the taypot at me. I stood all that. She said I was an 'apostate,' an' a 'scallyway,' a 'ruffian,' an' a 'thief,' an' even said I'd rob a poor-box if I got the chance, an' I stood it all, yer worship. An' then, sir, she ups an' calls me a 'blighted Prussian!' An' sure, flesh an' blood couldn't stand that, so I gev her a skelp or two o' mi fist!"

**War-time Critics**

Mr. Churchill's attack on Mr. Balfour reminds one of a remarkable incident which occurred during the South African War, when the late Mr. Chamberlain was unexpectedly attacked with much severity by a member of his own party. The House of Commons waited eagerly for the reply, for the Colonial Secretary ever paid back in the fullest measure. In due course the Minister rose. He adjusted his monocle. He looked at the member who had dared to use a rapier. Then in a tone of withering contempt he said, "Mr. Speaker, now that the honorable gentleman has relieved his feelings I trust he is more comfortable." That was all, but it was enough.

**NEGLECTED FISH PAY**

Varieties, Once Despised, Yield Good Returns in East

There are some fishes which, though not always wasted entirely, are by no means fully utilized. One of these is the horse-mackerel, or tuna, a huge fish which sometimes reaches a weight of two or three hundred pounds. M. Pierre Lemay, a large Parisian merchant engaged in the prepared food business, says that, after the sardine, the tuna is the fish most important as a preserved product. There is an upward tendency in the price of these fish at present in the world's fish markets. Years ago, sword-fish fishery was unknown on Canadian coasts. Now there is a special fleet of boats engaged in capturing sword-fish. Eighty of these fish were caught in 1915 at Ingonish, C.B. They ranged from 300 to 400 pounds in weight, and one was caught at Sydney which weighed 565 pounds. At four cents a pound, such a fish would be a prize for a fisherman. In Boston or New York, the price of sword-fish to the consumer was then about 35 cents per pound. Thus, this once neglected fish yielded ample returns. The same thing is true of sturgeon. A generation ago sturgeon were thrown up on the beach of the St. John river for manure; now, in some cases, good lake sturgeon are worth as much as a good-sized cow. Thirty cents per pound has been paid for sturgeon in the New York markets, and the weight ranges from 30 to 100 pounds.

**Why Hurt Oneself?**

Why will so many cyclists go laboring up stiff or "holding" hills when it is so palpable that they are overdoing it, and that the effort is beyond their normal strength? To the weaker brethren it is nothing short of a perilous proceeding. There is no loss of dignity in walking hills—indeed, there is positive refreshment in it sometimes; yet one frequently sees cases where one would gladly give advice were it not impertinent. Outside racing circles, there are only two legitimate excuses for desperate hurry—going for the doctor or the fire engine. Speed between points is no longer a fetish of cycling.

The British business man looks at the business he has got. That's the leath of business. He ought to look at the business he hasn't got.—Herbert N. Casson.

Don't allow duck feed to stand from day meal to the next and expect ducks to be satisfied with it.

**ALBERTA RURAL SCHOOLS**

One of the healthiest signs of progress in Alberta is the continual formation of new school districts and building of new schools. All over the Province are these sign posts of civilization to be seen. But neat buildings furnished with an up-to-date equipment are wasted money without the real spirit of education. For many years memory was the only faculty cultivated in a child. Prizes were always awarded for learning by heart long lists of names and facts. The names of the kings of Israel and Judah, the height of Mt. Everest, or a Bible chapter repeated backwards were considered signs of great intelligence in the poor little learner. But children have come to their own and a glance at the course of studies for our rural schools will show the strides made in the right direction. Nature study plays an important part, and our children are taught by observation the great lessons of nature—the mighty mother of all real wisdom.—S. J. Wigley.

**COST OF LOG FIRES**

Expenses to Lumberman From Carelessness Are Listed

The elements of damage done by fires in the logging woods are, first and foremost, lost time; then, the cash loss by destruction or reduction in the value or efficiency of equipment such as donkeys, loaders, logging line, chutes, railroads, trestles, or camps; last, the value of the product is lowered when logs are damaged.

Take the element of lost time. A fire is usually handled by the railroad section crew. It is not unusual for a five-man crew to work a day on an ordinary fire, leaving one man to watch it for 48 hours afterward. This means \$31 in lost time. A larger fire may require a donkey, a camp crew, or the whole camp crew. It is not at all unusual for a part of all of the mill crew to turn out in an emergency. A fire which requires the whole logging crew of an ordinary double band mill will cost the operator, in lost time, about \$400 per 10-hour shift. These figures refer to direct labor charges only and do not take into account lost operating time of expensive equipment or the supervisory and overhead charges which are going on while the plant is turning out no product.

If it is expensive to fight fires, why not let them burn? This would be good business if it were not for the fact that it would very probably be still more expensive in damage to equipment. A fire practically never ruins a donkey engine beyond repair, but \$500 or \$600 damage is a frequent occurrence. Burning the sled out from under a machine, for instance, would mean a loss of about \$400, and it will yard no logs for several days. Logging cable is easily damaged, and the loss of the lines on one machine—say, 1,200 feet of yarding line and 3,000 feet of back line—costs \$375. Repairing a line burned in two may be put down at \$5 per spool.

**QUEERLY INSPIRED**

Sensitiveness Also an Aid to Literary Inspiration

Mrs. Howe, who wrote "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," one of the most national hymns in the world, got the inspiration in bed. Someone had suggested to her that she should set some fine words to the tune of "John Brown," but though she tried repeatedly she could not compose anything that would pass muster. One night she dreamed she had composed the poem, and waking up got out of bed, went to her desk, and wrote the whole poem as it stands to-day.

Swinburne told Mr. Edmund Gosse that "Baudelaire" was written in a Turkish bath. This poet is often a little tropical, and he evidently wanted to get the right atmosphere. A famous playwright lately confessed that almost all his best ideas came to him while rushing about in a motor car. The swift motion seemed to excite thought. So much was this the case that he had had his car fitted with a tiny writing table, so that he could jot down all his happy thoughts as they came rushing on the wings of the wind into his brain. When the engine stops the inspiration stops too.

It is a remarkable fact that that poem of spring and flowers, "Oh, to be in England now that April's here!" was written during a bad attack of sensitiveness in the Mediterranean by Robert Browning. Mark Twain speaks of a man who had the "Oh, my's!" very bad in similar circumstances, but Browning's "Oh, my's!" turned to poetry of the highest order.

**PUTTING THE FIRE OUT**

Finding Fires is Not Sole Task of Forest Ranger

Where there are no known trails time is wasted trying to stop a forest fire at no particular vantage point, until probably hours, and days, in some cases, afterwards when some one has had a look over the ground. This vantage point should be known beforehand, and a concentration made there, with a line of retreat to the next defence, already known, in case of a sudden fall back. With good maps, artificial water supply where natural supplies fail, not a very difficult or costly matter, and some attempt at organization, a portable fire pump would be a very useful and valuable weapon in the hands of the men in the field. There is too much talk as to what should be done and too little action taken in the field. What is wanted is more of this talk put into action. The average forester seems to think that when a decent map and estimate is made that all is done. Both are extremely useful, but do not go far enough.

**HOW FIRES STARTED**

Origin of Huge Bill of Expense For Canada

The Dominion Superintendent of Insurance issued an abstract report of fire insurance business in Canada for 1915, giving an interesting insight into what Canada paid as the price of her indifference and carelessness with fire. In 1915 Canada had an approximate fire loss of \$15,500,000. Fire insurance companies paid out for fire losses \$14,030,298, or approximately \$1,500,000 less than the fire loss. The owners of destroyed property consequently had to bear the latter loss.

Fire insurance companies collected from the people in premiums \$26,530,293, which, added to the margin of \$1,500,000, gives an approximate total of \$28,000,000. This latter figure represents only the actual cash outlay as represented by insurance protection, and value of property consumed in excess of insurance. To this must be added the loss in disruption of business, damage through hasty removal of property, the expense of upkeep of fire departments, extra water-supply, private fire protection, etc.

That much the greater portion of this loss may be avoided is shown by a report of the fire chief of Vancouver, B.C., for one month, covering the causes of fires in the cases of the 34 alarms responded to by the department in that city, as follows: Children playing with matches, 2; lamp thrown on stove, 1; chimney fires, 9; overheated stoves and furnaces, 3; unknown origin, 5; electric heater left turned on, 1; smoke scare, 1; backfire in carburettor, 1; grease on stove, 1; defective chimney, 1; hot ashes, 2; spontaneous combustion, 1; gasoline explosion, 1; electrical origin, 2; overheated coal oil stove, 2; defective fireplace, 1; overheated chimney, 1; smoking in bed, 1.

**Western Hotelman**

Mr. J. V. Henderson, then of the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, was appointed resident manager of the Macdonald Hotel, Edmonton, when the Macdonald was the latest addition to the chain of Grand Trunk hotels. The Macdonald has a magnificent site in the centre of the city of Edmonton, and overlooks the North Saskatchewan River. Mr. Henderson was connected with the management of large Canadian hotel organizations for many years, and is well known throughout Western Canada.

Don't omit treating grain with formalin. It is cheap insurance against smut which sometimes has a habit of destroying grain if a fungicide such as formalin is not used on the seed.

**A FINE CANADIAN**

R. M. Wilson, Manitoba, a Man of Energy, Earnestness and Integrity

The late R. M. Wilson, Glenora, Man., was for many years a leading farmer of the Pilot Mound district. He was a rare specimen of public virtue and independence, having a touch in his make-up of his great English fellow-countryman—John Hampden. During almost his adult lifetime he labored to elevate the public life of the country in which he resided, and he has left an impress which will prove a suitable memorial. He was a man of great energy, earnestness and integrity, and missed no opportunity to serve his fellow-men in the directions which he judged to be of the greatest value to them. He held many positions of trust in a public way. He took a deep interest in politics and was a most successful farmer and left a large family.

**EGGS AND POULTRY**

An Industry Which Offers Much Encouragement

To anyone who has not carefully followed the direction of poultry development in Canada, an understanding of the status which the poultry industry has now reached must constitute a distinct surprise. Whether viewed from the standpoint of the farmer or of the produce trade, it is now one of the best organized and most progressive of any of our live stock industries. Co-operation amongst farmers in marketing is improving the product and realizing for them a higher price than they have hitherto been able to obtain. The re-organization of methods of the trade is providing against loss in handling, is assuring to the consumer a better article and establishing our export business upon a firm basis. Notwithstanding increased production, the egg and poultry business in Canada is in a very strong position at the present time.

We believe that it will be a very wise practice to raise as many chickens as it is possible or practicable to handle. Early hatched chicks make good winter layers. Rough grains will be produced in abundance in Canada and the feeding of poultry at a profit should be materially assisted from this source. Eggs at winter prices are a paying proposition in any event. Poultry, alive or dressed, under present and prospective market conditions, can unquestionably be reared and finished at a decided profit. A good flock of poultry, if carefully handled, will serve to prevent waste on the farm and promote economy in living expenses, such as is particularly necessary when all farm products are becoming so marketable and so dear.—John Bright, Live Stock Commissioner.

**THE DISPATCH.**

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**Religious Teaching In School Deplored**

Springfield, Mass., Sept. 20.—Archibald Ladner, prominent layman of this city, and chairman of the committee on Bible study, praised the Catholic Church for its retention of religious instruction in schools in a report at the meeting of the Westfield Baptist Association in this city today.

He also criticized the public schools for failure to provide religious instruction, saying that Massachusetts was behind other States in this respect. This brought his pastor, Rev. W. W. Weeks of this city, to his feet in stern denunciation of the committee's report. Mr. Weeks said in part:

"I am amazed that in a Baptist meeting any plan favoring religious education in the school should come up. I am unalterably opposed to it. I don't like Mr. Ladner's reference to 'godless schools.' I should not call a business man godless if he failed to read the Bible each morning on opening his place of business.

"If it comes to a question of forcing religious education in the public schools, let's leave it to the Roman church. Parts of the report are abominable. I do not care what other States are doing in religious education. We do not want it in Massachusetts schools.

The report or the committee favoring religious instruction in the public schools was referred back to the committee by the association after ten minutes' debate with instruction to either eliminate or at least modify that portion of the report. This action killed the matter for another year, at least.

(Rev. W. W. Weeks comes from Cape Breton, and was pastor of a Baptist church at Moncton for some years.

**British Gain More Trenches**

London, Sept. 20.—A splendid lesson the Empire has taught the Huns in the recent fighting, when Australians and Canadians, charging together, took a certain important work to the right of Mouquet Farm. This is the first time in the present war the two colonies have actually been side by side in battle.

Paris, Sept. 20, noon.—Determined attacks were made by the Germans last night on the French positions at Hill 76, north of the Somme. The Germans gained a foothold at some advanced points, the War office announced today, but subsequently were ejected.

London, Sept. 20, 3.30 p. m.—British troops south of Arras yesterday captured 200 yards of German trenches, says the official statement issued today by British army headquarters.

The rainfall has been general along the whole British front in Flanders and France. The British troops spent Monday night in consolidating their new positions northwest of Bouleaux wood, where the capture of the "Quadrilateral at work" enabled Gen. Haig's men to advance 1,000 yards on a front of a mile. This gain was another important advance in the encircling of Combles, whose capture is now considered but a matter of a few days.

Combles is so surrounded, north, west and south, that there remains only an opening of less than two miles to the west through which it can be supplied. The town is thoroughly well fortified, and the Chateau possesses vast underground caverns, extending under the village, over an area of nearly 400 yards, so that it is unlikely that any direct assault will be attempted.

all night helping the Canadians make a trench. "He was certainly some digger," said the man who told the story. "When morning came we sent him back, and he arrived at the rear all right."