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Conserve the Forest, Canada's Second Greatest Resource

Informed and Alert Public Opinion Necessary. With the Average Citizen Doing What His Intelligence Suggests, This Vital Question can be Settled for All Time.

It is significant that many Canadian bank presidents and financial leaders in their annual reports on the business of the year 1926 laid stress on two things: (1) the importance of our forest industries to our domestic and export trade and, (2) the need for prompt and vigorous action to ensure that this great resource be not destroyed by forest fires.

Time was, in the memory of those still living, when the inhabitants of some Canadian cities were delighted when a pall of wood smoke swept over the district in early spring, for they said "That smoke is from 'slash' fires; there must have been much logging last winter; our river and harbour will soon be full of logs and business will be brisk." If they thought about other consequences at all they considered that the 'slash' fires would clear the land for farmers, and that if logs ever did fail there would be barge-loads and wagon-loads of wheat to take their place.

But the succeeding generation has learned that much of this land, though capable of producing trees was not fitted to grow wheat and other farm crops, and that these repeated fires destroyed not only the young growth, the hope of the forest but, in some cases, even the very soil itself. And people are getting over the idea that it is a slur upon Canada to say that much of our land will not grow anything but trees, when these trees can

by the lumberman be turned into the finest structural timbers in the world, and by the pulp and paper industry transformed into the multifarious valuable commodities for which the nations are competing with ever increasing eagerness. The satisfactory thing about Canada's timber situation is that, if Canadians will cultivate their forests instead of mining them, they will not only keep up in perpetuity the production of timber at the present rate but will even be able to increase the annual cut without encroaching on the forest capital.

Our financial leaders stress the point that the forest is our second greatest natural resource in point of national income. And, on the administrative side, it has been shown that Canada has so handled her forest lands under a system of leases that over 90 per cent are still owned by the Crown, that is by the people, and that from these forests the Dominion and Provincial Governments draw revenues totalling over \$14,000,000 per year. That, in many respects, is a happy position and many states and nations cast envious eyes upon Canada's good fortune and good administration. The point made by our financial leaders is not that Canadians are sinners exceedingly above all other people in wasting their forest heritage but that with the experience of older nations to draw from and with the great opportunities of the twentieth century before them they are apparently in danger of allowing their forests to be reduced to the minimum by fire and wasteful cutting before they start to grow them up again. Planting forests is good but a system of so cutting and protecting existing forests that they will bring forth increasing crops, is better.

The forefathers of the present generation of Canadians—legislators, administrators, lumbermen—did well, very well considering that they worked without maps, surveys, or timber estimates, and could not possibly foresee the tremendous demand for forest products that new needs and new inventions would bring, but if the present generation is not to be recreant to its great trust it must build on the foundation they laid. They in a large measure saved the forests for us—remember the people of Canada still own 90 per cent. of the forest land—and we must save them for our successors, and for ourselves. The great engine for achieving this is at hand in an informed and alert public opinion and with the average citizen taking an interest in forest conserva-

tion and doing what his intelligence suggests, this vital question can be settled for all time.

MODERN HOMES SEEKING COMFORT AND UTILITY

Houses Now Have Many Features Unknown Fifty Years Ago.

In view of the special interest held by asbestos in this country, because of the climate and because of the asbestos deposits in the district, there should be particular attention to the following contributed article:—

A review of architects' plans for the new homes of 1927 shows that the old, rambling type of house which wasted room, money, fuel, light and beauty are now rarely built. Electricity, modern plumbing, floor-planning and roofing are numbered among the major features which would make Grand Pop and Grand Mom green with envy to-day.

Houses are now erected with thought to all possible features, outside and in. They are put up to withstand the weather; to offer protection against flying firebrands; to keep out the cold and to keep the heat in; to prevent the family coal pile dwindling so rapidly. Architects and builders who build structures of this sort find that there is a much more ready sale for their houses. It simply means that people are coming to look for higher grade construction.

A certain type of residence now gaining in popularity is commonly known as the 'triple-insulated house.' A recent addition in the suburb of Philadelphia has 32 of these triple-insulated houses which, as the name indicates, are insulated in three ways. The walls are insulated against heat and cold; the roof against rust-communicated fires; the heating pipes against waste of fuel.

How is this insulation accomplished? By using two of the best insulating materials known—cattle hair and rock. Or in other words, a felted hair material known as Housline and Asbestos (which is rock).

The outside walls of a triple-insulated house have, between the sheathing and clapboards, a shingle or stucco outside walls, a layer of this Housline. Cattle hair, according to recent tests made by the United States Bureau of Standards, is the most effective insulator against heat and cold known to man. The manufacturers of Housline—Johns-Manville Corporation of New York—in preparing the product cleanse the cattle hair chemically, make it vermin-proof and odorless and stitch it between a layer of building paper and a waterproof sheet. In this form, when placed in the walls (or under the shingles of the roof), it provides an effective barrier not only against the cold of winter, but the heat of summer.

The definite result of such insulation in the walls of a house (besides the additional comfort obtained) is a saving of fuel, due to a decrease in the amount of radiation required. This represents a substantial sum. In an average size house, 25 x 30 ft. and 20 ft. in height, from foundation to eaves, a saving of coal amounting to 5,820 lbs. or almost three tons is effected in a single season. Should two layers of insulation be placed in the walls the saving would amount to more than four tons of coal.

The second method of insulating the house against the waste of fuel is to

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THINKS PHEASANTS MUST BE FED IN WINTER TIME

Will Thrive in This Country All Right but Cannot Live on Buds in Winter Like Partridge Do

In making reference to the report in The Advance a couple of weeks ago relative to the plan of the Porcupine Rod and Gun Club to establish English pheasants as game birds in this district, The New Liskeard Speaker last week says:—

"The Advance was justified in saying 'pheasants thrived well in the Liskeard district,' from the information obtainable when The Speaker referred to Miss Raymond's luck in hatching eleven from a setting of thirteen eggs. And really the birds did thrive for a time, but later the flock grew smaller and smaller until the last one disappeared. If two owls which were finally killed while killing hens, had been killed sooner, it might be that the pheasants would now be thriving.

"Mrs. Chester hatched but two out of a setting, a cock and hen. In the late fall the hen disappeared, but the cock, roosting in a grove every night, but feeding every day in the barnyard, has grown to be a fine bird. He is about two feet or more in length, and the plumage is beautiful beyond description. This bird lords it over the roosters, and is very friendly toward the hens. Every evening he sails away to his roost in a thicket, and every morning at six o'clock he sails back, and when he is passing the dwelling house he invariably crows, squeals, or squawks. Mr. Chester cannot describe the peculiar call of the bird but is quite sure there is more jazz than melody in it.

"To our mind, the fact has been established that the English pheasant can stand the coldest Temiskaming winter weather, but we do not think these pheasants can live in the bush on buds as the partridge does. If

we are right then this bird will not become a game bird in Temiskaming as it is in British Columbia, but a domestic bird having to be fed during the winter. But the pheasant can forage for itself until snow covers the ground in early winter."

CALLED TO ENGLAND ON ACCOUNT OF FATHER'S DEATH

The following despatch is from Cobalt under date of April 12th:—

"M. B. Saunders, examiner for this district of auto drivers' licenses, is going to England next week, and in his absence, which will extend over six weeks, Frank Cassie will deputize for him. Mr. Saunders, who has not been in the Old Country for seventeen years, received a cable a few days ago conveying the information that his father had died suddenly. No particulars were given. Mr. Saunders' home is in Sutton, Surrey, and he has his mother and two sisters living in England. His parents were planning to spend about two years on this continent when the death of his father upset the arrangements."

DOES TORONTO SET VALUE ON NORTH LAND BUSINESS?

In a recent interview with a Toronto paper, Mr. Draper Dobie of that city, said that less than one per cent. of the business men of Toronto had any real knowledge of the North land. The Toronto business people, he suggested, were too busy with golf and such like to look after their own real interests. And here is the stirring question that Mr. Dobie asks:—

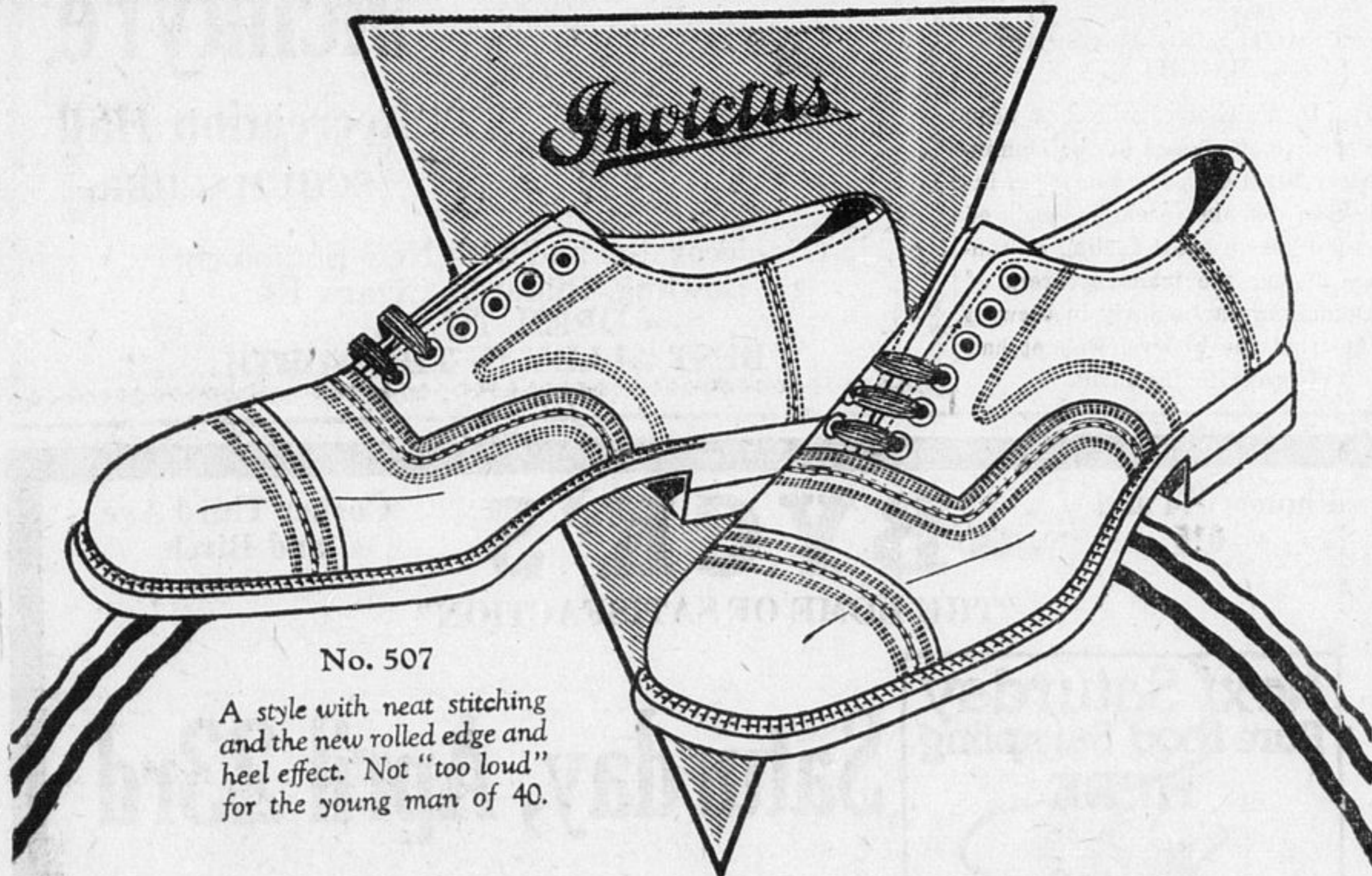
"Is Toronto going to doze peacefully in its self-satisfaction while much of this gift of home business is taken away from here? Is Toronto so complacently satisfied with her present position as a safety-first city that she is going to ignore her greatest opportunity and permit her competitors to grasp her heritage?"

Last week a new and elegantly equipped office was opened at Cobalt by Homer L. Gibson & Co., stock brokers. This week the same firm is opening an office at Rouyn. The new building for the Timmins office is now under construction. All this is in line with the Homer L. Gibson policy of expansion in the North.

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