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Two $500 Prizes by Quebec Mines Dept.

For Best Works on Discovery and Development of Western Quebec.

The Honorable Onesime Gagnon, P.C., K.C., minister of mines and fisheries, has just announced that the competition which he organized last summer for works on the discovery and the development of the natural resources, particularly the mineral wealth of Western Quebec, shall not close until March 1st, 1940, the time limit which was first stated having been extended.

It may be recalled that in order to ensure the preservation in our annals of a trustworthy account of the remarkable development of this mining field, the Hon. Mr. Gagnon, at the time of the Silver Jubilee of the founding of Amos, stated that his department would offer two prizes of $500 each, for the two best works, in French and in English respectively, written in prose on the subject above stated.

The competition is open to all authors, and the works must reach the Department of Mines and Fisheries before March 1st, 1940. They may be printed, or neatly typewritten. Six copies of each work must be deposited, which shall not be returned. If printed, the book must not have been published before January 1st, 1938.

The author must address a request of registration to the Department of Mines and Fisheries at least three months before the closing of the competition (in the present case before December 1st, 1939) signifying his intention of competing for the prizes and stating his name, address and nationality.

The work (at least 40,000 words) must be in prose, in French or in English, and may take the form of historical relations or of "petite histoire romancee," based on authenticated facts, the sources of which must be given as references or authority. The forms mentioned are only suggestions and not restrictions, each author being free to choose his own mode of development of the subject.

Requests for information regarding the conditions of the competitions may be addressed to Charles Bilodeau, Secretary of Competition, Department of Mines and Fisheries, Quebec, P.Q.

Financial Post: Consistency and stick-at-itiveness are prime essentials for all truly successful advertising.

Gold Industry Spent $100,000,000 in 1937

Value of Gold Mines to Other Industries.

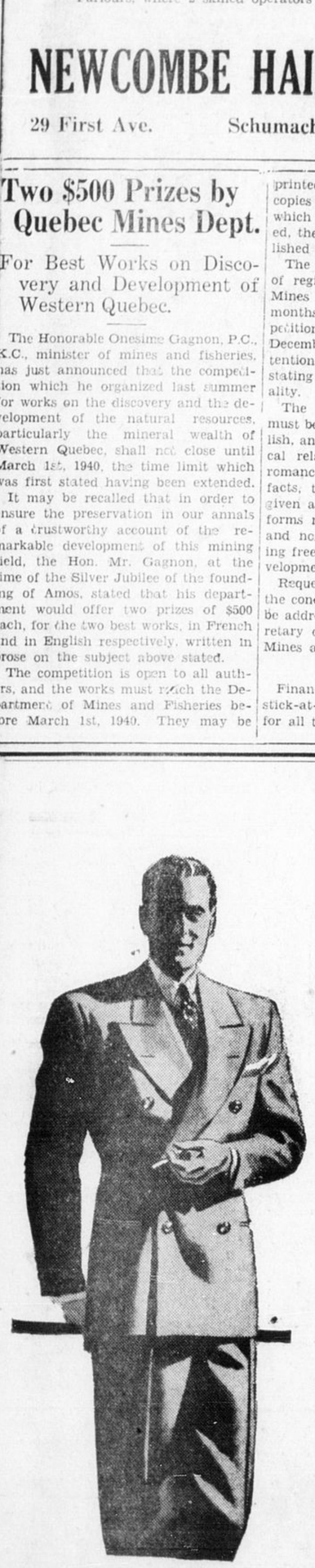
Canada's gold mines made notable contributions to the economic stability of the country during the recent depression in business, states The Royal Bank of Canada in a recent bulletin. In 1937, for the third consecutive year, an all-time high record in the production of gold was established, at 4,096,215 fine ounces. During the first eight months of the current year 3,051,081 ounces were produced as compared with 2,672,812 ounces during the corresponding period of 1937. It may, therefore, be anticipated that a new record of output will be achieved in 1938. This phase of Canada's gold mining industry, however, is well recognized.

A second important contribution of the industry to the general economic life of the country was recently analyzed in a special bulletin of the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This report disclosed that, exclusive of salaries and wages, Canadian gold mining companies expended over $40,000,000 in 1937 for consumable stores, equipment, electric power, fuel, freight and insurance. A similar survey had been made for the year 1935, and a comparison of the totals indicates that during the two-year intervals such expenditures increased by no less than 40 per cent. With the continued expansion in the mining of gold, this contribution to the activity and welfare of other Canadian industries may be expected to increase in proportion.

The survey of expenditures shows that in 1937 the gold mining industry spent more than one million dollars for drills and parts; a million and a quarter for pipes, fittings and plumbing supplies; a million and a half for electrical equipment. Iron and steel purchases, including structural steel, had a total value of $1,017,566 and machinery purchases reached a total of more than $5,000,000. Lumber and timber of all kinds required by the industry during the year were worth $2,850,000 while other building materials had a total value of $1,320,000.

The chemical and allied industries benefited from the prosperity of the gold mines. Explosives purchased had a total value of $4,700,000; cyanide and cyanide plant chemicals, $1,460,000, and other chemicals nearly $500,000. Electrical power requirements were responsible for an expenditure of $4,517,217. This was the principal motive power employed, other expenditures for coal, coke, charcoal and wood amounting to only $760,000 and for fuel oil, kerosene and gasoline to $957,000. Railway and express charges, including only amount paid direct to the companies, totalled $2,411,127. Workmen's compensation insurance cost the gold mining companies $1,540,101 in 1937 and other insurance $1,086,121, a total charge for insurance of $2,626,222.

Forty million dollars is a notable contribution for one industry to make to the activities of other industries in the country, but it is by no means the whole story of the support given by the gold mining industry to other economic activities in Canada. In 1937 more than 25,000 persons were employed by the industry with a total payroll exceeding $58,000,000. This brings the total of such expenditures by the gold mines in 1937 to nearly $100,000,000.



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Cutting Trees for the Festive Season

Canada's Forests Not in Danger from This, Say Noted Authorities.

(From Canada Lumberman)

The Yuletide Season is rapidly approaching, and soon on vacant lots and street corners in towns and cities will be seen Christmas trees—large and small—selling from twenty-five cents up. Many persons earn considerable money by gathering and distributing these arboreal specimens, while in certain districts the farmer reaps a considerable sum from the sale of these emblems of the happy holiday season. It is estimated that five million trees are cut in Canada each Christmas, and provide farmers and woodlot owners with a revenue of $500,000. The question naturally arises: Do Christmas trees deplete the forests? And the answer from various authorities who have given close study to the situation is "No!" if judgment and care are exercised. The great trouble seems to be that in various communities there has been no accurate estimate of the demand, and after the buying season is over, thousands upon thousands of trees which have not been sold, are thrown away or burned. This seems to be a useless waste, in fact, a piece of folly, which cannot be condoned. If some regulation was set up so that sufficient trees would be offered to meet the demand, and the market not flooded, there would be less criticism of the cutting. This is indeed a grievance and a remedy should be provided.

Control of Cutting

Where is the necessary control to come from? Granting that the demand for Christmas trees is everything its supporters claim for it. Accept the fact that the cutting of small trees for the better judgment of the great Christian festival is something permanent in our midst, and should be so handled as not to result in waste, where is the supervision that will counteract this to originate? Unless we are to be met with the sad sight of uselessly sacrificed trees at many a city store, either the price will have to be raised so such a point that a dealer will hesitate to order unless he has sufficient bookings to cover his commitments, or a central marketing bureau will need to be established to prevent the over-cutting of small evergreen trees.

There are two distinct sides to this trade: first, the big business which calls for the cutting, collection and transfer to distant points for distribution through retail channels, and second the individual farmer or dealer who has only a few trees for sale and seeks an outlet in the local grocery or florist's store. Into this latter class goes also the person who seeks by means of individual effort to earn a little pocket money or the necessary means of support. His output would naturally be disposed of locally.

Reckless Waste of Trees

But so long as a distributor can buy any quantity of trees at low cost, he is not much concerned with the number that may remain unsold, especially at a season when selling is probably more easy than at any other period of the year. A few trees more or less are of little consequence.

This brings us down to the ultimate consumer, and lays the onus fairly at his feet. As a Canadian he has a stake in the forest that is worth safeguarding, and one of the ways to do this is by preventing waste—from any and all sources. Most people know whether or not they will be "having a tree" at the Yuletide season. If such a simple plan could be evolved as ordering in advance, with the dealer refusing to stock more than the minimum of extra trees, there would be a vast reduction of surplus evergreens. One year of having to do without a tree would in most cases be sufficient to guarantee ordering in advance, and the loss of profit to the retailer would be less than the handling and unsold stock accounted for in years when unrestricted ordering held sway.

Must Get Cutting Permits

The plan may not be ideal, but at least it has the merit of offering a suggestion that might work out to the advantage of the retailer, the forest, and those lovers of the forest who are saddened by the sight of useless slaughter of the young growth. Michigan passed a stringent Christmas tree law in 1933, requiring a written permit from the owner for all cutting, to be carried at all times by the permitee or his agent. In Connecticut tree dealers are all licensed and special traffic patrolmen are on hand to check their merits. "Forest and Outdoors" suggests that now is an opportune time for a campaign among farm woodlot owners of this country, to point out how the Christmas tree crop may best be produced, and a movement to protect the property of those who seek to beautify their holdings by the acquisition of valuable evergreens. It is claimed that 500,000 trees are cut annually in trespass and that these do not appear in customs' returns.

What Authorities Say

Each year as the Yuletide season approaches, letters of concern and protest appear in the press, with respect to the cutting of Christmas trees. On this point, however, the federal and provincial Forest Services maintain, that provided only the Christmas tree business is properly controlled and regulated in the best interests of all concerned, no real cause for uneasiness need exist. Briefly, the stand taken by the Dominion Forest Service on the matter is as follows:

(1) The Christmas tree custom is today a fixed and important institution in our social and religious life.

(2) The production of little trees for the satisfaction of this demand constitutes a legitimate and profitable use of land.

(3) On the Crown land areas of each province it is feasible to control the cutting of Christmas trees by strict permit regulations and thus prevent undue forest depletion or damage.

(4) Inasmuch as the estimated 5,000,000 trees cut in Canada each Christmas season could be produced in perpetuity on 100 square miles of forest land, no threat of forest destruction is involved if only the trees are cut in the right places.

Good Woodlot Crop

(5) The Christmas tree trade now provides Canadian farmers with a profitable, offseason, farm woodlot crop, of a value exceeding $500,000 a year. When properly controlled this trade will tend to benefit rather than injure our forests. This is well seen in the case of Pike's Peak Natural Forest in Colorado, where the judicious thinning of young evergreen forests provides the city of Denver with its Christmas tree needs. In Canada, it seems probable that future Christmas tree supplies will come more and more largely from managed woodlot plantations.

According to customs figures, the value placed on Christmas trees exported from Canada this last year-end was $509,407, which represents a 43 per cent. increase over 1936 and 161 per cent. over the depression "low," at Christmas, 1932. New York is the outstanding market for Canadian Christmas trees, annually absorbing 250 to 300 carloads. This is about two-thirds of the total New York demand.

Kinds of Trees Cut

The census figures also reveal that of the total Christmas trees exported, about three-fifths come from Quebec, one-fifth from Ontario, one-tenth from Saskatchewan, one-twelfth from the Maritime provinces, and one-fortieth from British Columbia. As to the species most favoured, the choice is estimated to run about as follows: Canada Balsam, 60 per cent.; Spruce, 25 per cent.; Douglas Fir, 10 per cent.; and other species, five per cent.

In part of Canada every year-end, especially near cities, the pilfering and mutilation of prized evergreens in woodlots or arboretums, or along roadways, is becoming a serious menace. Yet taking Canada as a whole little or no effective controlling legislation has been enacted as yet. The passage of such legislation would seem to be a pressing need at the present time, especially as applying to private woodlands. Some effective way, of discouraging these heartless and destructive vandals has become a distinct necessity. Many an owner of summer cottage site or home grounds would like to enrich and beautify his holding with blue spruce of other lovely and protecting conifers, but with the ugly menace of the Christmas tree robber ever before him, what wonder that he hesitates and postpones, and finally gives up his dream of added beauty?

In approaching the problem one naturally asks what steps other communities may have taken to deal with it. Enquiry reveals that several nearby States of the Union have been considering the matter and adopted plans to meet the situation.

In Connecticut, Christmas trees are all licensed, and during November and December special traffic patrolmen are employed to stop all vehicles carrying greenery and check their permits. Such stringent laws as these, in many of the States, have now practically put a stop to trespassing and looting.

Protection for Owners

In Ontario, it would seem to be the natural function of Horticultural Societies to study this matter of providing effective protection for owners of valuable evergreens, and to interest themselves in procuring fully adequate legislation to that end.

The census returns show an aggregate area of some 30,000,000 acres devoted to wood lot uses on Canadian farms, and if the farmer receives governmental advice regarding say his barley or apple crop, then why not some instruction also in respect to so general and profitable a short-term woodlot crop as Christmas trees seem destined to become?

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The ideal man's watch. Shockproof, waterproof. $24.75

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Ronson and Evans cigarette cases, lighters and combination sets. Priced from $2.50 to $15.00

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Largest selection of pipes in the North; Meershaum, Cornoy, Peterson's Dundee Filter and others. From $1 to $14

WILSON'S DRUG STORE

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THE SISTER STATES

(From Smith's Falls News-Record)

A curious inquirer wanted to know what are the sister States, and the country editor answered:

"We are not quite sure, but we should judge that they are Miss Ouri, Ida Ho, Mary Land, Callie Fornia, Allie Bama, Louis Anna, Della Ware, Minnie Sota and Mrs. Sippi.

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