

Lindsay-Dorset Tree Slaughter is Condemned

"Ontario administration of forests, the province's most valuable asset, is outrageously inefficient because of low wages of forestry officials, high grading of lumber and blitzkrieg cutting." This was the statement last week of John C. W. Irwin, secretary of the Save Ontario Forests League, and editor of a publication of the same name, at a Toronto board of trade meeting.

"Premier Drew's forestry advisory commission, for which he now has permissive legislation passed in 1944, is really only another name for Finlayson's forestry board of 1927," Mr. Irwin said.

Mr. Irwin declared the appointment of a forest resources commission, of several members, is the solution to the problem. This had

been urged by Premier Drew, as opposition leader in 1941, "and promised many times since both when in and out of office," he said.

Mr. Irwin reported that Ontario's ballyhooed reforestation had treed 200 square miles in southern Ontario in 35 years, or six square miles a year, in an area where there are 8,500 square miles of land, only useful for forest, equal to five of the largest countries. Current progress would reforest this area in 800 years. Meanwhile fire destruction has continued at 625 square miles annually of 100 times that planted.

"Permanent civil service employees, with a stake in their jobs and pensions," are an answer to forest protection and inspection. Mr. Irwin said. "There is no excuse for the present system under which about 1,000 or 1,110 are engaged at the peak of the fire hazard period for an average of five months' work at ridiculously low wages, averaging little more than one-third of what other woods workers are making."

BARN TOTAL LOSS, FARM STOCK SAFE

Early Sunday evening, fire completely destroyed the barn on the farm of William Lunn at Millbrook near Peterboro.

Mr. Lunn had been doing his evening chores and as he was letting his horses out the last horse kicked and overturned the lantern which immediately exploded.

The entire season's crop was destroyed in the ensuing fire but fortunately no stock was left in the stable. The Millbrook Fire Brigade was summoned and thus prevented the fire from spreading to the house.

CATTLEMAN'S DEATH STILL PUZZLES LAW

The death of Joseph B. Martin, Floradale cattle buyer whose body was found near Oakville two weeks ago still remains a mystery.

However, investigations of the death are expected to shift to Toronto where the dead man's beer permit is said to have been found yesterday. The book is said to have been found by a street cleaner in the Jarvis Street district of the Ontario capital. And speculation today is that Martin may have been enticed into a liquor dive and died from the effects of doped liquor given him as an aid to robbery.

At the time he set out for Toronto to buy cattle, Martin is known to have had a considerable sum of money in his possession. And his pockets had been emptied when his blanket wrapped body was discovered beside the Queen Elizabeth way by two transport drivers.

No definite cause of death has yet

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been reported by police medical authorities investigating. However, a report upon analysis of stomach contents of the dead man was expected by Friday.

LIVESTOCK CENSUS, 1945

Shrinkage in hog population, with an increase in cattle numbers on the farm is revealed in the figures for the June, 1945, census of livestock on farms in Canada, just issued by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Hogs on the farms at that date numbered 6,326,000, compared with 7,741,000 head at the same date in 1944, while cattle had risen from 10,346,000 head in June 1944 to 10,759,000 head in June 1945. Numbers of sheep and horses showed a decrease from last year.

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90 Percent of Hogs for Britain

In swift response to Britain's hurry-up call for bacon, the Meat Board has instructed exporting packing plants to rush to seaboard the product of 90 per cent of all hogs slaughtered until October 20th. This action follows the disclosure in the House of Commons on October 4th by Hon. James G. Gardiner that reduced Canadian bacon deliveries have forced Britain to consider reducing its meagre bacon ration to one-half that of the war years.

Mr. Gardiner said that Sir Ben Smith, British Minister of Food, in an urgent trans-Atlantic telephone call had declared that unless Canada could deliver 14,000 long tons of bacon in both October and November, the British people might have their bacon ration cut to two ounces weekly. (Reduced Canadian

bacon shipments necessitated Britain's reducing her wartime four-ounce ration to three ounces in May.)

The Meat Board said that unless it had appropriated for export nine out of ten hogs—except sows and stags—slaughtered in exporting plants until October 20th, October shipments to Britain would probably not have exceeded 11,000 tons, but that as a result of its latest action, it is extremely optimistic that clearances would very closely approximate the 14,000 tons requested by the Ministry. With the anticipated normal increase in fall marketings of hogs, there should be little difficulty in meeting or even exceeding the minimum requirements for November, said the Board.

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