

Sanitary Engineer Addresses P. E. I. Camping Ass'n.

Mr. Wallace Sharpe, Provincial Sanitary Engineer was the guest speaker at a recent meeting of the Prince Edward Island Camping Association. The members of the Association gained much knowledge from Mr. Sharpe's address.

In his discourse Mr. Sharpe touched on many important points. He said: "A happy camper is a healthy camper. Let us first consider disease and illness as related to camping. We may compare the spread of disease to planting a seed in the soil where the disease or seed is the sick person or the carrier and the soil the well person. In sanitation we are particularly interested in the mechanical transportation of the seed to the soil, whether by means of droplets in the air, dust, insects, eating utensils, personal hygiene, improper disposal methods or food and water.

"With water and milk we have fluids which most everyone partakes of each day. Thus if any disease organisms were to be present we would expect almost a 100% exposure amongst the campers. This is the reason for so much emphasis being placed on the water and milk supply. The Sanitary Engineering Division of your Health Department is most willing to test both of these supplies for you and to offer suggestions for their improvement.

The Camp Kitchen
"Next let us consider the camp kitchen. If one cannot keep food hot keep it cold! This is sound advice around a kitchen. Disease organisms may be considered to be at any optimum temperature for growth at 98.6 degrees Fahrenheit, in other words, at body temperature. Bacteria will not multiply in a temperature range of less than 50 degrees F. whereas at 170 degrees Fahrenheit for two minutes sterilization will be accomplished. The danger area for bacterial growth is between 50 degrees F and 120 degrees F and if food is kept on ice the bacteria will tend to be dormant and not grow until exposed to a more preferred temperature.

"Let us next consider camp dishwashing procedure. We know that any infection contained on eating utensils have a very good chance for general distribution amongst the campers. It is, therefore, important to disinfect by economical means all the dishes and eating utensils. It is suggested that a three tub set-up be used where a good detergent such as Surf, Vel, Tide, etc., is used in the first tub, a 110 degrees F. rinse in the second and a 140 degrees F. 100 p.p.m. chlorine solution be used in the third for the sterilization of the dishes and utensils. It is considered good practice to remove all food particles by scraping before washing the dishes as these

Prairie Soils Extremely Dry

OTTAWA, May 13 — (CP) — Prairie soils are "extremely dry," particularly over wide areas of Alberta and Saskatchewan, with rainfall "far below normal," the Bureau of Statistics reported today in its first 1949 summary of trans-Canada crop conditions.

The Bureau said it was evident that there would be "significant" increases in wheat acreages on the Prairies this year, with sharp declines in sowings of flaxseed and rye.

However, immediate rains are needed in many Prairie districts. Reporting on conditions across Canada generally, the Bureau said the spring season, with few exceptions, is considerably advanced, as compared with a year ago.

The growing season in the Maritime Provinces is from 10 days to two weeks in advance of last year. The land is drying rapidly and spring work is getting under way in some areas. Seeding is expected to be general within the next week or two.

Livestock appears to have come through the winter in good shape and are being put out to pasture in some of the southern districts. Fruit trees have wintered well and the blossom prospect is good. Early potato plantings have been started and truck crop planting is advancing.

organics cut down the efficiency of all three compartments which would necessitate frequent changing of solutions. Also in place of 100 p.p.m. chlorine solution 170 degrees F water with a two minute contact period will accomplish the same result.

"With regard to waste disposal from the kitchen this may be divided into three separate products. (1) cans; (2) liquid wastes and grease; (3) solids.

Disposal of a Can
"Cans are a simple material to handle but if not handled correctly they can be as offensive as most other wastes. They should be rinsed and cleaned and thus rendered free from food materials. They are then prepared for dumping with little chance of being offensive.

"Liquid wastes and grease are a problem which requires equipment and planning. It is suggested that the Public Health Department be asked to co-operate in the setting up of the liquid disposal system at the camps. To do an adequate job of liquid waste disposal a grease trap is considered essential with drainage into a tile field or cess-pool. If this is done properly with frequent inspections and skimming of the grease trap the pores of the soil will remain open and will not require frequent changing of the system and expensive labour bills.

"Solid wastes from the kitchen should be collected in covered containers and emptied at least once a day. These wastes should be thoroughly drained and disposed of by burial with an adequate earth covering placed over each deposit of garbage. Chloride of lime may be used in the dump area to lessen the fly and odour offense but burial if adequate should be sufficient.

"Most camps on the Island are using outdoor facilities. It is most important to have these privies fly tight and supplied with self closing doors and seat covers. Also the vault should be absolutely light proof and never be filled too full. Most well-managed camps find it necessary to backfill the trenches each year and re-locate over freshly dug pits.

"When you are preparing the camping facilities this year I wish that you would set aside time for reviewing the water and milk supply at your camp and also the cooling and dishwashing facilities. The disposal problem may be your chief worry but whatever your problem is, please feel free to call on your Health Department for help in these matters."

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