Saving Ontario's Natural Resources

(No. 9)
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IMPORTANCE OF BROOKS

The headwaters of most rivers are little streams. These streams and the tributary feeder brooks are very important in the conservation of the brook trout for they are the nurseries of the young fish. Here, the trout find cool waters, lots of the proper kind of food and, most important of all, protection against many hungry enemies. Fishing clubs and anglers are so often only concerned with the main stream when they should be protecting and fostering the tiny brooks back in the hills. Of course, many anglers realize the value of these streams and where they have control, oftentimes close them to all fishing.

Our speckled trout spawn late in the fall, usually after the rains have filled the streams so that they can reach the spawning grounds. The male and female trout may go into small streams that have only a few inches of water normally. Here, the male selects a gravel bar and fans out a depression. Next, he chooses a female and a few eggs are deposited. The male continues to fan out the depression but on the upstream side, and more eggs are laid. The digging of the hole the second time covers the first lot of eggs with gravel. And this continues until both male and female are exhausted.

WHERE TROUT LAY EGGS

All winter long the eggs are developing, protected against hungry trout and birds by the gravel over them. Early in the spring the young trout hatch and wriggle free. For awhile they lie quietly but soon they start to feed on the minute life of the stream.

Two things are absolutely essential if we are to have normal reproduction in the speckled trout. There must be plenty of water in the small streams for nearly the whole year and there must be gravel bars in which the trout can build their spawning depressions. Without these the natural crop of young fish will be a failure and artificial stocking will be needed if the angling is to be kept in good condition.

If we are to maintain the trout in our streams we must see that the forest is not cut away at the headwaters of our rivers, and, if it has already been cut, we must reforest. This, I believe is the first and most important work in replenishing the speckled trout waters of southern Ontario.

Famed Sam McGee Dies In Alberta

Celebrated By Robert W. Service's Poem "The Cremation of Sam McGee" — Native of Lindsay, Ont.

Sam McGee, whose name became renowned through a sourdough poem of Robert W. Service, is dead.

The "Sam McGee from Tennessee," who actually was a native of Lindsay, Ont., died in the little southern Alberta town of Beiseker, early in September. His death came 30 years after Service wrote "The Cremation of Sam McGee."

The poem told how McGee from Tennessee was always "cold but the land of gold seemed to hold him like a spell" and he finally admitted he was comfortably warm when his frozen body was being cremated.

WASN'T CREMATED AT ALL

McGee, 73 years old at the time of his death, wasn't spellbound by the search for gold, either, as his chief occupations in the Yukon were copper mining and road-building. And he was not cremated. He was buried in Rosebud Church cemetery, a few miles from Beiseker.

After McGee left the Yukon in 1909, he gave up his northland pursuits and went to Great Falls, Mont., where he lived for 28 years. Three years ago he came to Beiseker.

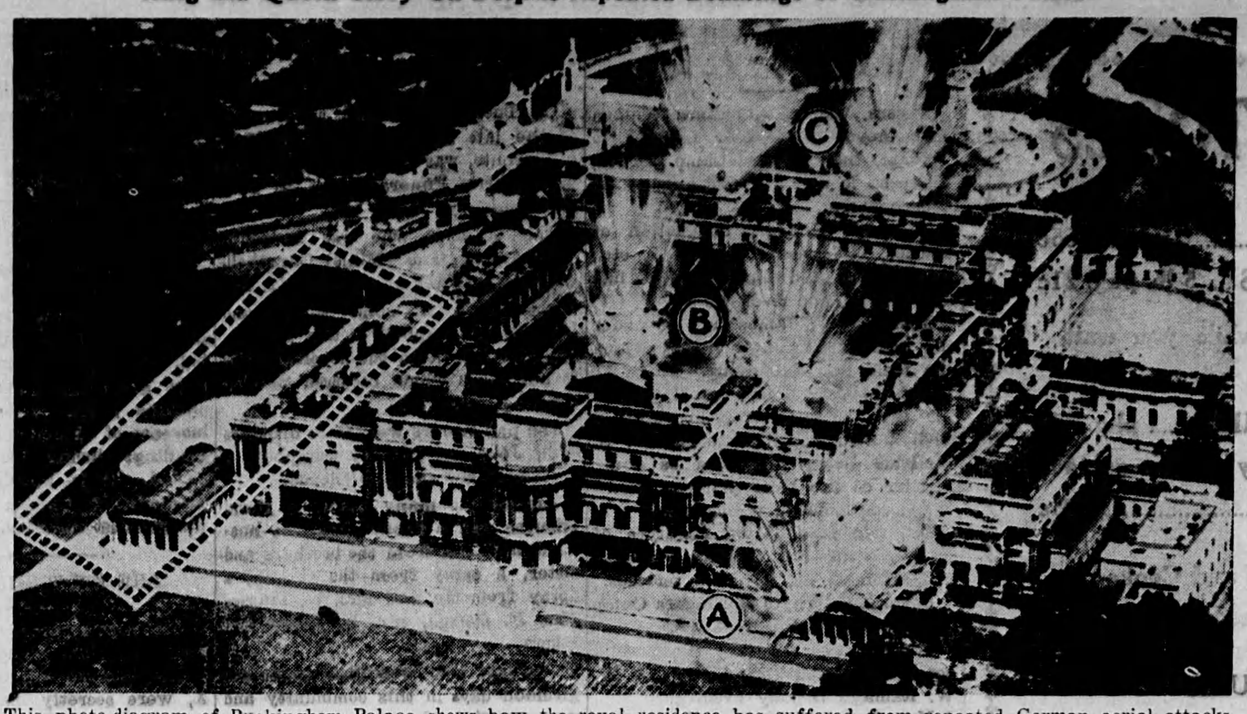
McGee always found it difficult to convince people he was the "Sam McGee" of Service's poem but he usually did with a valedictory address presented when he left the Yukon.

Two years ago he visited the Yukon and discovered that a two-room shanty he had built at Whitehorse in 1900 had been converted into a tearoom that urged passers-by to "have a cup of tea with the ghost of Sam McGee."

Largest Library

Largest library in the world is the Library of Congress, at Washington, D.C. It contains 1,421,285 maps and pictures, and 5,828,126 printed books and pamphlets.

King and Queen Carry On Despite Repeated Bombings of Buckingham Palace



This photo-diagram of Buckingham Palace shows how the royal residence has suffered from repeated German aerial attacks. Their majesties' private chapel (A) was completely wrecked by one great bomb. Two more bombs fell last week in the quadrangle (B), tearing great holes in the paving and damaging surrounding walls. The front of the palace, at TOP of diagram, was pitted by another pair of bombs (C) that fell between the statue of Queen Victoria and the front entrance, facing towards St. James' Park. The building shown at the bottom of the area inside the dotted lines is the swimming pool demolished in the first assault on the palace.

THE WAR-WEEK—Commentary on Current Events

"TO INVADE OR NOT . . ." QUESTION FOR HITLER

The desperate battle for air supremacy over Great Britain continued last week. Upon its outcome and upon the vagaries of the weather hinged a colossal invasion attempt by the Germans.

Would the R. A. F. retain its mastery of the British skies? Experts agreed that three factors would decide the war in the air: the number of British pilots; the amount of aviation gasoline the Nazis had; the strength of the Russian air force (which potentially opposed Germany's).

"Yes" and "No"

Should the worst come to the worst, superior Nazi air strength might break British civilian morale and bring victory without invasion. Should the air battle end in a draw, it was expected that Hitler, committed to produce something soon to pacify the German people, might order the invasion anyway with resultant terrible casualties to his own men.

Would he invade? Anybody's guess was as good as the next man's. Louis P. Lochner, Associated Press correspondent in Berlin said "no." He foresaw the possibility that Germany's plans against Britain would concentrate on air war with abandonment of the invasion scheme. "The German air force," he declared, "will continue its relentless acts until the British government acts" — presumably surrendering.

"Impossible unless German air mastery is established within a definite and limited period" editorialized the Soviet Navy newspaper, Red Fleet. The article read: "British air strength has been gradually increasing with the extensive aid of the United States. If the Germans do not succeed in reaching their goal — conquest of full air supremacy — within a definite and limited period, and the British air fleet is able to achieve numerical equality with Germany, then any German landing operations are out of the question."

Bearing out the predictions on Axis strategy voiced from time to time in this column, the black shadow of Mussolini's legions began to move across Egypt last week, driving towards the Suez Canal. It was obvious that the two dictators were working together, the Duce to prevent the British from withdrawing warships and airplanes from the Mediterranean area for defense of the Mother Country; the Fuehrer to keep British ships and planes engaged at home while the Duce did his big act. They evidently believed that by striking simultaneously in two most vital spots they could clean up on the British Empire.

Franco, Too

As if this weren't enough for the Government at London to be facing, General Franco last week gave signs of wishing to join Germany and Italy to get his prize, Gibraltar. He sent his brother-in-law Ramon Serrano Suner to Berlin to confer with Hitler and von Ribbentrop following upon Axis pressure to allow soldiers passage through Spain.

More War In The East

The crisis in the Far East grew more acute. Japan had demanded troop transit across French Indo-China to enable her to strike at China along General Kai-Shek's southern border, and a naval base at Haiphong, strategic port on the Gulf of Tonkin. The Vichy Government of Marshal Petain had agreed in principle to the demands, but China had declared that if they were granted, Chiang's troops would counter-invade Indo-China. The British and U. S. Governments had issued diplomatic warnings . . Would Japan gain her ends peaceably or would there be new war in the east? "Time" (Sept. 16) said: "The end toward which the Japanese Army had worked since 1937 was at hand: a direct challenge to the western powers to fight or pull their stakes out of the Far East . . . Few doubted that war was definitely in the saddle and headed south toward Thailand, British Malaya, Singapore, and the rich Netherlands Indies."

To safeguard their own rear, the Japanese last week were making special efforts to reach an understanding with Soviet Russia. Declared the newspaper Kokumin (often a spokesman for the Japanese army): "The United States preparedness program is directed against Japan. We are the potential enemy they have in mind, not Germany. The leasing of British territories in the Atlantic for naval bases will be followed by similar moves in the Pacific. Relations between Japan and the United States are now fraught with the danger of war."

Trouble In India

Trouble for Britain was also brewing in India. The powerful Congress Party, headed by Mohandas K. Gandhi, passed a resolution last week rescinding an offer to cooperate with Britain in prosecuting the war (Indian independence had been asked as a price). Nevertheless Gandhi expressed his determination not to embarrass Britain at this time by pushing independence claims, his desire not to order civil disobedience among the masses of India until he deemed it absolutely necessary.

SCOUTING...

Emergency Public Service

The effectiveness of Boy Scout training for emergency public service is impressively illustrated by a recent summary of 125 different types of wartime good turns found by the Scouts of Great Britain. The list includes general assistance in A.R.P. work, policing air raid shelters, filling sand bags, acting as blackout guides to the aged, infirm, mothers, children and new arrivals. In some places they are relieving telephone operators. In the Thames River Emergency Service they are stretcher-bearers, signallers, etc. They serve in hospitals, make splints, collect spagnum moss. They assist the police in traffic control; older Scouts act as special constables. In the task of evacuating children they are invaluable, their tireless feet running hither and thither doing a host of things, from acting as escorts to cleaning out empty houses to be used as billets. They are orderlies for air raid listening posts and balloon barrage units. They are most alert coast watchers. On the farms they are helping with the harvest, repairing hedges, milking cows, picking hops, collecting or chopping firewood. One of the strangest Scout jobs is gathering acorns, chestnuts and rowan berries for animals in the zoos. They have found numberless ways of assisting the refugees from Holland, Belgium and France, meeting them at the stations, supplying them with food and guiding them to their billets. In a word the Scouts of Britain have met the greatest day-after-day test that has ever faced Boy Scouts, and have more than vindicated the aim and motto of their Scout training, "Be Prepared."

The Book Shelf

BUILDING THE CANADIAN WEST

By Prof. James B. Hedges

This attractive book written by Dr. J. B. Hedges of Brown University, Providence, R.I., gives us the first complete account of the part played by the Canadian Pacific Railway in the settling and development of the great Canadian West. Based on an exhaustive study of original documents, it adds a new chapter to the pioneer history of British North America. Without Dr. Hedges' work, perhaps, the story of that adventurous undertaking, the colonization of the West, might have been lost to succeeding generations.

The volume, most interestingly written, is divided into thirteen chapters—The Background, the Origin of the Land Subsidy, Locating the Land, Beginnings of Land Policy, Advertising the West, The Land Boom on the Prairie, Launching the Irrigation Project, A Policy of Colonization, The Department of Natural Resources, Later Land Policies, Promoting Better Agriculture, The Department of Colonization, Summary and Conclusion.

"Building the Canadian West" . . By Professor James B. Hedges . . Toronto: The Macmillan Company of Canada.

VOICE OF THE PRESS

THEY'RE HARD ENOUGH

Incidentally, couldn't a lot of those summer resort mattresses be put to a useful purpose in building highways?—

Stratford Beacon-Herald.

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GETTING THE FACTS

The Ottawa Journal is right when it suggests that the "Facing the Facts" broadcasting series should broaden out and take in more territory. The country should be told about the wheat situation from the Government standpoint and the Western farmers' position.

—Lethbridge Herald.

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OXFORD'S CHEESE

Oxford has done more than any other county in Western Ontario and more than any in Eastern Ontario except Leeds, to increase cheese production this year. The July total was 895,322 pounds, against 740,176 a year ago, and for seven months 4,197,360 pounds, compared with 3,515,800.

—Woodstock Sentinel-Review.

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TEXT-BOOK CHANGES

One of the most annoying things in the world, as far as parents are concerned—and it is also a considerable expense to them—is the habit of the education authorities in continually authorizing new text-books and discarding old ones. Is it possible that they are secretly in league with the publishers or are they unable to make up their minds from year to year about the books from which schoolchildren should obtain instruction?

—Brockville Recorder and Times.

Engine Baked 'Em

Here's a new one. A tourist who halted his car of 1925 vintage at Point Pelee's National Park and decided to turn back because of the admission was not tempted by the offer of outside stoves in the park. He lifted the hood of his car and displayed three cans of beans in the process of being cooked.

Panama Folk Stay Home for Census

By official decree everybody in the Republic of Panama had to stay at home one day last week until the census taker called. The alternative was a $5 fine.

Automobiles, trains and street cars didn't move. Even ships were tied up until all aboard were counted.

Ten years ago the census showed 467,459 Panamanians.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT — By Fred Neher

"Hit me again! If I'm goin' home tonight, I gotta get used to it!"

REG'LAR FELLERS — Preparedness — By GENE BYRNES