Saving Ontario's Natural Resources

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(NO. 25)

MUSEUM EXHIBITS

In my article last week I told how the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology was developed with the aid of the collections of the University of Toronto and the Normal School. Other institutions and individuals contributed also to the growth of the R. O. M. Z. An important collection of Canadian material came from Dr. J. H. Garnier, a naturalist-physician of Lucknow, Ontario. This collection, received by the University of Toronto Museum in 1891, was especially rich in amphibians and reptiles, but contained some birds and mammals as well. Just last week I examined some of the reptiles collected by Dr. Garnier, in connection with work I am doing. This illustrates how important these old collections are to present day students for in his material are creatures now almost extinct in Ontario.

Canadian Animals Preferred

The Royal Canadian Institute was another important contributor to the Royal Ontario Museum. This institution was founded in 1849 and built up a collection of natural history objects which were greatly increased in 1885 when the amalgamation of the Natural History Society of Toronto occurred. This society had a considerable collection of birds and mammals that were added to the Museum of the Institute and the whole transferred to the R. O. M. in 1924.

In 1914 when the Royal Ontario Museum of Zoology was created the zoological collections were given a gallery on the top floor of the original museum building on Bloor street, Toronto, and the staff started to build up the exhibits. In the selection of material, preference was given to Canadian animals, although many exotics such as parrots, birds of paradise and foreign game birds were included. The exhibit, as finally assembled, included a fairly representative collection of the birds of Canada, a much less adequate representation of Canadian mammals and a very poor collection of fishes, amphibians, reptiles and invertebrates. It was soon found that a public museum needed more exhibits so taxidermists were employed to add many animals to the mounted groups. Dr. E. M. Walker, now head of the Department of Biology at the University of Toronto, prepared a series of exhibits of the invertebrates, the insects, worms, spiders and other creatures of the waters and soils.

Air-Conditioned Doghouse Made

Now comes the air-conditioned doghouse.

Milton Worth, Deal, N.J., fire truck driver, spent $65 and three weeks of spare time building the canine cottage for a pair of hounds he expects to buy. Features of the house, which is four by three by four feet in dimensions, include plate glass windows with eastern and northern exposure, a screened ventilator tower, walls insulated with rock wool, asbestoc shingles, and a porch. The windows can be taken out in summer and submitted for with screens and venetian blinds, says Mr. Worth.

The Book Shelf

"WORLD'S END"
By Upton Sinclair

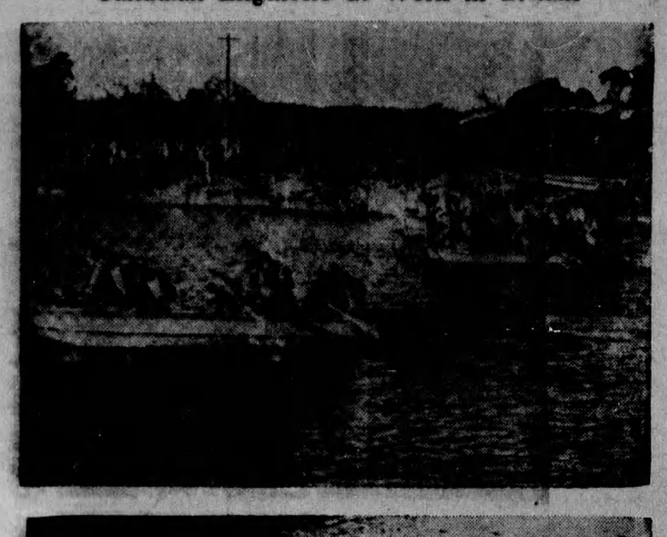
"World's End" is the story of Lanny Budd, a young American, moving in the highest and most dangerous society in the Europe of only yesterday. The son of a beautiful and impulsive woman and a powerful munitions-king, he was privileged to live behind the scenes of world events — in Riviera villas, feudal castles, Parisian salons, and Thames-side manors.

His path crossed the threads of Sir Basil Zaharoff's web; he took part in the Peace Conference and watched Woodrow Wilson try to remake the map of Europe; he talked with Lincoln Steffens and learned through him of Soviet Russia.

The story of Lanny Budd mades a novel in the great narrative tradition, but more than that it summarizes an era. It is the intimate record — told frequently in terms of the real-life participants — of a great world which fell victim to its own civilization and whose death march was the overture to a new world about to be born.

"World's End" . . . by Upton Sinclair . . . Toronto: MacMillan Company of Canada . . . $3.00.

Canadian Engineers at Work in Britain



Canadian troops who rallied to the side of the motherland are shown here in training somewhere in England. At TOP, Canadian engineers are getting boats into position as the first step in the building of a bridge across a river. BELOW, outposts in pneumatic boat keep watch while the bridge-building operation is carried on by comrades. In the event of the long-threatened invasion becoming reality, almost every bridge in certain sections of England would be demolished immediately.

THE WAR WEEK—Commentary on Current Events

Roosevelt Asks U. S. To Risk War For Democracies

"We Americans are vitally concerned in your defense of freedom . . . We shall send you, in ever-increasing numbers, ships, planes, tanks, guns. This is our purpose and our pledge."

At a moment "unprecedented in the history of the Union," President Roosevelt last week made his initial address to the new seventy-seventh Congress of the United States in which he called for full material aid to the embattled democracies (Britain, Greece, China —but chiefly Britain), asked for "authority and funds" to produce more munitions and war supplies to be "leased-lent" to countries fighting the Axis.

U. S. Involvement Likely

The face of the United States was now set in the direction of war. If Congress should grant the President's pleas, the U. S. rapidly would find itself on a war footing with increased chances of the nation becoming a belligerent.

Speaking at the University of North Carolina, former U. S. Ambassador to France William C. Bullitt declared that the United States in aiding Britain, Greece and China would be taking the risk of war, but, he said, "we know what the consequences of totalitarian victory would be for us" — there would be a tougher war to fight later.

Sea Power, The Hub

Sea power would continue to be the hub upon which the British cause revolved. Obviously active steps would have to be taken very soon to protect transport to Britain of American production. The United States would have, in some way, to furnish more trans-Atlantic shipping aid — most likely through American naval escorts for convoys. In all likelihood it would be accomplished by the division of the U. S. Navy into three fleets—Atlantic, Pacific and Asiatic—only one of which would be involved directly in aiding Britain.

Long War Likely

The possibility strengthened during the week that the war would develop into a long one. A quick decision, an early end to the conflict could come in only two ways: through a successful invasion of England by Hitler — but neutral military experts believed the odds were too heavily against him; through a negotiated peace — but President Roosevelt categorized such an eventuality as "nonsense."

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Germany Takes Over

As a potent factor in the war, Italy, by virtue of the sweeping British victories in North Africa and the Greek counter-attacks in Albania, would soon be 'out,' it was believed in most quarters last week. But quickly as Italian military power was fading in the Mediterranean, just as swiftly were German strategists, diplomats, technicians preparing to take over Italy's job of cleaning up on the Balkans, driving towards the Near East and Suez.

Putting On The Screws

First, the Nazis set going a gigantic propaganda movement in southeastern Europe, designed, according to New York Times' correspondent Gedye, to keep the populations of the Balkan states in a state of jitters. Then they sent troops by the hundreds of thousands to line practically every Balkan border — from the Black Sea along the Bulgarian border; up the Yugoslav frontier and concentrated in the southern provinces of Rustria; along the Russian frontiers of Rumania and in Hungary. Then they re-opened with increasing force their diplomatic offensive against Bulgaria and Yugoslavia, to draw them into signing a pact with the Axis and permitting passage of troops down into Greece.

Simultaneously, the Germans sent tanks into Albania to stem the Greek advance; poured thousands of troops into Italy to be ready to take over should the Fascist regime of Mussolini fall.

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Farmers Meet

The eyes of the people of Ontario were fixed during the week upon two events of major political importance in the Dominion — the Conference in Ottawa on the Rowell-Sirois Report; and the meeting in London, Ontario, of Federal Minister of Agriculture Gardiner with Ontario farm representatives to confer on a minimum price for butter.

The formation of a non-partisan farmers' union under provincial government auspices was expected at an early date. (The Government is alarmed about the situation in Ontario, where farmers, resentful over the reduction of prices for hogs, butter, milk, cream and other products, are liquidating their herds and selling their breeding stock).

No New Provincial Taxes

Good news for Ontarioans: In a New Year's message to The Windsor Star, Premier Mitchell F. Hepburn declared that the best contribution to the war effort the province could make was to maintain Ontario's sound financial position. At the same time he pledged that his budget for the fiscal year commencing April 1 next, would include no new taxes, no increases in present taxation and no lowering of existing taxation exemptions.

Ontario-Born Artists' Show

Paintings of Tom Thomson and Horatio Walker Are Being Shown In a Special Exhibition at the Art Gallery of Toronto in January

The Art Gallery of Toronto is featuring during the month of January special exhibitions of the paintings of Tom Thomson and Horatio Walker.

These two men, both born in Ontario small towns, had very different careers. Both started in commercial art houses in Toronto and left them to devote all their time to painting. Walker travelled in Europe and the United States: Thomson stuck to Algonquin Park and the north country. Walker settled on the Island of Orleans and painted the life of the habitants: Thomson did not bring people into his pictures but was always completely absorbed in nature, expressing the brilliant colour and forceful impact he felt in the Canadian wilderness. Both were self-taught but the influences affect-them, the friends they made, the artistic forces which moulded them, were completely unrelated. Walker painted in the tradition of the Barbizon school , while Thomson worked out a highly decorative and stylized form of expression all his own. Walker was one of the most successful painters in America and his canvasses, many of them purchased in his lifetime, come to the exhibition from different sources, from public and private collections in Washington, New York, Pittsburg, St. Louis and various Canadian cities. He died at the age of 82 in 1938. Before his untimely death in 1917 Thomson was known only to a few artists, but his reputation has continued to grow until now there is no Canadian painter who is more universally admired.

City of Caverns

Old London, in these times, would be fortunate if the city were constructed as Paris is, for the French capital is built largely of stone brought, not from far distant provinces, but from under the very ground on which it stands. Because of this, there is a ready-made underground city about one-tenth the size of Paris. One section of this cave contains the Catacombs, where rest the bones of some six million. Another zone consists of vast layers of gypsum or plaster stone. The Quarry Service has cut into this sector tunnels which follow accurately the courses of the avenues above. Ordance maps have been made of this system, showing springs, galleries, rooms, arches, pillars and reinforcements. Had the government of France decided to defend the city, the people could have occupied this underground fortress and defied Hitler's bombers till Doomsday.

VOICE OF THE PRESS

GRIM HUMOR

Perhaps it was a grim sense of humor which led the Department of National Revenue to choose Christmas Day for a statement about the 1941 income tax, and advice on how to meet its higher schedules.

—Ottawa Journal.

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AGE LIMIT FOR GUNS

Two boys aged 13 were out hunting near Sudbury, and one of them, who thought his rifle was empty, accidentally shot the other dead. There should be an age limit for carrying guns, just as there is an age limit for driving cars.

—Stratford Beacon-Herald.

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SHOULD DRESS FOR IT

The arrival of sub-Arctic spells each Winter would not mean a thing to us if we only had a little more foresight. For it is a simpler matter to be comfortable in extremes of cold than in extremes of heat, because heat is harder to get away from. As someone once put it—it is easier to warm oneself up than to cool oneself down.

One reason why we do not exactly welcome our annual spells of below-zero weather is that we have not yet learned to dress properly. In the Northwest Territories and in Siberia 50 below is not uncommon. Yet travelers tell us that people in those places suffer far less discomfort than we do when it is a mere five below. That is because they dress for it.

Walking down the main street of any Canadian city with the thermometer registering minus 30, the average city-bred Canadian looks pretty much like the average Londoner or New Yorker. Following the fashions set elsewhere we wear clothes never designed to ward off the extremes of frigidity we know we must expect.

—Winnipeg Tribune.

Sleep for Months

If you want to sleep all through the winter, run along to a specialist and have your pituitary glands cut out. Men who have made glands their life study say that it is merely a lack of pituitary secretion which causes certain animals to hibernate through the dark months, and that if they are given injections of pituitary extract they would wake up and become lively. All experiments so far have been conducted on hibernating animals, and it is not known for certain whether the same effect would be produced on human beings suffering from sleepy sickness. It is thought unlikely, for this sickness is the result of a germ. Pituitary extracts, however, have worked wonders for people who are unnat..rally sluggish and find it difficult to concentrate.

Cote: Canada's No. 1 Athlete

Quebec Marathon Runner Wins Official Award Made By Board of Prominent Sportsmen — Norah McCarthy, Figure Skater, Second

Gerard Cote, one of the greatest marathon runners ever developed in North America, was announced as winner of the Lou E. Marsh Memorial Trophy, awarded annually to the outstanding Canadian athlete, male or female, picked by a board of prominent Canadian sportsmen.

NOT CANADIAN CHAMPION

The 27-year-old St. Hyacinthe, Que., runner was only beaten once in 1940 and his other victories over-balanced that one defeat — in the Canadian championship marathon at Toronto. His methods of training, his almost unparallelled stamina and, through all his triumphs, his modesty made him almost unanimous choice of the board of selection.

Runner-up was Norah McCarthy of North Bay, Ont., and Ottawa, who early this year dethroned Mary Rose Thacker of Winnipeg as Canadian figure-skating champion.

So Cote joins that illustrious group of Canadian athletes who each year since 1936 have been chosen as recipients of the award commemorating the late Lou E. Marsh, former Toronto Star sports editor and widely-read columnist.

WEIGHS ONLY 125 POUNDS

First winner, in 1936, was Dr. Phil Edwards, Canadian Olympic runner in 1932 and 1936. Other winners were: Bob Pearce, Hamilton, Ont., sculler, 1937; Marshal Cleland, Toronto horseman and equine authority, 1938; and Bob Pirie, swimmer, formerly of Toronto, 1939.

The little French-Canadian—he is less than five feet, five inches tall and weighs about 125 pounds—was known mainly by name only when he won the Boston Marathon early last summer.

Snake Tannery

Snakes from many parts of the world go up the Thames in England to a tannery near London Bridge as a raw material for a business which is thriving in spite of w..r. Reptile skins, tanned, dyed and polished, sail across the North Sea and eventually become handbags, shoes and belts for the fashionable women of Sweden and her neutral neighbor countries. More than 1,000,000 snake and lizard skins reach the factory in a year. Germany, one of the chief reptile skin tanning countries, has been cut off from supplies, and the British business with Scandanavian countries has notably increased.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT — **By Fred Neher**

"If I let you on with this load will you pay for the spring if it breaks? ! !"

REG'LAR FELLERS — For Emergencies Only — **By GENE BYRNES**