Saving Ontario's Natural Resources

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Ontario Federation of Anglers.
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ONTARIO OWLS

Like the hawks the owls have been given a bad name that they do not deserve. With one exception, the great horned owl, they are beneficial in that they feed upon the mice that chew up the farmers' grain. There are several species in Ontario but as they are nocturnal, being most active at night, they are seldom noted except by the naturalist. A few migrate, one or two are year round residents while a couple more appear here as winter visitors from the north.

The Horned Owl

The great horned owl should be put in a class by himself for my experience has been that he is definitely destructive to poultry and game in settled farming communities. Yet this creature has his good points and uses. In the wilder districts rabbits may become very numerous so that young trees may be destroyed over large areas. Normally this tree killing would do no great harm but where reforestation is under way the rabbits must be controlled and a few horned owls are the easiest way of doing this. As I have emphasized time and again in these articles nature can usually take care of such a problem and we see this here in the control of rabbits by the horned owl.

The Snowy Owl

If you happen to live near some of our wide lake marshes you are familiar with the snowy owl that visits such places in winter. These owls seem to come down from the Arctic when there is a scarcity of food in that region. We know that Arctic animals, such as the lemming mice on which this owl normally feeds, have cycles of abundance and scarcity. One year they will be abundant and the next very scarce. Lack of mice in the lean years is the probable reason for the occasional appearance of snowy owls in southern Ontario.

I do not know whether or not the snowy owl has a call note but I think that it has. Certainly, anyone who has been in the wods at night has heard the call of the great horned owl. Its notes "Hoo, hoo-hoo," are shivery to the uninitiated but I rather like to hear them. There are stories of this owl attacking people while they were walking along woodland roads at night. Persumably, these were mistakes on the part of the owl for I doubt if even the fiercest of them could imagine that he could swallow a man.

The Book Shelf..

"MY NAME IS ARAM"
By William Saroyan

This book of delightful stories by the topnotch American writer and Pulitzer-prizewinner, William Saroyan, gives us a series of pictures of life as it appears to a nine-year-old Armenian boy who has his eyes wide open, his ears alert, his sense of humor alive to every excuse for laughter. He mimics his entire assortment of uncles—the sad uncle, the reckless uncle, and the uncle who had to be given advice — much to the exasperation of his roaring old grandfather.

The reading public is saying, after digesting this book: "Not since Mark Twain . . ."

Some of the chapters are headed: "The Presbyterian Choir Singers"; "The Circus"; "The Pomegranate Trees"; "The Summer of the Beautiful White Horse"; "My Cousin Dirkan, the Orator".

"My Name Is Aram" . . . by William Saroyan . . . Toronto: George J. McLeod Publishers . . . $3.00.

Ontario Farms Being Depleted

Prof. Henry G. Bell of the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph, Ont., said in an address at Toronto the middle of February that the fertility of Ontario's soil is being depleted at the rate of almost $136 a farm at present replacement costs.

He told the annual meeting of the Toronto Crop Improvement Association, that a survey of soil depletion statements for one year revealed a loss in pure nutrients for every farm in Ontario of 1,576 pounds despite efforts to revitalize the soil with manure, legumes and fertilizers. "We are proceeding in reverse," he said.

"There is no room in the Western Hemisphere for any notions about racial superiority."
—Henry A. Wallace.

A Ski Honeymoon in the Hills Near Quebec City

Enjoying a ski honeymoon at the Chateau Frontenac, Quebec. Mr. and Mrs. Seymour Robins of New York City, are shown here on the snow covered hills of the Lac Beauport winter playground, just nine miles from Quebec City. They were married in Quebec on January 24. Mrs. Robins was formerly Miss Jean Baird, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Sutherland Baird, and was born in Halifax, N.S. She is a noted fashion illustrator. Mr. Robins originally hailed from Hamilton, Ont., and is an art director for Harper's Bazaar and a number of agencies.

—C.P.R. Photo.

THE WAR-WEEK—Commentary on Current Events

HITLER IS THREATENING AN UNDERSEA OFFENSIVE

"Spring is coming, the season in which we will be able to challenge the opponent . . . One thing is certain. Wherever British ships cruise we shall set against them our submarines until the hour of decision."—Adolf Hitler.

"In a cause of the kind for which we are fighting . . . there can be no question of compromise or parley."—Winston Churchill.

The head men of the three belligerent nations last week let their own people and the world know what their plans were for the immediate future.

Speaking in reply to an offer from Japanese Foreign Minister Matsuoka to mediate the war in Europe, Prime Minister Winston Churchill of Great Britain declared that there could be no compromise or parley—both sides would have to fight on to the end.

A Long War

The disillusioned, disheartened people of Italy heard their Duce Mussolini frankly confess that Fascist arms had met with serious reverses in Africa, that the entire Tenth Army had been smashed. Coupled with these admissions came a promise of a new Italian offensive against the Greeks and threats of what his legions would do to the foes of Italy. The war would be a long one, he predicted.

Addressing the entire German nation, Reichsfuehrer Adolf Hitler renewed his oft-repeated pledge of closest co-operation with Italy and roared defiance at Great Britain. He warned of a great naval offensive to come in March and April, with submarines unleashed in gigantic force against British shipping. Upon U-boats rather than upon air power, the Nazis were evidently relying, then, to match British sea power in the final struggle.

Nazis Relying On Submarines

Hitler referred to "new type" subs to be thrown into the counter-siege of Britain—undoubtedly pocket U-boats. A neutral naval source recently estimated that the Germans might have as many as 600 undersea craft, all told, available in the spring. (Half of that force, some 300 U-boats, might be kept constantly on sea vigil about the British Isles as the weather improved).

Change In Strategy

Kirke L. Simpson, Associated Pressman writing from Washington, expressed this opinion: "If it is submarines, intimately co-operating with aircraft and occasional Nazi surface raiders, upon which Berlin is chiefly relying for victory, it would tend to explain much in German military strategy. It could mean that what Germany actually is seeking to accomplish in the Balkans is preservation of the status quo. That would mean just enough Nazi help for Italy and the Mediterranean to keep her in the war—and to keep a substantial part of British sea power in that theatre of operations. It would mean, also, just enough pressure on Balkan neutrals (Turkey, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia) to render them inactive so far as helping Greece was concerned. The same reasoning might be applied to Japanese activities in the Pacific—they have certainly contributed to a dispersion of British sea power."

That Hitler's hand in the Balkans might instead be forced was the belief last week held by many experts who saw ample evidence of a new war front opening up there, should Britain decide to despatch to Greece heavy reinforcements from Africa; and should Turkey decide to fight.

* * *

Substitute For Invasion

The long-awaited German invasion of Great Britain proper had not come off. Nor, as we predicted in this column last week, would it be likely to, if Hitler thought he could find some easier way to win the war. His Munich speech tended to heighten expectation that a prolonged campaign of attrition against Britain's lifeline in the Atlantic—(choking off supplies from the United States), paralleled by a stepped-up air attack on the British Isles could be expected as a substitute.

British authorities continued to talk of a long war, realizing that Hitler will fall only when it is fully established that he cannot maintain superiority in the heavens, nor ever gain control of the seas.

More Destroyers, Somehow

In the coming crisis, American equipment to combat the submarine menace, and more destroyers from the U. S. were viewed as absolutely essential. Responsible men in Washington were of the opinion that with the final enactment of the Lease-Lend Bill accomplished, the United States would now commence furnishing "almost anything we have" to aid Britain. Additional destroyers would be transferred right away, it was believed, and following a series of quick "aid acts" over a period of the next three months, the United States would likely be in the war.

* * *

Pacific War? 50-50

Informed speculation in the U. S. placed the chances of war with Japan close to 50-50. It seemed clear that the American Navy would strike if Japan attacked Singapore or the East Indies. It was not fully known whether or not Japan regarded the U. S. position in the crisis as bluff—some hot-head "incident" might precipitate armed conflict in the Pacific.

In face of the dark situation in the Far East, efforts were renewed last week by United States and Russian officials to adjust difficult trade and political problems between the two countries and to strive for improvement of relations generally.

Soviet Preparedness

Presenting the Russian budget to the Supreme Soviet, Finance Commissar Zvereff reaffirmed that the policy of the U. S. S. R. was one of neutrality in the present war. Nevertheless preparations were made to spend this year 25 per cent more on arms than last year. The Chairman of the Soviet Board of Defense Industry declared in Moscow that the Soviet Union must adopt measures to equip its national economy with advanced technique to keep the country in a due state of preparedness. "We must spare no means," he said, "for the production of planes, tanks, armaments, warships and ammunition." For the year 1941 a gross increase was planned in Soviet industrial production of 17 to 18 per cent over 1940.

* * *

Canada

In the Dominion, the death of Sir Frederick Banting, foremost Canadian scientist, mourned by everyone, overshadowed all other news of importance . . . Leighton McCarthy, K.C., prominent Toronto barrister and friend of President Roosevelt was named the new Canadian Minister to Washington.

Mr. Lapointe Calls A Halt

Backstage intrigue at Ottawa was hit in a sensational speech in the House of Commons last week by Jean Francois Pouliot, colorful Liberal M. P. for Temiscouata. Referring to the campaign for a National Government being conducted by various Canadian newspapers and politicians, Mr. Pouliot declared that "scoundrels and racketeers" were trying to seize control of Canada's wealth by this expedient. Colonel J. L. Ralston, Canada's Finance Minister, whose name was mentioned derogatorily by M. Pouliot, stoutly defended himself in a speech which was cheered by both sides of the House. Amid roars of applause from Liberal benches, Minister of Justice Ernest Lapointe declared his province—Quebec—unanimously opposed any suggestion that a National Government be organized to meet the present emergency. "The mere mention of such a proposal," he said, "rouses such memories that it is really a crime to refer to it. I beseech the promoters of this scheme to let well enough alone. I implore them not to undermine public confidence in their freely elected rulers."

It was learned last week that as soon as negotiations with Ontario and Quebec were completed, negotiations with the United States concerning the St. Lawrence seaway plan would go full steam ahead.

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BEE HIVE SYRUP

Canadian National Railways Revenues

The gross revenues of the all-inclusive Canadian National Railways System for the week ending Feb. 21, 1941, were $4,944,875 as compared with ..... 4,142,741 for the corresponding peroid of 1940, an increase of ..... 802,134 or 19.4%

Canada Grows Finest Ginseng in World

Ginseng is a medicinal herb. For centuries it was known and used by the Chinese, highly valued for its tonic benefits. It is a native Canadian plant being first discovered here in 1784. Since that time Canada has annually supplied Ginseng to China until Canada is now viewed as one of the most important world sources. Great claims are made for the tonic effects of Ginseng Teo. The Dominion is looked to as the main source of high quality roots as it becomes more evident each year that the Southern-grown product fails miserably by comparison. This crop has made thousands of dollars for many growers; crops from a half acre have sold as high as $8,000. A well cared-for planting averages a ton of roots per acre. A small outlay will start you in this interesting and paying business. Ginseng may be planted under suitable conditions in a bush or orchard or in beds prepared in the open. Dominion Seed House, Georgetown, supplies the necessary cultural and planting directions with every order, free of charge.

More Americans Trekking Here

In 1940 Immigration From U. S. Into Dominion Increased 26.3 Per Cent

The trek of American citizens into Canada from United States increased 26.3 per cent in 1940 over the previous year, the Immigration Department reports.

Branch figures showed those entering Canada numbered 7,314 against 5,649 in 1939.

MANY, RETURNING CANADIANS

The number of returning Canadians also increased in 1940, those coming home from the United States numbering 4,990 compared with 4,610 in 1939.

Immigration officials said these figures on the movement from the United States were incomplete and pointed out that United States citizens coming to Canada to join the Army, Navy, or Air Force might obtain admission on a non-immigration basis.

Children from the United Kingdom, in Canada now as war guests, are not included in the list of immigrants, and actual immigration from England, Ireland, Scotland, and Wales showed a drop of 14.8 per cent against 1939. Last year's total was 3,021 against 3,544 in 1939.

Total 1940 immigration was 11,324 against 16,990 in 1939.

Not Worth $1

In Seattle, calculating that "the fine probably would be higher than the value of the car," a man surrendered his 1921 sedan rather than pay his fine for overparking. The fine: $1.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT — By Fred Neher

"They're not so dumb . . . Did you ever hear of anybody borrowing money from a dog or selling him a good oil stock?"

WINSTON CHURCHILL—VI — Leader of Embattled Britain

Winston Churchill was again in the cabinet, as first lord of the admiralty, when the second world war broke out. Once again his problem was the U-boat menace and how he, as first lord could successfully combat it.

An ardent foe of appeasement, Churchill, whose political career apeared ended when he backed the cause of King Edward VIII against Prime Minister Stanley Baldwin in 1936, became prime minister with the fall of Chamberlain.

When France fell, Churchill, knowing the hideous implications of that event, spoke to all Englishmen via the radio and asked that they steel themselves for the great ordeal which was to come a few weeks later.

That ordeal — of roaring destruction and flaming death — has come and the English people, led by the always fighting, always aggressive Winston Churchill, are again proving the magnificence of Anglo-Saxon courage.

THE END.