Saving Ontario's Natural Resources

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FOR ALL, ENEMIES

In my discussion on birds for several weeks past I have been stressing the relations between a predator and its prey. That is, animals or birds that feed on other creatures are said to be predatory or predators while the animals upon which they feed are known as prey. The wolf is a predator on the deer, while the deeer is the wolf's prey. We are just beginning to understand many of the relations that exist between predator and prey but it has been suggested that to have a healthy stock of any animal it is necessary to have a predator feeding upon it.

We have a fairly good stock of deer in many areas of Ontario. In some places they might be said to be abundant. Like every other creature on earth they are subject to disease, accidents and old age. One of the ways among human kind to control disease is to isolate the sufferers. This cannot be done in the wilds so nature has substituted a predator, the wolf, to keep the herd healthy. Wolves kill and eat the diseased, the maimed and the old. It may seem cruel in human eyes but it is nature's method of keeping a healthy stock of deer.

Maybe Mice Are Necessary

There is a similiar situation in the relations between predatory birds, hawks and owls, and mice. Of course, we do not want mice like we want deer but as they are fast breeding, little animals they occasionally become very numerous and must be controlled. Nature is never at a loss so when the mice become very abundant disease will break out among them. This disease may be such that it will spread to other creatures so it seems to me that nature reserves disease as a last resort in the control of her smaller creatures. Hawks and owls are the normal predators that keep the population of mice below the level where disease appears and wipes them out.

So, as I said above, it seems to be necessary for every creature to have the proper enemies. Normal predation means that nature does not have to resort to more drastic forms of control, such as disease which if allowed to spread might wipe out the animals almost entirely as has happened in some parts of the world. This might be desirable from man's point of view but mice have their uses in the scheme of things and we might find that we needed them if they disappeared completely.

The Book Shelf

"THE MAN WITH NO FACE"
By Margaret Armstrong

This hair-raising thriller, among the best in current mystery literature, concerns the American cousins of a rich Australian whose considerable fortune is left to them in his will. They are scattered throughout the United States and live in complete ignorance both of the bequest itself and of a nameless peril which hangs over them because of it. An unscrupulous adopted son has been cut out of the will, and he is bent on destroying beneficiaries before its terms can be carried out. This anonymous killer trails his victims all over the country before he is unmasked by an urbane New Yorker in a thrilling and original climax.

If you have never been an edge-of-the-chair reader before, "The Man With No Face" will teach you the habit.

"The Man With No Face" . . . by Margaret Armstrong . . . Toronto: Macmillan Company of Canada . . . $2.50.

Canada's Flour Mills

There were 368 flour mills and 925 feed mills in Canada in 1940. The flour mills had a total 24-hour capacity of 98,553 barrels. Thirty-five of the flour mills, 60 per cent of the feed mills, and 46 per cent of the flour milling capacity in Canada are located in Ontario. Quebec ranks second as far as the number of flour and feed mills is concerned, but in flour milling capacity Saskatchewan is second to Ontario, followed by Alberta, Quebec and Manitoba. The Maritime Provinces and British Columbia have a small milling capacity.

The bicycle as we know it today, with two wheels of equal size, was produced in 1876, when, known as the "safety bicycle," it superseded the old high or "penny-farthing" machine.

TASK WELL DONE, TACKLES NEW PROBLEMS

Having completed his task of mechanizing the Canadian Army in Britain, Brig.-Gen. G. P. Loggie, Deputy Adjutant and Quarter Master General has returned to Canada to tackle new military problems. He is here seen with Mrs. Loggie on his arrival at the C.N.R. station in Montreal on their way to Ottawa.

THE WAR WEEK—Commentary on Current Events

NAZI SPRING OFFENSIVE IS DEVELOPING RAPIDLY

Activity stepped up sharply on all fronts last week in the war between Britain and Germany. The long-awaited Nazi spring offensive appeared to be under way, spurred by fast approaching spring weather and the passage in the United States of the gigantic British-aid bill. On the side of Britain, vast preparations were being made for counter-offensives wherever the Nazi machine attacked—on land, sea, or air; or on the diplomatic or economic fronts.

Balkan Front

The air war over Britain was resumed, its intensity in many instances equalling the frightful days of last September when casualties were highest. The war on the sea grew steadily more serious (Britain lost 148,038 tons of shipping the last week in February). But the biggest developments, from the military point of view, were shaping up in the Balkan peninsula where the chief belligerents were aligning their forces in readiness for the battle of the eastern Mediterranean.

Yugoslavia and Turkey had not yet joined fight. Yugoslavia's problem was far from easy, since she was all but surrounded by Axis forces. A direct challenge to Hitler could mean her quick extermination as a nation. Her answer to Axis demands evidently depended to considerable degree on what support Britain gave Greece. The same could be said, possibly, of Turkey who waited also to see what Yugoslavia would do and how the Soviet Union was going to take it all.

Turkey Can Take It

Writing on the Balkan situation, Associated Press correspondent Dewitt Mackenzie said: "Greece might fall, and Yugoslavia be compelled to acquiesce in Hitler's southward sweep, but if the Turks hold to their alliance with Britain and stand astride the Dardanelles, the Anglo-Allied cause isn't likely to suffer irreparable disaster in that theatre of war. Should the Turks by any chance go over to the Germans, however, it might mean the loss of the Battle of the Mediterranean for the British . . If the Turks fight, they should be able to put up a very strong defence. The Turco-Bulgarian border not only is protected by mountains, but is strongly fortified. To the south, between European and Asiatic Turkey, runs the Dardanelles, one of the most powerful strategic positions in the world. This, too, is heavily fortified." And last week the Turks learned that their northeastern frontiers were safe from any encroachment by the Soviet Union should they choose to fight on the British side against the Axis.

Might Turn Against Russia

Highly-informed opinion in the United States last week advanced the theory that Hitler, instead of fighting his way via the Dardanelles through Turkey to the Middle East might turn against Russia and seize the rich Ukraine, moving onward to the Caspian Sea and the Russian oil-fields. Be that as it may, grave alarm was felt in Moscow over the massing of German forces in a threatening manner on Russian borders all the way from the Baltic to the Black Sea (a million Rumanians were said to be lined up, "their fields left untilled," along the common border with the Soviet Union). News came of Russian troop movements in the Caucasus, coincident with the strengthening of Red Army forces along the Prut River frontier of German-occupied Rumania. The Russians were going to be ready for any Nazi attempt to force the Dardanelles or close their outlet to the Mediterranean.

Russian Air Force, Factor

How much the threatened clas between Germany and the Soviet Union was affecting the Battle of Britain was pointed out last week by the British United Press military analyst J. W. T. Mason: "Hitler must give much thought to Russian air strength. He has now to consider the possibility that if the war goes into next year, Russian air power may be added to the British which then will be augmented by the expected peak production of American factories. Last summer . . . the Fuehrer was able to concentrate most of his air squadrons over Britain in seeking to knock out the Royal Air Force. Henceforth he must keep a considerable number of his planes near the Russian frontier, as well as in the Balkans. His adventure into southeastern Europe by arousing Russian suspicions has weakened his air strafing ability against the British."

Battle of Atlantic

The British Parliament last week voted a huge new secret appropriation for "many more ships"—warships, merchant vessels of all kinds—to combat the steadily intensifying German sea offensive promised by Hitler in his January and February speeches. The Germans were looking for victory on the sea and it was there that they must be met and conquered. This appeared to be the view in London and Washington last week. The Battle of the Atlantic was on.

An alarming new situation with reference to the war on the sea confronted Britain last week when the French Vichy government, no doubt under Nazi pressure to do so, threatened to use the French Navy to convoy food ships to unoccupied France through the British blockade. The French fleet ever since last June has been a troublesome and uncertain factor for Britain. Armed conflict with French foodship convoys definitely was not wanted at such an hour as this.

U.S. To Turn Tide

The lid was off on American aid to Britain the instant the Lease-Lend bill passed Congress in Washington last week. Not a moment was lost in releasing a vast quantity of war materials to go across the water; "flying fortresses" were quickly dispatched; and President Roosevelt pressed a demand for $7,000,000,000 in immediate cash to finance the help-Britain program. Some sources said that in addition to flying fortresses, the equipment to be sent overseas at once included naval bombers for convoy duty, tanks and machine-guns for the Greek campaign and small craft to combat U-boats. 99 warships altogether would be released to Britain before the end of 1941.

To Meet Early Crisis

Authoritative circles in Washington appeared to be acting on the theory that the coming three months would bring the great "crisis" in the war which would indicate the ultimate winner. The best military opinion there held that 1941 would not see the end of the conflict, but that American aid would be sufficient to bolster British resistance and prolong the war in the hope of defeating Germany in 1942.

No Later Than June

The Canadian military expert W. R. Plewman, noting that material aid from the U.S. to Britain would be assuming colossal proportions by September, estimated that Hitler could not possibly make his supreme attack on Britain any later than June. At least two months before September, he declared, Germany, if she would win the war, must strive to get the upper hand of Britain and isolate the British Isles from America.

Tablet Diet Insufficient

No Short Cut to Proper Nourishment According to British Expert

Most of this talk about feeding people by tablet alone is without foundation, R. A. Bacharach said in his presidential address to the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain on Nutritional Problems.

"At present there is no short cut to this business of taking enough food in tablets to supply sufficient nutrition," Bacharach said. "It is practically impossible to construct any kind of diet unless on the basis of one pint of liquid milk per person per day."

EXAMPLE OF IRON DIET

As an example of an "iron diet" he listed one pint of milk, eight ounces of wholemeal bread, eight ounces of potatoes, four ounces of oatmeal, two ounces of meat or fish, two ounces of carrots, one ounce vitaminised margarine, one ounce of sugar and one orange.

One human tear will destroy 80,000,000 of te germs which are found in the air around us.

VOICE OF THE PRESS

HIGHLY SATISFACTORY

A little while back no one would have believed Haile Selassie would be around when the League of Nations was forgotten.

—Brandon Sun.

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THE FARMER'S DAY

The Ontario farmer cannot complain too much. He is never the forgotten man in a year in which there is prospect of an election.

—St. Catharines Standard.

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SOME MUST LISTEN

Ottawa talks. Everybody in Ottawa is gabbing from morning to night. I have got so that my mouth is never closed except from the exhaustion of listening to other talkers. It is the great indoor sport of the place, the universal hobby, the general vice.

—Bruce Hutchison in Victoria Times.

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COUNTY LIBRARIES

The librarians of the public and associate libraries in Simcoe are evidently unanimous as to the value and the splendid service given by the County Library Association brought about a year ago. During 1940 it rightly earned a title to a place among the activities of the different municipalities. Handicapped to some extent by limited finances, it nevertheless brought to the libraries, Collingwood not excepted, many of the better class of books that in all probability might not have otherwise been at the command of patrons of these institutions. With more funds it undoubtedly could and would render even a greater service. Well might the County Council be generous in its treatment of the organization.

—Collingwood Enterprise-Bulletin.

Legends Help Tourist Trade

Canada Filled With Lore That Traveling Public Just Loves

Stumbling giants, forlorn Indian maidens, vanishing dogs and poetic romances are all part of Canada's stock in trade for tourists.

Ottawa Parks department and Canadian Travel Bureau officials last week said it was too early to estimate what the tourist business would be like this year, but they emphasized that the story of Canada's attractions was being told far and wide.

MANY COME FROM INDIANS

"It is clear that the holidayer, in this time of stress, has a lively interest in the romantic legends which surround many of Canada's playgrounds," said one official. "There is no guaranteeing the truth of many of these stories but they are an intriguing association with scenic beauties available to the visitor."

Most of Canada's legends come from the Indians. The Georgian Bay Islands were explained with the tale of a stumbling giant, rumbling over the icefield that was Canada with a massive boulder in his hands. He stepped on the body of a huge fish, the boulder smashed to the ground and splintered into 30,000 pieces — to create the islands.

STORY OF EVANGELINE

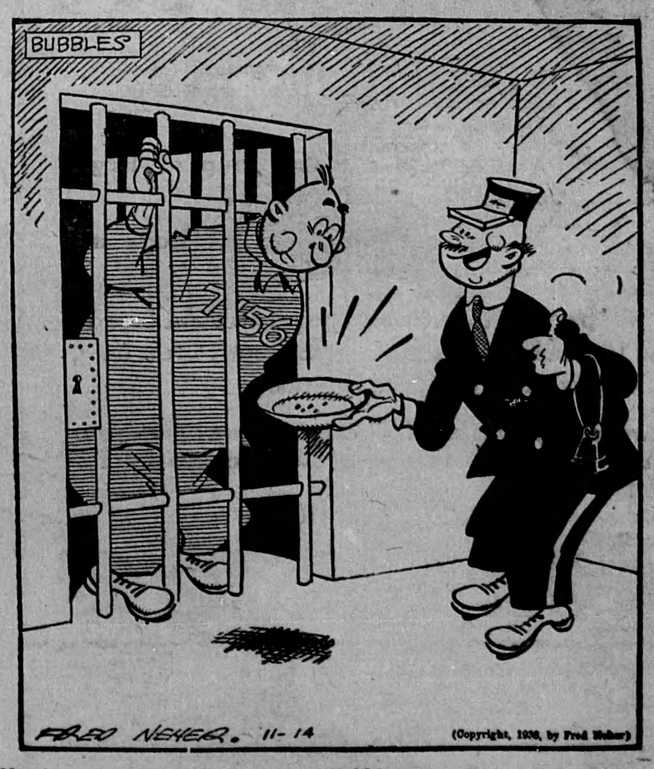
"Poetic stories like that of Evangeline have brought countless tourists to Canada," said one authority on tourist travel. "In Prince Edward Island the house Green Gables, made famous by the novel "Anne of Green Gables" is an unfailing point of interest."

Super-Alarm Clock

An alarm designed to awaken the soundest of sleepers has been assembled by Herbert Dupuis of St. Catharines, Ont.

Its fundamental principle, of course, is noise. This Mr. Dupuis has obtained by attaching a string from the winding bar of an ordinary alarm clock to a vacuum cleaner switch, with a police whistle attached to an aperture on the vacuum cleaner. When the alarm goes off its modest ring is lost in the combined wail of the vacuum cleaner and screech of the police whistle.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT — By Fred Neher



"Here's a pie your wife sent you, Bubbles. . . . We put the filling in the tool shop."

REG'LAR FELLERS — Within the Law — By GENE BYRNES