Saving Ontario's Natural Resources

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FISH, GAME LAWS

Last week I mentioned that there had been other government bodies concerned with our fish and game before our present Game and Fisheries Department was instituted in 1905 but even before there were any regulatory or administrative bodies there were game laws enacted by the Legislature. I mentioned the earliest of these last week, the Act of 1821.

In 1839 another Act was passed which was even more comprehensive for it provided that no person "shall hunt or shoot, or go out with a gun in quest of any deer or other wild animal or wild fowl on the Lord's Day (commonly called Sunday) within this Province." The season for deer was changed to open August 1st and close February 1st. "Wild turkey, prairie hen or grouse; commonly called pheasant or partridge; or any quail or woodcock," could legally be taken from September 1st to March 1st.

Open and Closed Seasons

When the Statutes of Upper Canada were consolidated in 1859 there were few changes. The duck season extended from August 1st to April 15th, eight and one half months of shooting which should have satisfied most people. Even at that time they had trouble with wolves and the Act mentions a bounty of six dollars.

In 1868, the Province of Ontario revised the game laws, cutting down the open season to more reasonable length but even this did not prevent depletion. By 1890, the anxiety among thinking people culminated in the appointment of a Commission to investigate conditions and submit recommendations.

One can find in libraries the old leather bound volume that contains the report of the Commission of 1890. It is well worth reading, particularly for the picture it gives of conditions fifty years ago. It was a sweeping and outspoken indictment of the various abuses that hampered the conservation of our game and fish. It had considerable effect for shortly afterwards the Legislature set up a Board of Fish and Game Commissioners under the nominal jurisdiction of the Commissioner of Crown Lands. This Commission administered the wild life for nearly fourteen years when it was dissolved and the present Department of Game and Fisheries was set up in its place.

Willows Have Turkish Origin

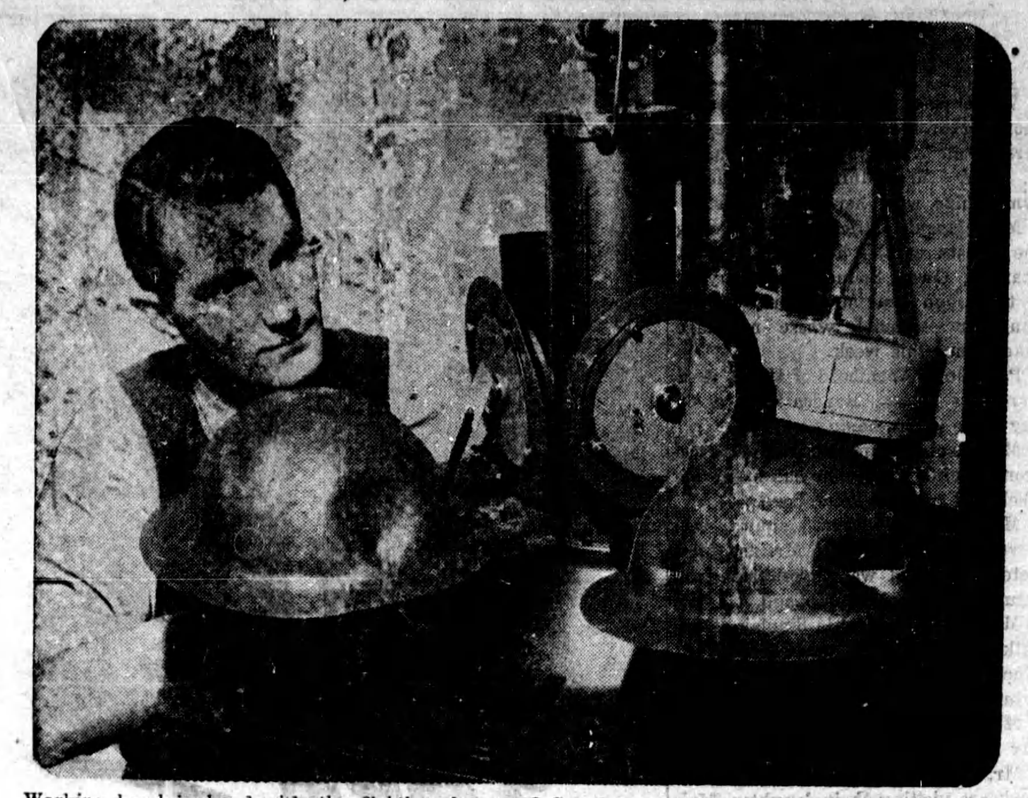
Britain and America have a very strong bond with Turkey, for every weeping willow gracing our river banks owes its origin to a single cutting brought from that country. This is how it happened. At the beginning of the 18th century a large basket of figs was sent from Smyrna to Lady Suffolk in England. The poet Pope was there when the gift arrived, so drawing one of the withes from which the basket was made, he remarked: "Perhaps this will produce something we have not in England." He took it with him to his villa at Twickenham and planted it by the Thames, where it grew into a magnificent weeping willow. It was generally admired and cuttings were taken to all parts of England. Years later, a British officer leaving for this continent cut a twig from Pope's willow, wrapped it in oiled silk and carried it in his baggage throughout the Revolution. After the war he presented it to John Curtis, son of Martha Washington, who planted it in Virginia where it became the ancestor of all weeping willows in the States.

Visible Smells

Neither gold nor platinum has any odour wich can be recognised by the human nose, but most of the commoner metals can easily be recognised by the sense of smell. Tin, for instance, when freshly cut, has a strong and unmistakable odour. Of the rarer metals, uranium and its compounds give out the strongest smell. Uranium is one of the radio-active metals and constantly throws off extremely small particles.

Long ago J. J. Thomson showed that these particles produce shadows on a photographic film and can be deflected by a magnet. Though infinitesimal in size, they can affect our olfactory organs.

Some Do, Some Don't—Science Seeks Answer



Working hand in hand with the fighting forces of Canada and of the rest of the Empire are the scientists of the National Research Council of Ottawa. Already they have made numerous highly important contributions to the war effort, both in the industrial field and in the armed forces. In this photo one of the research workers is shown as he subjects steel helmets to special tests. One has been penetrated by a bullet and the other has resisted it. The scientist is trying to find out why.

THE WAR WEEK—Commentary on Current Events

U. S. S. R. PROMISES AID IF TURKEY IS ATTACKED

Last week as spring opened the door on what might well be the decisive phase of the conflict between Britailn and Germany, the Battle of Britain—out of which has grown the Battle of the Atlantic—was still the main engagement of the war. But events in the Mediterranean basin were receiving much more of the world's attention. There, the British conquest of Italy's African Empire, all but complete, was beginning to be challenged by large forces of German mechanized troops in western Libya; and the Battle of the Balkans was fast approaching the "shooting" stage.

Yugoslav Crisis

The capitulation to the Axis of Yugoslavia's head men precipitated a number of new crises: in Yugoslavia itself, where open revolt and civil war threatened; in Greece, where the Allied-Greek military command had swiftly to revise their plan of defence to embrace a much wider front; in Turkey, where the country's leaders saw her independence menaced from yet another angle; and in Russia, where German penetration of the Balkans had long been viewed with growing anxiety.

Russia Assures Neutrality

The Soviet Union reacted to this situation by reaffirming friendship with Turkey and assuring Russian neutrality should Turkey resist a German attack on herself. The agreement did not promise neutrality if Turkey should strike at Germany in the event of a Nazi move against Greece. On the contrary it stated that "in the event that Turkey should be the object of aggression and she found herself obliged to enter war for the defence of her territory, Turkey could then, in conformity with the non-aggression pact existing between herself and the U. S. S. R., rely on the full comprehension and neutrality of the U. S. S. R."

This was sensational news. The entering into of this pact with Turkey constituted the first concrete step the Soviet Union had taken to influence the course of the war since the German-Russian agreement of August, 1939. This latest act barred further Nazi penetration southeast, along the U. S. S. R's western borders. (It also was reliably confirmed that Russia had halted shipment of all supplies of oil to Germany since March 1).

Bad For Germany

Writing on the significance of the new Soviet assurance to Turkey Canadian military analyst W. R. Plewman said: "The dispatches suggest that Russia will give material help to Turkey much as the U. S. is giving material help to Britain. Some war supplies probably are moving from Russia to Turkey, and it would be logical for the movement to develop gradually to a large scale . . . Russia is moving her troops and warships westward as quietly as possible, but perhaps with little idea of offensive action . . . It remains to be seen whether Stalin will neglect his opportunities until Hitler is ready to strike. His military advisers should tell him the truth that until Germany has fought it out with Britain, Hitler won't have sufficient gasoline and grease to permit large mechanized forces to drive far into Russia and that Hitler really is staging a gigantic bluff to keep Russia quiet. The Russian armies possess a vast numerical superiority over the German armies and it is impossible for the German forces to guard every vital point that the Russians could menace. The Soviet air force could work havoc to German cities; Russian cities are so remote they would be comparatively free from attack. Were Russia to make common cause with the Greek, British and Turkish armies, the defeat of Germany within a year would be a near certainty."

Whatever purposes were behind the Soviet pledge of aid to Turkey, they portended ill for Nazi Germany. Even the U. S. State Department heartily applauded Russia's attitude.

"Bridge of Ships"

President Roosevelt's biggest headache, once the first financial appropriations under the Lease-Lend bill had been approved by the Senate, appeared last week to be: how the U. S. was to assure delivery of American aid to Britain. Everything obviously depended upon maintenance of the "bridge of ships" across the Atlantic. (Hearteningly enough last's week's British shipping losses were away down). A move to lend more destroyers to Britain was expected hourly; and large-scale plans were being laid for the repair of Britain's naval and merchant shipping in United States yards. Use of American warships in British convoys was contemplated, but not planned until a more critical stage of U. S.-German relations should be reached.

Very encouraging news for Britain came out of the U. S. last week with the report, reliably confirmed, that 15,000 bomber and fighter planes would be ready to go across the ocean to join the war by. July. By the end of 1941, it was said, American production would bring Britain's air fighting strength up level with Germany's.

Japan Reconnoitres

Japanese Foreign Minister Matsuoka's sojourns in Moscow, Rome, Berlin, were last week not yet complete. His parleys with the Axis chiefs were the subject of much speculation—since no information about them was forthcoming—but it was generally thought that Mr. Matsuoka had come to Europe to see for himself whether the Axis partners were in position to make good their claim that they can nullify American aid for Britain and knock the latter out. His findings would without doubt strongly influence the decision of his government as to whether Japan is to weave a tortuous course of non-belligerency or throw caution to the winds and join in the attack on the Anglo-Allies. One of Japan's greatest fears of course is that Soviet Russia might attack her in the north (by air, sea and land) when she's busy in the south, and what the Japanese government desires perhaps above all else at the moment is a Russo-Japanese non-aggression pact.

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$2,600,000,000 This Year

Canada will spend $2,600,000,000 over the next twelve months on her own war effort and financial aid to Britain—$850,000,000 more than was estimated late in February—Premier King told Parliament last week. The Prime Minister declared that this sum, to be spent in a mighty drive of men, money and materials, represented 44 per cent of the whole national income of Canada.

On a comparative basis, the premier estimated, this financial assistance to Britain for Canadian puchases would equal an expenditure of $15 billions by the United States—more than twice the Washington appropriation for lend-lease purposes.

Following Premier King, Finance Minister Ilsley announced federal taxes of $1,000,000,000 for the fiscal year beginning April 1 which represented an additional $100,000,000 in revenue to be sought from Canadians by the Dominion government next year. A billion dollars, he said, would have to be borrowed next year to cover direct war outlay and non-war expenditures including financing of the new federal wheat policy.

Unpopular Wheat Policy

Western members of the House of Commons last week were urging that they be given an opportunity to debate the government's new wheat policy which provides: a limit of 230,000,000 bushels to Wheat Board purchases of the 1941 crop; a continuation of the present 70c a bushel minimum price; basing of delivery quotas on 65 per cent of the 1940 wheat acreage (which means acreage reduction); and payment of bonuses for summerfallowing and seeding to coarse grains and grasses. Agriculture Minister MacMillan of Alberta had issued a statement saying that this policy was "highly unsatisfactory and inadequate" and that it would be impossible of acceptance by the Western wheat farmers unless drastic modifications were made. Farmers of the prairie provinces, he contended, should be placed in a position of equality with other classes of Canadian citizens in the war effort and not forced to live on an "income on the verge of poverty."

Pigs are the only farm animals which can be fed on a diet of all food waste.

Guests in Wartime Britain Come and Bring Their Own

Hostesses in wartime Britain need no longer worry about their friends' food fads. When week-end guests arrive, they frequently bring their rations along with them.

The Book Shelf

"H. M. PULHAM, ESQUIRE"
By J. P. Marquand

"H. M. Pulham, Esquire" is the story of a man whose life is shaped by his surroundings in a mould formed by home, school, society, even business influences of his day, smooth-fitting, comfortable, unbreakable. (Many men and women live in such moulds—more often than not without realizing it—for it is the unique quality of such a mould that one is not conscious of its existence until it chafes). Mr. Pulham, on the occasion of the twenty-fifth reunion of his college class, becomes aware of what he has been missing throughout his narrow, circumscribed life. He realizes his ideas have not moved with the times—he is trying to measure today's problems with yesterday's yardstick—but alas it is too late and too comfortable to change.

Men who read this book will find themselves stopping to compare Harry Pulham's life with their own and women will find themselves wondering how well they know their own men.

"H. M. Pulham, Esquire" . . . by J. P. Marquand . . . Toronto: McClelland and Stewart, Publishers . . . $3.00.

VOICE OF THE PRESS

LIBYAN NURSERY RHYME

Mussolini-miny-mo
Caught a lion by the toe.
How you'd love to let him go,
Teeny weeny Benito!

—Toronto Saturday Night.

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THE GREATEST FEAR

The biggest drawback to farm organization is the fear of political entanglements and the suspicion that the leaders are working their way up to a soft, cushy job.

—Farmer's Advocate.

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WAR STYLES

Dr. Stapleford, the director of voluntary services, says that the time will come when it will be "patriotic" to wear an old suit or drive an old car. That's comforting for all the people who are already obliged to do so.

—Brockville Recorder and Times.

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BEST ADVICE

The Ontario Departments of Agriculture, Education and Labor have collaborated in the production of a booklet of "Farm Maxims and Slogans" for the use of students registering for farm service, and probably the best advice given in it is this: "Never trust a bull."

—Brockville Recorder and Times.

Europe's tallest structure is the Eiffel Tower, in Paris.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT — By Fred Neher

"What part of my bill makes you sick . . . the part you paid or the balance?"

REG'LAR FELLERS — That's Different — By GENE BYRNES