Saving Ontario's Natural Resources

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BASS CULTURE

The raising of young bass is one of the most difficult problems in fish culture, for unlike the trout or the whitefish, the basses cannot be stripped of their eggs as this process kills the parent fish. Fishes which spawn in schools are of such a nature that their eggs and sperm flow freely from the body when ripe, but the bass must build a nest, come together in pairs, and spread the egg laying period over several days. Apparently, one reason for this is that the eggs of the female do not ripen all at the same time.

Since this is so we must bring the adult bass together in ponds, leave them to pair naturally, and leave the male bass with the nest for several weeks. This can best be understood if I explain the way in which the basses reproduce. In natural waters, when they warm in the spring, the male bass selects a site protected against wave action and to some extent, from natural enemies. He clears the ooze from this site by fanning with his tail and lower fins, leaving a cleared circular area of gravel. This is the nest.

Hatching of Young Bass

When the nest is completed, if the water temperature has reached 65° the male drives a female over the nest and a few of her eggs are extruded and fertilized by the male. This is repeated a number of times until there are several thousand eggs in the gravel of the nest. Then the male mounts guard, driving away all other fishes including the females. He watches the eggs for several weeks and when they hatch guards the young for some time.

The young at first are very tiny and live on the egg sack which is still attached to their bodies. In a week or so they have grown considerably and have absorbed the remainder of the yolk. They are now ready to feed and rise to the surface. The male bass seems to know that his job is finished and he drives into the school scattering them in all directions. This is why we find young bass in July scattered all through the shallow waters if the hatch has been successful for that year.

Canada's Railways Increase Revenue

Gross Intake During 1940 Was The Best In A Decade—Freight Trains Earned Much More

Gross revenues of Canadian railways during 1940 soared to their highest point since 1930, reaching $424,820,629, compared with $363,325,824 in 1939, the Dominion Bureau of Statistics has reported.

At the same time, operating expenses were heavier than during the previous year by $29,605,507, transportation expenses were up $13,550,569 and maintenance expenses higher by $16,343,049 the report said.

Expenses Heavier

The operating income was increased by $27,506,404, from $46,649,265 to $74,155,656.

Freight traffic measured in ton-miles was heavier than in 1939 by 20.5 per cent., and passenger miles increased by 24.5 per cent. Total payroll increased by $13,091,277, from $191,101,727 to $204,193,004, for an average of 121,009 employees in 1939 and 127,028 in 1940.

Freight trains earned 15 cents more per train-mile than in 1939 and carried 34.9 more tons of revenue freight. Passenger trains showed higher earnings per train-mile of 30 cents and carried 10.5 more passengers per train-mile.

C.N.R. Revenue up 22.7%

Of the gross revenue totals, $212,300,711 was made up of Canadian National Railways earnings, which showed a 22.7 per cent. increase from the 1939 figure of $173,059,119.

Canadian Pacific Railway Company gross revenues towards the total were $171,535,474— a 12.7 per cent. increase from $152,148,993 in 1939.

Pine Cone Found In Spruce Wood

While sawing a piece of spruce wood, John Walker, of Windsor, came across an unusual formation. Inside of the wood was found a piece of pine cone which had apparently been lodged there quite a number of years ago. The cone had turned to a ruddy color but was still in an excellent state of preservation.

More Bombers For Britain Are Being Dismantled for Shipment Overseas

More than thirty Lockheed Hudson bombers are assembled at Floyd Bennett Airport in New York, where they'll be dismantled and shipped to England via boats. They're part of the steady flow of American planes which have greatly bolstered the R.A.F.

THE WAR-WEEK—Commentary on Current Events

BALKAN FRONT IS STAGE OF MAJOR WAR DRAMA

"People of the Empire should be profoundly grateful that in the Nazi path Greece and Yugoslavia have become active obstacles. But the chief obstacle to Nazi ambitions is still Britain . . . The threat of invasion of her own island has not passed; that danger will grow as the spring advances . . . The Battle of the Atlantic, yet to be won, is the most vital struggle of all."—Prime Minister Mackenzie King.

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At the start of the tremendous war drama in the Balkans, an initial series of triumphs for the German military machine in both Yugoslavia and Greece appeared all but inevitable.

Hitler Must Act Fast

Far from inevitable, however, (wrote Edward Bomar of the Associated Press) was it that such victories as the early capture of Belgrade and the overrunning of the Yugoslavs' richest areas would be followed by the smashing of all obstacles to the Nazi drive to the east. "Only the verdict of fateful battles to the south could decide whether Hitler's generals would be able to match in the Balkans the quick victories won in the Low Countries and in France last year," Mr. Bomar continued, in one of the clearest analyses of the situation made last week. "They are forced by necessity to try to execute in a hurry Hitler's injunction to smash the dangerous new British-Greek-Serb alliance and drive the British forces from southeastern Europe. With United States aid increasing steadily though slowly, time is no ally of the Nazis . . . Germany is faced with the necessity of a quick decision to avoid the alternative of a long struggle with its perils that Turkey and even Russia might join the foes."

Most military observers saw in the Balkan campaign the major part of an attempt to wrest control of the entire Mediterranean from Britain and to win the war this year. Another part of the same drive was the new Nazi campaign in Libya which might develop into a drive to close the Mediterranean at Gibraltar from the south (instead of from Spain)—with or without the aid of the idle French Army in Morocco.

At Turkey's Back Door

But Germany could never conquer the Mediterranean unless Turkey were first put out of the picture, either by military conquest or by diplomacy. The pro-Axis coup in Iraq last week placed Turkey in a doubly dangerous position—German air bases could now be located at her back door. It was believed that Hitler would shortly demand that Turkey betray her alliances or be herself attacked. In the latter event, there was no question that Turkey would defend herself with all the force she could muster. Last week though still non-belligerent, Turkey was helping the anti-Axis allies in more ways than one, chief of which consisted in keeping the Bulgarian army immobilized. (British quarters hinted last week in Istanbul that Turkey might declare war soon. They suggested she would remain on the defensive, but could permit Britain to use Turkish air bases and to move warships through the Dardanelles into the Black Sea.)

U.S. Approaches Zero Hour

In Washington last week, the opinion of most observers was that April was likely to be the month for events which would send the United States into the war. It was thought that the U.S., if any ruptures in foreign relations were made, would break with Italy first, then Germany. Before another month was up, observers said, the American nation would be very close to the state of actual belligerency—a state of war can and may be established without formal declaration. The future war role of the United States was just about at the zero hour.

Matsuoka to Moscow

Japan's Foreign Minister Matsuoka left Berlin "suddenly" last week for home, having been entertained in two Axis capitals to several exhibitions of fireworks that went "pfft!" (Italy's Ionian Sea disaster in an engagement with the British Navy and Yugoslavia's stand against Germany). En route back to Japan, Matsuoka stopped off in Moscow again for an important appointment relative to negotiation of a Russo-Japanese non-aggression pact. His meeting there with Soviet officials was watched very closely by the British, who, according to foreign military observers recently returned from the Far East, believed that if Japan were successful in concluding such a pact she would start a land, sea and air attack on Hong Kong.

"Waiting Period" at End?

In the Dutch East Indies, too, authoritative circles were of a similar mind. There the view was that the "waiting period" in the Far East would shortly come to an end and that concrete action toward Japan's aim of a "new order" in Asia would be expedited. Reports that Thailand would very soon join the Axis and sharpen the crisis in the Paific, centering on Singapore, appeared to be well substantiated.

The Book Shelf..

"NEW IMPROVED CULBERTSON SYSTEM" (1941)

Here are the latest rules in contract bridge summarized for you by Ely Culbertson himself. The first basic changes that have been made in the Culbertson System in six years are completely described in this little book. With its help, you can play with any partner, whether average player, advanced, or expert. ($1.35).

"CONTRACT BRIDGE SELF-TEACHER"
By Ely Culbertson

The world's greatest authority on contract bridge, in an entirely new book on the game, has simplified bidding and play so that anyone can now learn expert methods easily and quickly. 39 clear lessons teach you how—and 36 practice drills. All you need is a book and pencil. ($1.35).

Toronto: John C. Winston Co. Limited, Publishers.

Dogs Going Into Action On Birds

Spring Field Trials of Ontario Bird Dog Association Are Being Held at Niagara-on-the-Lake Next Week-end

The cream of the bird dogs in Ontario will display their wares at Niagara-on-the-Lake on April 19th and 20th, when the Ontario Bird Dog Association will hold its sixth Annual Spring Field Trials.

Spaniels, Setters and Pointers will be seen in action on birds.

The first stake to be run on Saturday, the 19th, is an open event for Pointer and Setter puppies and some likely contenders are expected to take the field. This trial is scheduled for 1 o'clock.

Two Spaniel trials will also be run on Saturday afternoon, a trial for Novice Spaniels and the Open Spaniel Stake.

Dr. John Barnes, Williamsville, N. Y. and G. S. Steckles, Welland, will judge the Spaniel trials.

SPANIELS, SETTERS, POINTERS

Two trials for Setters and Pointers are on the card for the second day. In the morning Novice Setters and Pointers, owned in Ontario, will show their stuff and in the afternoon in the Open All Age Stake for Setters and Pointers will be run. Geo. W. Boag, Woodstock, Ont., Secretary of the Association predicts big fields in all trials. As usual, it is expected that New York State kennels will be well represented in the events, particularly in the open stake for Setters and Pointers on the second day's programme. Tommy Thomas, Rochester, N.Y., and Don Crawford, Kingsville, Ont. will judge the trials for Setters and Pointers.

The Prince of Wales Hotel, Niagara-on-the-Lake will be headquarters for the meet and road signs will be posted to mark the courses for the benefit of the big gallery of spectators which is expected to witness the trials.

Ugly, Poorly Built Homes Lack Value

Failure to design buildings of attractive architectural style is an evil which must be combatted to improve conditions of home ownership, according to authorities.

Other conditions which make for poor mortgage security are bad construction, poor workmanship, improper use of materials, or use of inferior materials, and inefficient or objectionable room proportion and arrangement.

SCOUTING . . .

The proceeds of a "single dog derby" for boys and girls of Rouyn and Noranda of 16 years and under, sponsored by the Noranda Firemen, went to the camping funds of the Rouyn-Noranda Scouts. Rules for the race barred the use of whips.

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An indoor campfire program, conducted in the main hall of St. John's Church, Peterborough, was the entertainment feature of the annual banquet get-together of some 200 Cubs, Scouts, Rovers and parents.

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At a meeting of the Sarnia Boy Scouts Association, which was in part run as a demonstration Boy Scout Troop, adult members became boys in the various patrols. During the evening several of the members were invested as Scouts.

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800 magazines for soldiers' reading rooms were collected in one week by the Boy Scouts of Dartmouth, N.S., and 2,729 were gathered in a month by a Winnipeg Boy Scout Group.

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Three Boy Scouts of Bristol, England, own and operate their own mobile tea canteen. They carried on during the heaviest Nazi bombing of the port, serving a hot drink and sandwiches to firemen and A.R.P. workers.

VOICE OF THE PRESS

NOT ALL SO LUCKY

Niagara is to keep its beauty, but the upper stretches of the St. Lawrence are due for some sad treatment if, as and when the deep waterways scheme materializes.

—Stratford Beacon-Hehald

EXTREMELY DANGEROUS

It is unlawful for a pedestrian to stand on the travelled portion of a roadway to beg rides or sell articles. It is also extremely dangerous to stand or idle in any roadway where motor traffic passes.

—Hamilton Spectator

THINK NATIONALLY

A Member of Parliament from Saskatchewan claims that, but for the development of the Western Provinces, Ontario would still be a backwoods district. This is a highly theoretical statement, but in any case it would be better for this and all M.P.'s to think in terms not of the West or of Ontario, but in terms of the Dominion of Canada.

—Brantford Expositor

"You can no more regiment fun than Hitler can regiment love."
—Cornelia Otis Skinner

LIFE'S LIKE THAT — By Fred Neher

"Doin' yer plowin' early, ain'tcha, pardner?"

REG'LAR FELLERS—The Opportunist — By GENE BYRNES