Saving Ontario's Natural Resources

Raising Young Bass
(No. 39)

In my article last week I told of the way in which the basses spawn in nature. The Game and Fisheries Department raise many thousands of young bass each year but they have to imitate the natural environment closely for full success. To do this is very expensive and fingerling bass cost much more than fingerlings of trout or pickerel. It is this high cost that makes it so difficult to raise young bass in quantities.

In various places throughout the Province, the Department has built a number of bass hatcheries. These consist of a series of ponds, rectangular in shape and less than an acre in extent. They are separately fed and drained. The source of the water supply is usually a spring creek, the waters of which have been heated to some extent by holding them above a dam before being distributed to the various ponds. These ponds vary in depth from a knife edge to six feet at the outlet, where the fish may be corralled in a small basin when the waters of the pond are lowered.

In Hatcheries

If small mouth bass are being propagated nests are constructed of gravel. The diameter of this nest is approximately two feet and is so placed that when the pond is flooded, the depth of water over it will range from eighteen inches to two feet. Large mouth bass do not need nests for they will clean off suitable areas themselves.

Before the breeding season, the adult bass are introduced into the pond and if the temperature is right eventually a large number of young bass are produced. The greatest vigilance is needed to retain the heat in the pond. A cold spell, of cloudy days will cause serious losses among the eggs, so the attendants, by various methods which they have learned, try to maintain a uniform temperature of the water. When the young bass rise to the surface they are collected in cheesecloth nets and placed in retaining ponds where they are held and fed until they are ready for distribution in natural waters throughout Ontario.

SCOUTING . . .

The loss of 700 leaders through enlisment in H. M. Forces was disclosed in the recently issued Annual Report of the Boy Scouts Association for 1940. The effect of this loss upon boy membership was shown in a drop of 5.37 per cent. to 97,341. This figure, however, was still in excess of the membership total of the pre-war year of 1938.

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Membership analysis: The 1940 total consisted of 40,353 Wolf Cubs, 45,489 Boy Scouts, 503 Lone Scouts, 883 Sea Scouts, 2,361 Rover Scouts, 227 Rover Sea Scouts and 7,969 leaders (not counting 444 Scouters registered as Rovers).

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Membership by provinces showed: Prince Edward Island, 742; Nova Scotia, 5,378; New Brunswick, 5,782; Quebec, 8,849; Ontario, 41,095; Manitoba, 7,181; Saskatchewan, 5,808; Alberta, 8,599; British Columbia, 8,168; La Federation des Scouts Catholiques, Quebec, 4,279; Life Saving Scouts of the Salvation Army, 1,460.

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The various units included: 2,306 Scout Groups, which included 1,645 Wolf Cub Packs, 2,051 Boy Scout Troops, 221 Rover Scout Crews, 21 Sea Scout Troops, 8 Sea Scout Patrols and 14 Rover Sea Scout Crews.

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Affiliations: Sponsors of Scout Groups are given as follows: Anglican, 430; Baptist, 62; Canadian Legion, 35; Community, 747; Handicapped (Hospitals), 12; Hebrew, 23; Latter Day Saints, 30; Lutheran, 4; Presbyterian, 108; Roman Catholic, 344; Salvation Army, 50; Service Clubs, 80; United Church, 276. Others, 113.

This City Forgets To Hold Election

The absent-minded professor didn't have a thing on North Kansas City.

The municipality forgot to hold its election.

Mayor Edward A. Hecker, reading election returns, wondered why balloting in the city was set for the following Tuesday instead of April 1 as in other Missouri towns.

"I have the law right here," replied City Clerk Earl Sims to the mayor's query. It says . . . the first Tuesday after the first Monday . . . . Wait a minute—that's for general elections."

The mayor, preparing for the belated election contends he won't be tripped up again.

THIS IS WHAT MASS PRODUCTION OF BOMBERS MEANS

Bodies of Martin B-26 medium bombers stretch out in long row on assembly line awaiting wings and engines in Baltimore plant of Glenn L. Martin, which is producing them in droves for U.S. Army.

THE WAR WEEK—Commentary on Current Events

New Russo - Japanese Pact May Change War's Course

Sir Robert Clive, the eminent Britisher who has been Ambassador at Tokyo and Brussels and minister to the Vatican and Persia, and is now travelling on this continent, very recently expressed the view that to a diplomat Russia and Japan appeared to hold the key to the future of the world. He predicted the early signing of an accord between the two countries.

May Change War's Course

Subsequent events dramatically bore out his prediction. Last week a Soviet-Japanese neutrality pact was signed, ending 24 years of strained Far Eastern relations and giving the western nations a new poser to puzzle over. Most observers agreed that the pact rivalled in world importance the non-aggression accord in 1939 between Germany and Russia and that it would powerfully affect the course of the war, on every front.

Interpretations

Editorial writers all over the globe spread themselves on this latest international development. From amongst a score of interpretations we have selected several representative opinions which throw light on various angles of the situation:

Toronto Globe and Mail: "The net result of the pact on the European situation is that Russia can now poke a gun in Germany's ribs without fear of Japan. In the East the situation does not seem to be altered. Japan's most dogged enemy is China, which received aid from the United States, from Britain and from Russia. There is nothing in the new pact which prohibits Russia from continuing her aid to China. There was never any suggestion that Russia might interfere with Japanese operations in the Southern Pacific, which is a matter which concerns only the Netherlands, the United States, Britain and France, who would seem well able to take care of their interests so long as China hangs on to Japan's coattails."

Pravda, the Communist Party organ in Moscow: "The neutrality pact and declaration are documents of vast political significance, since they constitute an important step for the improvement of relations between the U. S. S. R. and Japan, whose governments are guided in this case by a 'desire to strengthen peaceful and friendly relations between the two countries.' The declaration puts an end to all petty frontier conflicts between the two."

U. S. S. R. Talks With Turkey

Dorothy Thompson, columnist: "The pact is a definite gain for Russia, for it means that Japan bows out of the Axis as far as Russia is concerned. It is, therefore, it would seem, a loss for Germany, which has every interest in keeping Russia weak and occupied elsewhere than in the Middle East . . . The best-informed people all seem certain that the Soviet Union will not enter the war against Germany unless she is attacked, but official pronouncements from Moscow do indicate that she is preparing to give what aid she can to Turkey, the last non-violated nation in the Balkans. Naturally, Russia wants to be sure that, if she becomes engaged in war in the west, Japan will not attack her in the east. The pact assures her of just this."

Nichi Nichi, Tokyo: "The conclusion of the new neutrality pact allows Japan to avoid two-front operations, that is, fighting both the United States and the Soviet Union, in case of a positive advance of her southward policy and a crisis in the Pacific."

U. S. Unruffled?

U. S. Secretary of State Cordell Hull made a formal statement with regard to the pact declaring: "The significance of the pact between the Soviet Union and Japan relating to neutrality could be overestimated . . . The policy of this government, of course remains unchanged."

More Help For Britain

Nevertheless a number of steps were taken last week by the powers-that-be in the United States which served to bring the nation to the south of us closer into the war: ten coast guard cutters were transferred to Britain for anti-submarine sea patrol; President Roosevelt reopened the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden to American vessels (U. S. ships now are permitted to go all the way to the Suez Canal with supplies for the Allies); the United States pledged protection to Greenland and obtained the right to build air bases and fortifications there — the southern tip of Greenland was made the new limit of western hemisphere defense; President Roosevelt made a declaration that the United States will protect her ships everywhere, except in combat zones; the U. S. navy began preparations for the swift arming of some 1600 government and privately owned merchant vessels.

With regard to the ticklish convoy question which must be settled very soon if American-produced war material is to continue to reach Britain, the New York Times said: "The President has not yet reached a decision. He will exhaust every other alternative before reaching any conclusion on the question of convoying merchantmen across the Atlantic by United States warships." The newspaper suggested that Mr. Roosevelt was considering a plan to allow American merchant ships to carry war materials to Halifax, to be transshipped overseas.

Three Warnings

Warnings that the United States was on the point of going to formal war with Germany came from the lips of at least three members of the President's Cabinet last week. Vice-President Wallace declared that the United States was ready for war if American rights were transgressed. (Presumably he had in mind the probability that U. S. ships, now going to Red Sea ports with war material for the British, would be attacked by the Axis at whatever time the Axis was willing to accept a formal state of war with the United States). Secretary of the U. S. Navy, Frank Knox, told the House naval affairs committee that: "I don't like to be a scare-monger, but from the information I have, I say we are now in the midst of the decisive period of this war." Secretary of War Henry Stimson, testifying at a Congressional hearing on United States defense problems, warned that the United States "is facing a dangerous emergency which may be very prolonged." He said also that it might become necessary for the United States to wage war, in its own defense, outside the Americas.

"Good Exposure" Not Recommended

Statistically, there should be plenty of house-room in London, England, today, so many millions have been evacuated. But the set of rules that now must be employed to judge an apartment knocks statistics into a cocked hat. No longer is a top floor with a fine view desirable for an apartment. Instead, the apartment-hunter asks: Is it steel and concrete? Is it near a military objective? Is it close to the ground?

The Book Shelf..

"FANNY BY GASLIGHT"
By Michael Sadleir

In "Fanny by Gaslight" Mr. Sadleir re-creates a London of seventy years ago when the dark streets of the Empire capital were lit after dark by a yellow flicker of street lamps. He draws an exciting picture of the taverns, nighthouses and supper-rooms of the period, full of motley London crowds. But through them moves a small, brown-haired, bright-eyed girl, who meets life with cheerful gallantry and whose love-story is both tender and passionate.

The girl Fanny was a child with no background save one of violence and catastrophe, a child who grows up into a life of courage, gaiety and self-forgetful devotion. As an old woman, living in a small town in France, she tells her story to a sympathetic Englishman.

"Fanny by Gaslight" . . . by Michael Sadleir . . . Toronto: Macmillan Company of Canada . . . $2.75.

Swift Action

A New York man, given a job as postal clerk, was arrested an hour and a half later on a charge of robbing the mails.

The motto of our Sovereign, "Dieu et Mon Droit" (God and My Right), was first used by Richard the Lion Heart in the twelfth century.

Says City Folk Are More Virile

Doctor Claims Rural Residents, Contrary to Long Belief, Are Not As Healthy

Contrary to a long popular belief, the city man is more virile than the man in the country, according to Dr. Oswald Swinney Lowsley.

Dr. Lowsley, head of the department of urology at the New York Hospital of New York city, said the city man is more virile because he is beginning to appreciate the benefits of exercise and right living.

"MANKIND IS IMPROVING"

"Mankind is improving," he said.

Men and women should systematically work to attain the best physical condition in the face of world crisis and nerves, Dr. Lowsley said. They will need this bolstering to be able to "take it," he emphasized.

"The lot of the man on the street is highly important today," he declared.

Scientist Sister Proud Of Willkie's Attitude

Brilliant woman chemist devotes time to research on Ontario Wines

Points to Benefits

When Wendell Willkie visited Toronto, one of those waiting on the city hall steps was his sister Julia whose quiet life devoted to scientific pursuits is in sharp contrast to the tumultuous public life of the great American champion of democracy.

Crowds swept the police aside, perhaps for the first time in the city's history, as the triumphal procession swept up Yonge street to the cheers of the Canadians assembled to honour the man who had travelled to Great Britain to report on the Empire's war effort.

Miss Willkie had come from St. Catharines, somewhat nervously, wondering why Toronto should be interested in her all of a sudden. Canadians wanted to express their gratitude to Wendell Willkie by giving his sister a day she'll never forget. But now that the shouting is over, she has resumed her quiet life in St. Catharines, devoting her time to her book-filled room and her laboratory. She is a wine chemist. But her status has altered. She is no longer just a serious, middle-aged woman, but a celebrity, the sister of the man who many believe may be the next president of the United States.

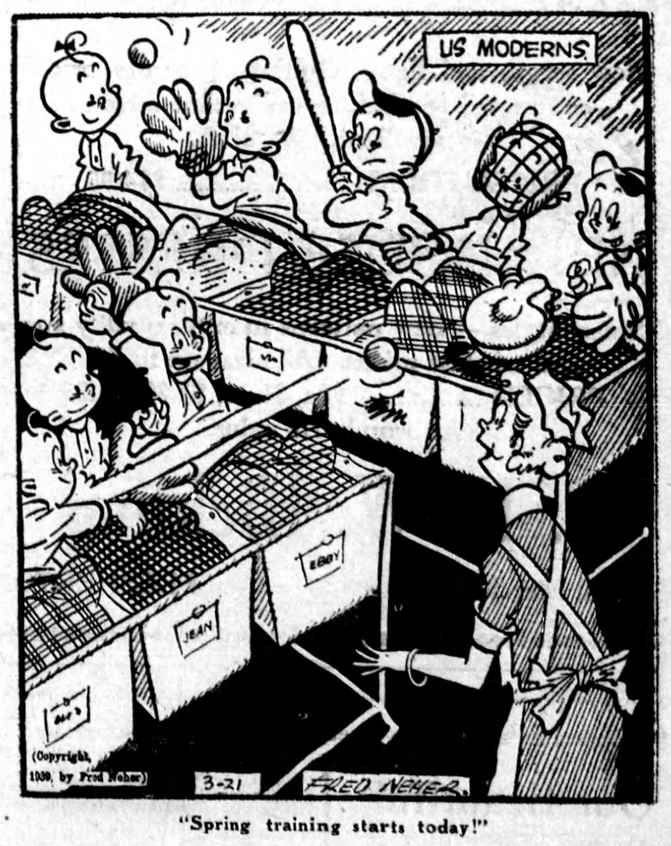
She told reporters she believes that the occasion of dinner should be made into a more convivial affair with wines. "In time," she said, "the custom would have a beneficial effect on the national digestion and would probably make Canadians into a nation of brilliantly witty conversationists."

One suggestion Miss Willkie made was that Canadian wines should be given names that breathe the spirit of Canada instead of recalling old France. French wine, she thinks, can never be made in Canada and comparisons between Canadian and French wines are a waste of time.

"Our climate is so different from that of France. We could give our wine the same sort of bouquet but we are chiefly concerned with making a palatable product from Canadian grapes. The result must be judged on the merit of the product. Because they taste differently, Ontario wines are in no wise inferior," she said, adding that the cutting off of French wine supplies would make very little difference to Canadian wine consumption because importations were never on a large scale.

Orchids grown from seed require a period of anything from seven to twelve years to reach the blossoming stage.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT — By Fred Neher



"Spring training starts today!"

REG'LAR FELLERS—Retiring from Business — By GENE BYRNES