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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 15th, 1940.

TRIBUTE TO LORD TWEEDSMUIR

A glad was cast over Canada by the passing last Sunday of Lord Tweedsmuir, Governor General of Canada, and with the utmost sincerity the people of Canada extend sympathy to the members of his family and with a unanimous voice pay tribute to the genuine worth of his life. The feelings of the people of Canada were well expressed by the radio address of Prime Minister King who in paying tribute to the late Governor General shortly after his passing addressed these words to the people of Canada:

"Tonight, in the City of Montreal, there died a great and a good man, John Buchan, first Baron Tweedsmuir. With heartfelt sorrow and in fulfilment of a sad duty, I am called upon to inform the people of our country that the life of His Excellency came to its earthly close shortly after 7 o'clock.

"In the passing of His Excellency, the people of Canada have lost one of the greatest and most revered of their Governors-General, and a friend who from the day of his arrival in this country dedicated his life to their service.

"To his great task Lord Tweedsmuir brought wisdom, experience, the grace of words and a generosity of heart which found expression in a wide human sympathy and understanding. He came to know and to share the feelings and the aspirations of the Canadian people in all parts of the Dominion. He visited them on many occasions in the East, in the West, and in the far North, and was never happier than when he shared the simplicities of their joys and their labors.

"Out of that knowledge and understanding there came an enthusiasm for this country, its institutions, its traditions and its people almost unique in our history. And if Lord Tweedsmuir knew the Canadian people as few, if any, Governors-General had known them before, the Canadian people learned to know him and to hold him in unsurpassed affection.

"There is not a home in our Dominion which will not be saddened by the loss which our country has sustained; not a part of the British Commonwealth of Nations which will not recognize our bereavement as its own. The world itself has suffered in the passing of one whose great sympathies and talents were dedicated to the service of mankind.

"He was, like so many great men of his race, a son of the manse. Christian ideals moulded his life and guided his footsteps; and it is an inspiration to recall that on his last public appearance as Governor-General of this country, one week ago today, he read the lesson in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in this City of Ottawa, humbly proclaiming to all men his unshaken belief in the faith of his fathers.

"In the discharge of every public duty, Lord Tweedsmuir was fidelity itself. Cut off as he has been at the height of his powers, one can only believe that in the providence of God, he had completed the work which here it had been given him to do.

"To the King, in the passing of His Majesty's representative in our Dominion, our country extends an expression of its profound sorrow. No sovereign ever confided a great trust to a more faithful servant.

"To Her Excellency, Lady Tweedsmuir, to her daughter, to her three sons who today serve their King as their father did before them, Canada offers its deepest sympathy on this day of national mourning."

IMPORT OPPOSITION TO MULOCK

The nomination of the Rev. Mr. Dix of Truro, Nova Scotia, for the nomination of the North York Conservative Association held last Saturday pretty well bears out the general impression of the average North Yorker that there is very little opposition in this riding to the re-election of Col. W. P. Mulock who has been the member for this constituency since 1934. Col. Mulock is so well and favorably known in all parts of the riding and so generally recognized as an energetic and untiring worker on behalf of his constituents that there would have been general satisfaction had he been accorded an acclamation. This feeling was in no way confined to members of the Liberal party, because it is well known that in the discharge of his duties as a member of Parliament, Bill Mulock has worked for the welfare of his constituents irrespective of their political affiliations. Never has North York had a more energetic and devoted representative in Parliament and the problems of this riding and the problems of the country as a whole have claimed his entire attention since he entered public life. Thousands of electors not at all interested in party labels recognize that men of the type of Col. W. P. Mulock are needed in the Canadian Parliament. Apart altogether from the important issues in this election campaign Col. W. P. Mulock richly deserves re-election on his record of devoted service to North York. The fact that the only opposition to his re-election so far evident is by a candidate from Truro, Nova Scotia completely out of touch with the riding or its problems indicates that there is no serious dissatisfaction with Mulock representation for North York.

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CANADIAN NATIONAL

BIRDS AS A HOBBY

(By Farley Mowat)

Recently I met a well worn man of the soil walking pensively around the vast halls of the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto. I have no sense of direction and apparently my friend had even less for we met at one of the side chambers and in practically the same breath asked each other for directions.

Obviously we were fellows in distress, and during the half hour that intervened before a guard found us in the last stages of despair we became mutual admirers. Nothing could surprise my friend amongst all the weird and unusual objects that littered the walls and show cases of the Museum, and I, who am surprised at nearly everything could not help admiring the casual way in which this son of Missouri passed off for instance the mysterious and age old mummies in the Egyptian room, with a shake of the head and the remark, 'Fakes, my boy, just another smart trick to fool the public'. Eventually when we had been rescued from the labyrinth of rooms and passages I suggested that this authority on Egyptian relics come up stairs and have a look at the three hundred kinds of Canadian birds that line both walls of the third floor of the building. He was willing though he still warned me that he wouldn't be taken in by any in front of the glass show cases in silence and finally he turned with a rather worried expression. 'I don't believe,' he said 'that there are that many birds, the only kinds of birds in this country are the kinds you et and the kinds you said. There was nothing more to be said and as I walked downstairs with him and out the Avenue Road door, I half expected him to stare long and intently at the moving line of cars and utter that single illuminating word, 'fakes'.

The idea of that story was to illustrate something that bothers every bird man on the continent, and probably every bird. Indifference. In the York County district, for instance, there are over three hundred birds occurring throughout the year in every sort of place from city gardens to isolated swamps, yet we supposedly observant people are hardly aware of their presence, the ability to be able to distinguish a robin from a sparrow is usually about the limit of knowledge attained by the average person. It is because of this attitude of indifference and ignorance that some six species of birds totalling uncountable millions have been driven to extinction, eliminated, destroyed forever. The Passenger Pigeon is a well known case but by no means the only one. The Great Auk, Labrador Duck, Eskimo Curlew, Whooping Crane and Carolina Parakeet are among the dead. And at the present time annihilation threatens at least a dozen more species. Stupidity and ignorance are the weapons that each day bring the end of the road nearer for such birds as the majestic Trumpeter Swan and the gorgeous Ivory Billed Woodpecker. It is with this state of affairs in mind that I have undertaken to write this series of articles in which I hope to be able to outline the general make up of bird life and deal in detail with such important problems as the so called vermin and with the problems of ornithology as they concern agriculture.

By far the most obvious phase of bird study is the ever growing number of people from all walks of life who are spending their leisure hours stalking birds with field glasses and cameras, the people who make birds their hobby instead of collecting stamps or playing bridge. These people have discovered that there are few things more fascinating than the study of birds in their natural surroundings, the thrill of a Spring morning when a dozen kinds of birds are singing their mating songs in the early sun, lies not entirely in the beauty of the scene, but to the amateur observer, it lies partly in being able to say to the uninitiated, 'that's a grosbeak in those maples' or, 'that ticking noise is a Sora Rail in the swamp'. On paper this may sound a little flat but in reality it is a sport and a most engrossing one. In Richmond Hill there are several enthusiasts who when they are not attending to their jobs as prominent citizens, sally forth with unfettered enthusiasm for a day in the 'field'.

Briefly, to be a field observer you need the following items: A pair of field glasses or binoculars of at least four power magnification; A good bird guide, one of the best being Roger Tory Peterson's 'Field Guide to the Birds'; a pencil firmly tied to a part of the body that will not come unattached and leave you

trying to write with a burnt match, and a note book; and last but not most important of all you need a practically inexhaustible store of patience.

Observing is best done in the early morning and late evening. Almost any kind of weather is suitable to the birds though it may be too damp for your personal comfort. Birds usually are to be found by their songs and the sooner familiarity with various notes is built up the better. On hearing a bird in a tree the task becomes a sort of needle in the hay stack affair, especially if the bird is a little one. Patience and good luck may at last reveal the bird to your enquiring field glasses and you sigh and think the job is done. That is a mistake. If you allow yourself three hours to try and find, 'a little grey bird with white eye lines', in your bird book you may come out on top after all, but only one who has messed around with ornithology can tell how remarkably unlike its picture a bird can be.

Brief notes from local observers: Two pine grosbeaks at Richmond Hill; a flock of 6 Horned Larks, the first Spring migrant seen February 7 near Elgin Mills; Screech Owls reported from several localities; John Curzon reports large flocks of Snow Buntings to the south of Richmond Hill; several observers report the first Crows of the season have been seen.

Unionville

The usual splendid attendance is recorded following the February meeting of the Junior Farmers and Girls' Club organizations held Monday evening in the Township Hall. The girls, meeting in the upper hall, were interested in the meat project presented and demonstrated by Mrs. W. Young and Mrs. A. E. Milner. The meats were deliciously cooked, and valuable information regarding food values was given at the demonstration proceeded. The lucky draw was won by Agnes Davidson and a hearty vote of appreciation was tendered the two ladies in charge of the event.

At the boys' meeting Mr. A. R. Haskell, representing the Better Business Bureau spoke on "The Common Practices of Fraud" and gave information regarding budgeting our income to meet the various needs and problems of life.

Ken Deacon announced the annual Skating Carnival to be held in Richmond Hill rink on February 15 and made an appeal for all attending to come in costume, prizes to be given for both costumes and races.

A skating party for February 20 and a dance early in March were other activities announced.

A popular feature of the evening was a presentation to Mr. Bob Simpson as an appreciation for help given in the training of the young folk in the prize winning dramas. Mrs. Simpson has proved a valuable aide in this work and both Mr. and Mrs. Simpson are to be commended upon the splendid results of their efforts in this work.

The monthly Newscaster, edited by Don Kennedy and read by Elliot Harrington, was a clever edition and the sing song led by Sam Gough and Mrs. Austin Reesor was a happy feature. Refreshments followed by dancing concluded the event.

The second series of the Veterans' Euchres got away to a good start last Thursday evening when approximately thirty tables of players were in attendance. As an extra event, a handsome hand crocheted lace centre piece, made and presented by Mrs. Wilber Latimer, will be drawn for at the final Euchre.

St. Philip's Anglican Church held the annual vestry meeting on Monday evening last, and encouraging reports gave notable increase in both givings and attendance over last year and church membership increased, nineteen communicants joining at recent confirmation. Rev. Herman presided at the meeting. The elections returned A. K. Harrington as Vestry Clerk and Treasurer and John Ferguson as Rector's Warden. George Foster was appointed People's Warden and Eric McFayden as Sunday School Supt.

This congregation, under the guidance of Rev. Herman, have enjoyed a happy successful year and many worth while activities are recorded.

The W.A. of Central United Church met in the Sunday School Room on Wednesday afternoon with thirty-one ladies present. The meeting was the first of the New Year and proved most interesting and enjoyable. Mrs. Bewell, the re-elected

president, was in the chair. After the opening exercises, Mrs. Coulson gave a well thought out Bible reading, John 14. The roll call was responded to by members paying their yearly fee, five new members being enrolled. Readings by Mrs. LaRose and Mrs. Sellars, and a solo by Mrs. W. J. Russell were also enjoyable features on the program. The verses on the yearly program were read as follows:

How would it help in the work of the day,
As we pass along the busy highway;

To have someone say without much ado,

"You know, I've heard something good about you."

And when I have covered the last rugged mile,

I know there is someone who will give me the smile;

And say to a heart so kindly and true,

"Come in, I know something good about you."

Twenty-five pairs of completed socks for the soldiers, knit by the members, were brought to the meeting and were donated to the Red Cross for distribution, and six pounds of wool given out for war work. After the closing hymn the ladies enjoyed a pot luck supper.

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