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THE THREE ESSENTIALS FOR PROTECTING FORESTS

The Canadian Forest and Outdoors, the journal of the Canadian Forestry Association, editorially summarizes the matter of forest fire protection as follows:—

"Fire protection consists of three parts; first, prevention of fire; second, detection of fires that have started; and third, suppression of fires. The first demands carefulness on the part of all who travel in the woods. The second involves large expenditures for look-out towers and telephone lines; and the third, facilities for getting a large number of men to the scene of a fire before it can gain headway.

"But the first and most important part of the work is preventing fires from starting, and this depends on the individual who travels the forests. Only a small percentage of all fires are started by natural causes, such as lightning. The great majority are started by human carelessness. Every man who goes into the woods is a potential menace to the woods. A moment of carelessness and he can start a fire that will not only endanger the forest but his life and the lives of others. He can cause a loss of millions of dollars to the inhabitants of the Province by throwing a cigarette out of a car window. He can imperil the employment of hundreds of men by failing to make sure his camp fire is out. It takes fifty years or longer to grow a forest to pulpwood size; it takes a few hours to destroy the results of fifty years. Only those who have seen a forest fire can comprehend its terror and the destruction and devastation that follow in its wake."

BEWARE OF EUROPEAN STARLING, FOR IT'S BAD

In the Sudbury district there is some anxiety in regard to the presence of the European Starling—a bird with a bad reputation and apparently fully deserving of its ill name. Rev. Mr. Nicholson, of Sudbury, who is a close student of bird life, has called attention to the matter. If this bird gets a grip in the Sudbury district, it will likely also find a place in the Timmings district, and the E. S. evidently is a type of settler not to be desired, so many here will be interested in anything about the case. In writing on the matter The Sudbury Star says:

"In the course of a few years, a bird pest known as the European Starling may beset Sudbury district in common with more southerly points in the province. The unwelcome arrival of the starling has been noticed by Rev. R. R. Nicholson, of Sudbury, who is a close follower of bird life. Rev. Mr. Nicholson states that he discovered a nest of one of these pests built in a woodpecker's hole in a telegraph pole. One hundred starlings were imported from Europe to New York in 1891, and propagated to such an extent that in some parts of the country they became as great a pest as the English sparrow. Since then, they have invaded Canada, and they threaten to be a serious problem to pastures and gardens. In many respects they resemble a small black bird, and are not easily recognized, except for their yellow bill and short tail. They will build in any crevass, and, during the nesting season are insectivorous. Feeding on the ground, the starling attacks pastures and gardens and is especially injurious to fruit. In Europe they have been known to swoop down on fruit trees in flocks of a thousand. The starling, furthermore, is pugnacious, driving out other species of native birds. Rev. Mr. Nicholson has so far come across two nests, with a young flock of 20 altogether.

Motor trips between Iroquois Falls and Matheson are quite the "order of the day," especially at week-ends.



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INDIAN FRIENDS PAY FOR THE BURIAL OF TRAPPER

A despatch received last week from Cobalt says that a report on the drowning accident in Mensima Lake, eight miles north of the Argonaut Mine, in which Alex Michaud lost his life, has been received by inspector Moore from Provincial Constable Hartieb, who made enquiry into the tragedy. The officers and Dr. Armstrong, of Kirkland Lake, investigated the circumstances, and the coroner reached the conclusion that the drowning was purely accidental. Michaud was a trapper who had lived with the Indians of the district, and on the day he met his death was returning by canoe across the lake from McDonald's camp. Some time after he left, two Indians found the canoe floating upside down and, while one of them went to the Argonaut for the police, others searched the body. It was located during the day in 15 feet of water. Subsequently the remains were sent to Kirkland Lake, where they were interred, the Indians taking up a collection among themselves to help defray the funeral expenses.

ANOTHER ORIGIN FOR THE WORD "BOOTLEGGER"

The history of the origin of words is nearly always interesting, and it is really remarkable how much of this sort of history is lost. Part of the reason for this, perhaps, is that with the tendency in modern days to "slang," so many words are coined, only to enjoy a fleeting popularity and then be dropped, that it has seemed neither worth-while nor practical to preserve the history of the hosts of new words that go into circulation for a time.

The word, "bootlegger," however, is a word that has enjoyed great currency for an extended time. Usually, men are more occupied in finding where the bootlegger may be, than in figuring where his name came from. It has been generally accepted that the term was first employed in Maine and in some of the western states of the U.S.A. From Vancouver, however, there comes a different story. If the story can be confirmed in any definite way, the information might be used by the National Committee for the Celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of the Confederation of Canada, to prove that Canada at least named one of the popular professions on this continent. Geo. Munro, of Vancouver, B.C., claims that he was the man who coined the word, "bootlegger." Mr. Munro is now 82 years of age—an age at which a man is naturally either very truthful or has decided leanings to the opposite side of politics. Accordingly, Mr. Munro's claim is worthy of interest and investigation. He says that he gave the word its first usage long before it was otherwise used. There were no dry laws in those days, he says, but there were more dry men than even to-day.

In an interview recently, Mr. Munro says:—"In the early days of construction on the C.P.R., an old Irishman managed to peddle whiskey up and down the line in spite of the surveillance of a policeman on the lookout for liquor. He invariably wore a pair of long legged rubber boots out of which the bottles were known to emerge for the right customers. I called him bootlegger and the name stuck, and people all down the coast applied it to everybody mixed up in the illegal sale of liquor."

WEALTH OF NORTH HARDLY SCRATCHED SAYS MINISTER

Hon. Chas. McCrea Tells of the Vast Opportunities in the Great North Land.

Hon. Chas. McCrea has been at it again. He has been telling a large gathering in Toronto of the wonders and the possibilities of the North. He made it clear that the chief hope for the progress and prosperity of the North was centered in Ontario. This was in an address last week to the Toronto Conservative Club. Hon. Mr. McCrea dealt in his usual very effective way with the wealth and opportunities of Northern Ontario. Only the first page, he said, had been turned as yet in the North Land's wealth-producing history. Hon. Mr. McCrea urged the youth of the country to take advantage of the opportunities, which undoubtedly rest in the development of New Ontario's natural resources.

SUGGESTS THE HEN AS CANADA'S NATIONAL BIRD

Recently there has been a lot of discussion about the selection of a "National bird" for Canada. Suggestions have been made including nearly everything from the sparrow to the owl. Jack Miner favours the Canadian Goose. Here is an article urging the claims of the good old hen. The paragraphs are from the last issue of The New Liskeard Speaker, and say—

There has been considerable talk through the press, of having a national bird for Canada, and one writer thought the goose ought to be the bird selected. Well, the goose would no doubt be more utilitarian than the eagle, the picture of which is emblazoned upon the coin of our neighbours to the south. However, we know a certain farmer's wife who thinks the hen is entitled to the honour of being Canada's national bird, "hands down." Certainly the hen is the world's bird, and will be the means of bringing together in Ottawa, on the 27th of July next, the largest International Conference ever held,—at least in this part of the World.

But to come back to the suggestion of our friend, the farmer's wife, who said, "Now, there is the case of my Biddy: A year ago, she leisurely walked into my back kitchen, a room used mostly as a lumber-room, and chatted in a friendly sort of way for a time, while investigating the surroundings. Sometime after she emerged from a sheltered nook, leaving behind her, an egg. This course the hen followed daily, throughout the season.

A year rolled by, and I had forgotten about my companionable hen; but a few days ago she came back chattering precisely as she had done throughout the laying season of 1926, and, as before, left an egg."

"But," she continued, "this is not the whole of my story, a few days ago another hen came sauntering into the same lumber-room as though she had been there before. I "shooed" her out, and went away. I returned in time to see the same hen leaving the room, and on searching I found that this second hen had left a nest of five eggs. Do you wonder I am for the hen?"

Man in elevator—"Fourth floor, please."
Operator—"Here you are, son."
"How dare you call me son?"
You're not my father."
"Well, I brought you up, didn't I?"

—Exchange

KOBALT KIWANIS KLUB KANE KINDLY KLERGYMAN

Rev. Fr. O'Gorman Honoured by Cobalt Club Last Week While on Visit to His Former Town

Among the visitors last week to Cobalt Kiwanis Club was Rev. Fr. O'Gorman, a former valued member of the Cobalt club, who was duly honoured by the members on the return visit last week. It was International Night at all Kiwanis clubs, with a special programme. President A. K. Roberts was in the chair, and the singing of grace, the Kiwanis Song, the introduction of guests, and a brief address of welcome by Past President R. S. Taylor were features of the evening. Two special guests of the evening, A. D. Campbell, formerly of Cobalt, but now of Gowganda, and Rev. Fr. O'Gorman, of Timmings, were the chief speakers, while Mr. Mac Lang, M.P., was also an appreciated speaker of the evening. In its report of the meeting The Northern News last week says:—

"On behalf of the club the presentation of two malacca canes was made to the guests of the evening, Rev. Father O'Gorman and A. D. Campbell, both of the recipients being surprised by the gifts, which they feelingly acknowledged. In accepting the cane Father O'Gorman remarked laughingly "with a crook like this I feel very much like a bishop." It would be a constant reminder of the happy days he had spent in Cobalt, and he hoped this would not be his last visit here. Mr. Campbell greatly appreciated the gift and especially the honour of having been coupled with Father O'Gorman in such a mark of friendship.

"Responding to the call of the chair for an address, Rev. Father O'Gorman said there is a song which says "There are times which make us happy," this was such an occasion for him. It was his great pleasure to be the bearer of fraternal greetings from the Timmings Kiwanis Club, the sponsor of the Cobalt Club. The president and secretary of that club had gone to Memphis, but he was personally more pleased to be here than in Memphis. It was more like coming home.

"Dealing with the subject set down against his name on the programme, "Kiwanis and Fellowship," Father O'Gorman referred to the "Inter-Club Relations Creed," which had been recited by the gathering in unison, and which he declared expressed fully the true meaning of Kiwanis.

The reason perhaps that Kiwanis had originated in this continent, instead of in Europe, was the more democratic spirit which prevails amongst the people.

"During the evening a delightful programme of music was carried out."

He: Who is that popular girl over there?
She: Oh, she is the daughter of a banker.

He: Ah! No wonder she draws so much interest.

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