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HOPE FOR LEGISLATION TO HELP REMOVE WOLF MENACE

Noted Hunter and Trapper Advocates Increased Bounty as the Most Practical Method for the Case

As The Advance has been emphasizing for some time past, wolves in Ontario, and especially in this North Land form a very decided menace to the game of the country. Last winter The Advance published the statement of Mr. Clair Severt, who made a trip from Timmings to Ottawa on skis and was appalled by the number of deer he noted on the way that had been killed by wolves. Word was also received from Temagami and other sections in regard to the number of deer killed by wolves.

Jack Miner seemed to have the right slant on the question when he said that the people had to choose between the wolves and the deer. The matter was repeatedly brought to the attention of the Government, and eventually a delegation from the Ontario Tourist Trade Association secured special data and placed the case in detail before the authorities at Toronto. Mr. M. U. Bates, of Metagami, was one of the delegation and as vice-president of the Ontario Tourist Association he took special interest in the presentation of the case. Mr. Bates recently set forth his ideas in the matter in "Rod and Gun," and these should be of special interest and importance. Mr. Bates writes as follows:—

"From casual observations made while passing through different big game ranges during the present season, the wolf menace appears to be as much a menace as ever before. In fact, during the month of August the wolves were travelling through territory close in the settlements where I have never seen them travel at this time of the year before. During the early part of the summer there were several cow moose with their calves there, also a stray deer or two; but if any of these calves or fawns are still alive at this date, they must bear the proverbial charmed lives. It seems too bad that such a condition should be allowed to continue. In May this year, in a final effort to get some action from the Department of Game and Fisheries in the matter of an increased wolf bounty, which we firmly believe is the only practical solution to the wolf problem, a deputation from the newly formed Ontario Tourist Trade Association was sent to Toronto to interview the Department in this connection. The deputation felt that while many reports had reached the Department on the seriousness of the wolf menace, the executives of the Department were not yet fully convinced as to the true state of affairs, especially as affected the more remote sections of the province where the wolves have been allowed to continue their work unhampered. To bring such conditions more vividly to the notice of the Department, and to impress upon them the actual extent and seriousness of the wolf menace, the officers of the Association, following a special meeting called in North Bay in April this year, made a province-wide canvass amongst guides, trappers, and interested sportsmen in the outlying districts for reports of wolf kills, also for actual photographs of such kills where such were available. The officials of all the railways traversing these big game districts were also asked to obtain such reports and photographs from their employees at outlying points. While the deputation had but a few weeks to get this information together, the response made was most gratifying, dozens of photographs having been received, and reports from railway employees, trappers, etc., of over three hundred deer kills within the space of a month! The photographs depicted dozens of deer carcasses in the Kenora, Thunder Bay, Algoma and Nipissing Districts lying, half eaten in the snow, and in one instance a timber wolf caught right at the scene of the kill. Several of the photos appeared in the Toronto Globe at the time, with the following article:—

"The possibility of deer becoming entirely extinct in Ontario as a result of the ravages of wolves, is to be used as an argument today by a Northern Ontario deputation in appealing to Hon. Charles McCrear, Minister of Mines and Fisheries, for an increase in the Government wolf bounty.

"To illustrate their fact regarding the alarming slaughter of the deer, the deputation, consisting of E. L. Hughes, President, and M. U. Bates, Vice-president of the Ontario Tourist Trade Association, have obtained a series of photographs depicting dozens of carcasses of deer lying in the snows of the North, with, in some cases, their four-footed murderers, standing over them.

"The suggestion to be offered to the Government by Messrs Hughes and Bates is that the wolf bounty, which is at present \$15, with the return of the pelt, be increased to \$50 with the Government to retain the skin. This, it is felt, would not only compensate the trappers for their time and the loss of the pelts, but would eliminate the "red tape" which at present delays the return of the skins to the trappers.

"The extent of the wolves' depredations in many sections of the northern part of the province is made clear by a number of letters in the possession of the deputation, sent in by residents of the North, who have become apprehensive at the slaughter of the deer. From these communications it has been conservatively estimated that in one section of the province alone there have been some 300 deer killed by wolves in a period of six weeks.

"Philip Lamothe of Mattawa wrote that in the neighbourhood where he resides he had counted no less than 40 carcasses, while R. L. Vanderbeck of Nakina stated that on a single trip with a dog team he had found enough deer meat to feed his huskies for several months. As for bones, he said, he had noticed enough of them to make a sleighload.

"A letter dated April 23 told of a trip made by a guide named Harry Brooks and his brother in the Pickering River district, where they counted 42 dead deer along the shores of the Rainy River and Lake Me-Me-Sag-a-Me-Sing. From the Magnetawan district came a report of one lad finding the torn remains of 17 deer within a small area.

"The opinion that in another year all the deer in his locality would be killed off, and that the wolves would then start in to slaughter the moose, which

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already are being killed in some sections, was expressed by F. M. Ladds of Wardrope Postoffice, Smith, Ont. Another report from Loring told of 72 deer being found dead in that district, and of the alarm felt by trappers at the killings.

"We have sounded opinion on the question from the Manitoba boundary to Pembroke," said Mr. Bates to The Globe last night, "and find the country entirely in sympathy with the request that something be done to check the depredations of the wolves. The people are 100 per cent. for action on the latter."

"Both Mr. MacDonald and the Hon. Chas. McCrear were interviewed, and shown the heaps of letters and photographs mentioned. The Department preferred not to handle the wolf pelt at all, owing to the unclean condition in which trappers had sent them in before. They preferred to return them to the trapper. While both the executives named appeared impressed with the evidence produced, no action could be taken in the matter of an increased bounty till the next session of the Legislature. In view of the evident seriousness of the matter, however, the Department agreed to employ salaried wolf hunters at points where wolf ravages were reported particularly bad. The deputation, while glad to receive any concession whatever, pointed out to the Department the impracticability of such an arrangement. The case was a chronic one, as well as acute, and required general treatment if any lasting benefit was expected or intended. An effort was made to employ some of these salaried wolf hunters in the Algoma District this summer, but owing to the unusual number and prevalence of bears this season the idea had, for the time being at least, to be abandoned. We hope for some helpful action at the coming session of the Legislature."

"National advertisers who make a study of the public mood now take care in their outdoor advertising that they do not offend the sense of propriety and decency which has been revolted by Niagara Falls, the Grand Canyon and other famous places being desecrated by invitations to buy somebody's liver pills or hair tonic. In the Yellowstone park, for instance, the officials not only forbid advertising but have followed vandals who used rocks to call attention to some product and made them come back to remove their paint. We are strongly in favour of equally drastic measures being taken to prevent public highways in Ontario and the public domain through which they run being defaced by bill boards and agents of advertisers who deface even the ancient rocks. If there is not a law forbidding such obnoxious practices there should be one. If there is a law it is not enforced, and the responsible minister should see that this negligence is corrected.

OBJECTIONABLE SIGNS ON THE FERGUSON HIGHWAY

Scenery Defaced Says Writer. Claims That Hotel, Garages and Missionaries are the Worst Offenders

Some time ago certain traffic signs were removed from the Ferguson highway because they were considered too gruesome. According to the "Fourth Column" on the editorial page of The Mail and Empire there are a large number of signs on the highway that are more objectionable because they deface the scenery in addition to being more gruesome and injurious to sensitive nerves. The "Fourth Column" is always interesting and worth reading, and the article in question, from the able pen of the column conductor, J. W. McCrear, will have a particular interest for readers in this North. Mr. McCrear says:—

"For a good many years newspapers have protested against the desecration of natural scenery by bill board advertisements. Sometimes they have not been wholly disinterested, and they have been accused of trying to do in a rival under the cloak of aestheticism. But whatever their motives they have been able to make out a good case, and have enlisted as supporters of their contention most artists and lovers of nature. In late years they have had a much broader basis of enlistment. The motor car has made travellers out of millions who previously knew nothing of the country beyond their immediate neighbourhood or knew it only from glimpses from a train window on their occasional trips abroad. These travellers, not unnaturally, have taken

note of the scenery on their way from one town to another, and when they have found it obliterated or disfigured by advertising signs they have protested. In the United States indeed, there is an association of consumers pledged to boycott the products of advertisers who have chosen beauty spots along a highway to call attention to their wares.

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"A member of The Mail and Empire staff who recently travelled over the Ferguson highway from Toronto to Temagami brings back the gruesome report of what he saw. He says that hotels, garages and missionaries are the worst offenders. The former call attention to accommodation which they are prepared to supply on the spot. The last hit dully at accommodation in the world beyond. "Where will you spend eternity?" is an uncomfortable question addressed to travellers whose minds are perhaps occupied with the question of where they will spend the night. These signs, we are assured, are as common along the road as outcroppings of low-grade iron. North of Huntsville on the face of a rock cliff 100 feet above the road there is a proclamation to the effect that Christ died to save the ungodly. To make this point, an artist probably risked his life swinging from a rope hitched to trees above.

"One Bracebridge garage has signs at mile and even half mile intervals over a stretch of 40 miles. On the side of the road even the golf clubs, from which one might expect some dignity and reticence, have plastered signs to draw the old green fee from the tourist. Through the Temagami reserve signs of all kinds are barred. There are not even hot dog stands. Simple name plates mark each lake and river. But the evangelical sign painters have forced their way through and their cinnic warnings about eternity deface some of the finest scenery in all the north. They have tried to make their admonitions as permanent as possible for they have painted them on the rock. There are indications that forest rangers have tried to obliterate

these by smearing them over with neutral coloured paint.

"From North Bay to Sault Ste. Marie, one garage has ugly signs at mile intervals over a stretch of 100 miles. There are a few hot dog stands and they warn the tourist long before he reaches them. There is also a religious text actually chiseled in the rock. In this wholesale desecration the scripture vandals seems to have led the way, hotly pursued by garage and hotel owners and the keepers of hot dog emporiums. Considering the fact that the Ferguson highway has been opened for only three years the work of debauchery has made a most promising start. Unless stern measures are taken to check the exuberance of these go-getters the scenic beauties of the road will be spoiled and one of the great assets of the province pre-empted by impudent advertisers. To the nature lover it does not much matter whether a charming view is ruined by a text from the Bible or a slogan from some high-priced advertising expert. To the man who is trying to sleep it is a matter of little importance whether he is kept awake by the jangling of a cocktail party or the braying of a Salvation Army band.

Toronto Mail and Empire—We have been always rather curious to know what kind of man is employed to clip newspaper editorials and condense and combine them for the Literary Digest. So we were interested to hear that one of them is about to enter the New Brunswick woods wearing only a pair of spectacles and live on the wild inhabitants of the terrain.

Wakerton Herald-Times—We suppose if those rubber pavements are adopted in Canadian cities the favourite sport of motorists will be getting pedestrians on the first and second bounce.

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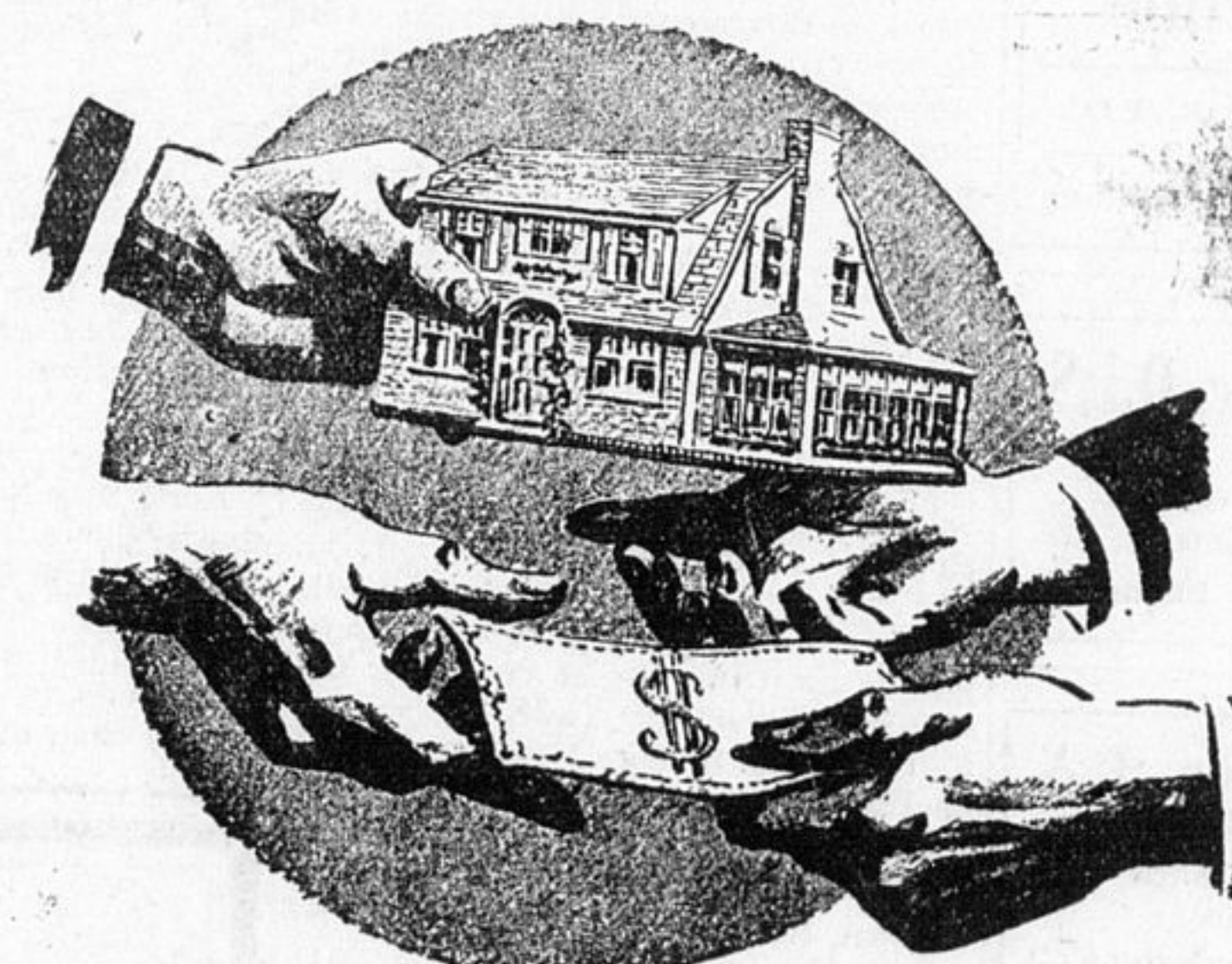
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COMMON DIVIDEND No. 23

NOTICE is hereby given that a Dividend of Fifty Cents (.50) per share upon the No Par Value Common Stock of the Company, has been declared payable November 1st 1929, to shareholders of record at close of business October 15th 1929.

By Order of the Board,

OTTAWA, JOHN RANKIN, Secretary-Treasurer, Sept. 23rd 1929.



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