

POOR YEAR FOR DISTRICT'S TRAPPERS

Low Water, Lower Prices Combine Against Trappers

A combination of low water and falling of fur prices are making the present trapping season one of the worst in recent years.

Despite the fact that the Department of Lands and Forests have raised the trapper's limit for beaver to one animal per beaver house, in contrast to a maximum of ten skins in previous years, the average trapper has been unable to capitalize on the situation. He is finding the animals difficult to obtain, for many of them have been penned in their houses by ice which has collapsed into almost-dry river beds.

In addition, due to the early opening of the season in Quebec, the beaver market has become gutted. "Super-blankets" brought \$60 when the beaver season opened; today they are selling for as low as \$35. Another factor determining the price is general economic conditions. Buyers of fur coats refuse to pay the prices of former years.

So when tall, kindly-eyed Paddy Gilmore, 72-year-old Indian who has trapped Langmuir and Fallon townships for the past 23 years, came to town this week he was a disappointed man. He had been in the bush since Christmas and he wasn't aware of what had happened to the price of beaver.

He tramped out of the bush with 11 prime skins in a pack on his back, four large ones and eight from smaller animals. It was a good take and he expected well over \$200 for his catch. Instead, he got \$170.

Paddy has one of the finest trapping areas in the district. The Nighthawk river winds through his area. But the big factor in making his line one of the best is the manner in which he himself has looked after it. He's a conservationist who looks ahead from one year to the next. For example, there are a total of 78 beaver house on his trap line and legally he's entitled to one beaver per house. But he won't take beaver even approaching this number.

"The new law is all right and a fellow could make a lot of money fast," he told the Advance, "but two dozen beaver in all is plenty for me. I've got next year to think about and the year after that."

"Then, of course, getting beaver isn't as simple as catching mice in a trap," he said with a leathery grin. "It is a lot of hard work, luck and persistence. I doubt if most trappers could trap half their quota even if they wanted to."

He said that all of the eleven beaver he brought with him had been taken from small lakes from which the water had not receded greatly.

"You just can't get beaver on the Nighthawk river itself," he declared. "The water and ice have fallen so low that the houses are sitting up completely exposed and their entrances are blocked with ice."

He said that he approved the government's easing of restrictions on and trapping of beaver and that he also approved the manner in which the government was stamping skins before they could be sold to fur buyers.

"Ten beaver a season were too few, even when the price was high. Natural increase allowed for more than that in a good trapping area. And this stamping of beavers eases a trapper's mind of the fear of poachers walking in on him. The skins can't be sold unless they have the official stamp."

He predicted that the present muskrat season would be a poor one in this district due to the low water and the manner ice has caved in over muskrat houses, which are generally found near the shores of streams and lakes.

"In my area I know muskrats are being trapped in under the ice and they are starving to death," he said. "It won't be much held to them even if there is a break-up, for the water will flow up over the ice and they will still be trapped beneath it."

He said that wolves were extremely numerous in the bush this year and as a result deer were very scarce.

"Just last week I found a spot on a little lake on my trap-line where a pack of wolves had killed a deer. All that was left was some blood and a few scraps of hair. From the tracks I would estimate that there were 16 or 17 wolves in the pack."

Stating that wolves were killing off every type of game in great quantities, he said he believed that the bounty on wolves should be increased. The pre-

Brother Against Brother In Union

In commenting on the adherence of his brother Bob, CCF member of the Ontario Legislature, to the Communist policies of the international executive of the IUMMSW, Ralph Carlin, business agent of Local 241, said this week:

"The Communists have got Bob out on a limb. He made the mistake of playing along with them and in this way he alienated the decent working men of the North. Now there is no return and he has to follow their line like a slave. . . I am very much afraid that Bob has ruined himself not only as a unionist but also in his political career."

He said that he had wired his brother, who is board member of District 8, informing him of the removal of documents from the local union hall and asking him if he condoned such actions. He has received no reply.

GRANDAD OF SPORT

Polo, the most ancient game with stick and ball is the "grandfather" of hockey, golf and cricket.

FIRST UNION PAPER

The first trade union paper published in Canada appeared in 1872 in Toronto.

Grocer Thinks Plan Underway To Crack Ceiling On Butter

Where has the butter gone? That is the question which is perturbing local food merchants as well as the housewife who shops around in vain trying to find a little here or there.

"It looks to me as though there is a plan afoot among the creamery interests to break the ceiling on butter and to force the government to remove price control of the product," said one Third Avenue grocer. "I firmly believe there is just as much butter as there ever was but that it is tucked away in storage."

According to the most recent report of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, no decrease has taken place in butter production in North Ontario. Butter production in the North is almost one-quarter higher than it was one year ago.

Struggle, Hard Work Behind Triumphs Of Barbara Ann

By Lillian O'Donell

A champion especially an European World and Olympic champion is always news, exceptionally good news, and tiny blond-haired, blue-eyed Barbara Ann Scott has proved time and again doubly good news because she is a fine person as well as a champion.

Barbara Ann was born and raised in Ottawa. Her father Major Clyde Scott, member of an old and prominent Prescott family and a veteran of the first World War, and her mother, raised her in the traditions of good sportsmanship. Always, from early boyhood her father had been interested in sports and he firmly believed that youth could learn many admirable lessons from those who made a career of sports.

Barbara Ann was taught from toddling days to admire every champion who was a real sportsman as well. She was also taught that sport, whether it was tennis, badminton, horseback riding or skating, did not matter so long as one "played the game" and lived a good life.

When she was three Barbara Ann was given her first pair of skates. At that time they were called "three double-runners," she told us day before yesterday.

"I only wore them once though, and that was enough for me," she said. Several years later, her doting parents presented her with her first pair of figure skates. She loved these and later she gained admittance to Ottawa's Minto Club which afforded splendid facilities for skating. Barbara Ann loved to skate despite the fact she took a few falls and it was then and there that she decided even if she might like to do something else at a later date she should and would practice.

Admirer Of Champions
Barbara Ann, the admirer of champions, finally decided she wanted to be a champion herself, and young as she was she understood, even then, that she would have to work long, tiring hours in order to achieve championship

sent bounty is \$25.

Paddy has brought in one wolf so far this season, an unusual black animal which he caught with a snare. He has also brought in a fisher and a few mink.

One of these days he is figuring on retiring.

"I'm not the man I used to be. Can't pack and follow the trail like the old days. I'll have to get me pension from the government or something," he said with a smile.

He's a veteran of the First Great War, serving in the 130th Battalion. He is entitled to the pension which all vets can obtain after sixty-five, if he wants to apply for it.

standing. To this day, this realistic attitude remains one of Barbara Ann's best points. The pretty 19-year-old blond princess of the silver blades has often been called a modern Cinderella and even though the shine of all fairyland is in her eyes, she is well aware that it took more than the touch of a fairy godmother's magic-wand to bring her success.

"It has taken much self-control, discipline and hard work coupled with disappointments, tears and a few failures and again years of more hard work," she told us. "But if it had been easy, it wouldn't mean so much to me now."

It is much easier to recite in detail Barbara Ann's triumphs than to appreciate fully the hours of practice which made them possible. It became apparent to the experts who watched her go through her daily routine that she would develop into an all-round skater. Under splendid tuition, Barbara Ann made rapid progress both in figures and free skating. By the time she was ten years of age she was a Canadian Gold Medalist and had passed seven out of the eight American tests.

At the age of eleven Barbara Ann was Junior Champion of Canada. In that competition she had to defeat girls in their late teens. Although this accomplishment made her happy, it did not make her content. She looked forward to conquering greater fields.

Finally she competed in the senior division against the best the nation had to offer. However, the hard work and enthusiasm did not prove enough. In 1941 and 1942 Barbara Ann was runner-up to the champion. She had to wait until 1944 to realize her ambition of winning a national championship. She repeated her win again in 1945, then went to New York to compete in the North American Championships held that year in Madison Square Gardens. Barbara Ann won that championship and in winning got her first real taste of fame.

After successfully defending her title in 1946, it was decided to send the pride of Ottawa to Davos, Switzerland to compete in the 1947 European championships. Canadians from all walks of life contributed money to help finance the trip. Major Scott's widow and daughter were living on his Army pension. Barbara Ann was determined to win not only as a tribute to her father, or for herself, but for all of Canada. Backed by that determination—she won!

From Davos she went to Stockholm where she competed in the world's championship and—won again. And never has a champion worn her crown



72-YEAR-OLD TRAPPER MAKES FINE CATCH. Paddy Gilmore, Indian trapper who has operated in the townships of Langmuir and Fallon since 1925, walked into the office of the Department of Lands and Forests on Monday morning of this week with eleven beaver skins. In the photo at right, Paddy holds one of his best skins for the cameraman.



Everything Higher Here As Rail Rates Are Jumped

The increase in freight rates of 21 percent scheduled to take place April 12 will go into effect on the Ontario Northland Railway as well as every other Canadian road. As a result almost every commodity on sale in the Porcupine Camp will show an increase in price.

Everything from women's hats to vegetables will be effected in varying degrees, according to original rates of shipping.

Foodstuffs, already more than high enough in price according to most consumers, will show definite increases.

"Not much can be done about it," a representative of a local wholesale firm told the Advance, "I'm afraid that if it costs more to bring food here the customer will have to absorb the increase."

He estimated that the jump in freight rates would push up the price of potatoes by nine cents a bag. Canned goods would show an increase of about ten cents a case. Apples would be higher by ten cents a bushel.

All these commodities are shipped here from Southern Ontario. Articles coming from the United States or British Columbia would show considerably higher increases, he said.

Council Efficiency

Council's efficiency was demonstrated this week by the fact that only nine items appeared on the agenda of its regular meeting.

more modestly or graciously as Barbara Ann. The great and many ovations she received here and abroad were accepted humbly and gratefully. Never has she been anything but a good sport, no matter what the going. Entering the olympics this year she had support from other countries than Canada.

Devotion to sports and good sportsmanship are qualities respected the wide world over and when lovers of sport learned that the blue-eyed queen of the blades had triumphed over bad weather and slush instead of ice, they applauded everywhere.

Speaking with Barbara Ann we learned it is difficult now for her to look ahead. She has her choice of various careers, including motion pictures, but she told us, "I don't know now. Previously I had the Olympics to look forward to. That was the one title I had been most eager to gain. Now that it is mine I have nothing more to compete for. Maybe, I shall rest for awhile, play the piano and ride."

ROADS ROADS

HALF-LOADING REGULATIONS AS OUTLINED IN THE HIGHWAY TRAFFIC ACT ARE NOW IN FORCE.

Frost action during the Spring months causes road beds to get soft and readily subject to damage by traffic

OVERLOADING WILL NOT BE ALLOWED

The abuse of roads by a few, causes great inconvenience to many. District co-operation in the protection of the roads will result in District benefit.

PENALTY FOR OVERLOADING IS A FINE OR IMPRISONMENT, OR BOTH. PERMITS MAY ALSO BE SUSPENDED.

Traffic Officers will be on duty in this District to check loads.

Your co-operation to prevent unlawful and unnecessary abuse of roads is earnestly solicited.

V. H. Longstaffe,
DIVISION ENGINEER,
DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS — ONTARIO.

INVEST IN YOUTH PORCUPINE COMMUNITY CAMPAIGN FOR LOCAL WORK

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Campaign
For
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