

Where Farmers Raise Skunks

Frogs and Birds, Too, Are Specialized In By California Agrarians — A Farmer As We Know It Is A "Ranger"

When you call a man a farmer in California you have to be referring to a special kind of specialist. A standard straw-chewing, sod-busting agrarian in California isn't a farmer; he's a "ranger." A farmer is—well, for instance:

C. W. Mikel is a frog farmer. He has about 100,000 frogs, which he sells to schools.

F. E. Earnest is an alligator farmer. His 2,000 alligators ranging in age up to 500 years, he says, are potential women's shoes and purses.

LIONS, ALLIGATORS, WORMS
Lion farming is the business of Charles Gay. He keeps 200 of them on exhibition, sells to zoos, rents to the movies.

R. B. Bilkowsky is a worm farmer. He furnishes fishermen with bait and orchardists with worms to aerate their soil.

Motion picture studios provide markets for a skunk farm, a snake farm, and a wild animal farm which raises everything from ocelots to elephants. The state operates an Arabian horse farm. There are numbers of mink and fox farms. There is even a humming bird farm.

Blackbird Symphony

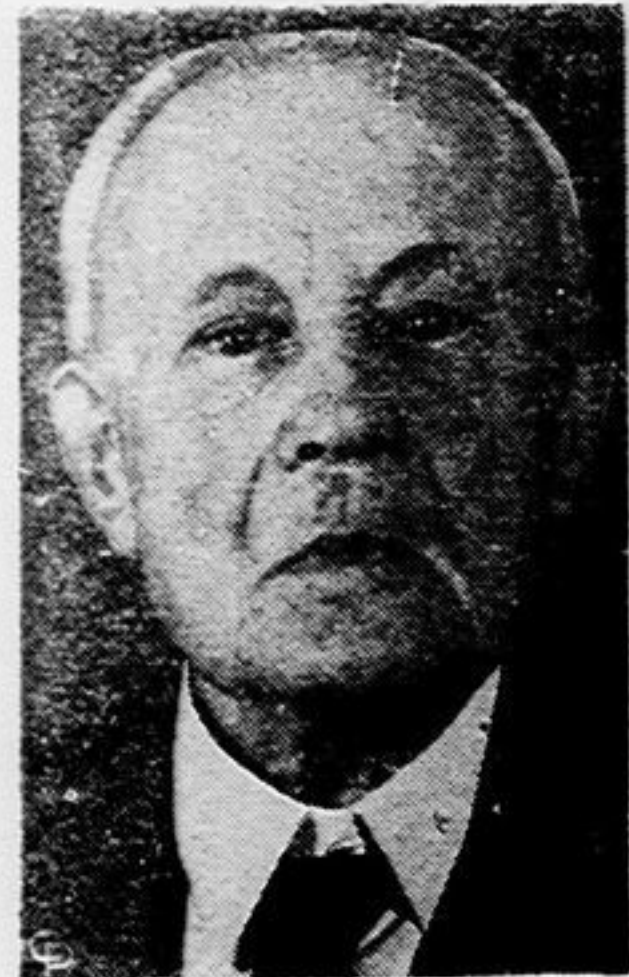
Shiny little blackbirds,
Wrote a symphony
Out upon my back fence
By an elm tree.

For there each wire was a line,
Each gay note was a bird—
And such a lovely musicale
You have ever heard;

But they were never satisfied,
And changes made all day.
They'd have a perfect score and then—
A note would fly away.

Busy little blackbirds
Writing music notes,
As joyous, lilting symphony
Pours from swelling throats.
—Nell June McCall,
in Christian Science Monitor.

Canada's "Weather Man" Dies



Sir Frederic Stupart, Canada's grand old weather forecaster, who retired as Canada's director of meteorology in 1929, died in Toronto in his 83rd year.

The Original Teddy Bear

Australia's Koala Was Inspiration For Unknown Artist Who Moulded It into a Plaything

Koala, the only animal that lives exclusively on the leaves of a tree and never drinks water, is so intimately linked with some of the eucalyptus that it forms the world's most interesting example of animal and plant conjoint life. It is known generally as the "Teddy Bear," because about the time that Theodore Roosevelt was President some unknown artist came across a description, or saw a living koala, and moulded it into a plaything. Millions of children the world over have cuddled in loving embrace the woolly representation of the world's most popular and most interesting wild animal. Gentle, harmless, loving, trustful, without a suggestion of guile or dissimulation, the koala . . . accepts humans more easily and more trustfully than even the dog. About thirty inches in height and weighing about thirty pounds at the most, the koala, if it were not so particular, in its feeding habits, . . . would become as popular a pet in the flesh as it has become in toy reproductions.

Anglers at Prince Albert National Park in Saskatchewan took 3,914 northern pike and 436 pickerel from the waters of Waples Lake during the month of July.

Saving Ontario's Natural Resources

NO. 11
By G. C. Toner,
Ontario Federation of Anglers
Preserve Muskies

In my last article a short resume of the natural history of the muskie was given, mainly as a background for the present article.

The most important point in the conservation of the muskie is the protection of the spawning fishes. They run up into shallow water to lay their eggs and at such times are particularly vulnerable to the poachers.

CRIMINAL POACHING
Most of us would regard as very foolish any farmer who killed his cows just before they freshened. If this were a continued practice with him he would soon be without stock on his farm. The poacher when he takes the muskies on their spawning grounds is killing our stock, robbing the public just as surely as if he took money from individual pockets.

Another way in which destruction of muskies takes place is through the lowering of the waters in late spring. When the spring floods are on, the adult muskies work well into the marshes to spawn. Here the water is warm and the eggs will develop rapidly. But far too often these flood waters are needed to run the mills and they are allowed away through the sluices. The eggs of the muskies, or the young fish, if they have hatched, are left high and dry for the birds.

We are still studying these fishes so we may know better ways to conserve them and this research can be left to the scientist. However, every conservationist can help to control the poacher and the water levels. They are the important matters at the present time.

Incidentally, the finest fishing picture I have ever seen was shown at the American Fisheries Society in Toronto by Wm. Lang of the Toronto Anglers. It dealt with the muskie and was in full colour. Get your local fish and game association to invite Mr. Lang to show his pictures in your town. You will help along the cause of conservation and you will certainly not be disappointed in the pictures.

The Book Shelf

"AS I REMEMBER HIM"
(The Biography of R. S.)
By Hans Zinsser

The author of "Rats, Lice and History" here gives us the informal biography of a physician by the name of "R. S." (in reality himself) who was also a philosopher, a poet, and a good friend.

Medicine took R. S. to the far corners of the earth. Wherever there were war and infection, there he was found. In Siberia in 1914-15, in the American Army in France, in Russia after the great famine, in Mexico and in China, he fought as a scientist. Last month as Hans Zinsser he died of an obscure disease, leukemia, after living for two years in the knowledge that it was slowly killing him. He tells his story in a fascinating way, with deep learning and salty wit; and his book now becomes a magnificent memorial to a very human man who led an extremely useful and interesting life.

"As I Remember Him" . . . by Hans Zinsser . . . Toronto; McClelland and Stewart . . . \$3.25.

Carol Carried Million Away

On Special Train. When He Escaped Into Exile—Metal Packed Into Three Wooden Crates

Rumanian government officials allege that three wooden crates containing more than \$1,000,000 worth of gold left the country on abdicated King Carol's special train.

The gold was said to be in coins minted last spring to commemorate the 10th anniversary of Carol's reign but never issued. These informants said the National Bank was considering the question of who holds title to the gold.

IN GOLD COINS

It was said that Carol had encountered difficulty with the Spanish government and that his passage through Spain to Portugal had been delayed. At the same time it was disclosed that the Rumanian government has taken steps to have Ernest Udariaru, who was minister of state without portfolio under Carol, returned to stand trial.

"Savior of Britain" Decorated by King



Hugh Dowding, chief of Britain's fighter command, RIGHT, has been made a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Bath. Idolized by his junior officers who affectionately refer to him as "Stuffy," Sir Hugh is credited with Britain's stiff resistance to the Nazis in the air. In the face of severe opposition and criticism he convinced the air council to put eight synchronized machine-guns on the British fighter planes and thus gained for them a marked superiority over the Nazis.

THE WAR-WEEK—Commentary on Current Events

JAP-AXIS PACT PLACES RUSSIA, U.S. ON SPOT

Though many have anticipated its signing, the momentous tripartite agreement entered into last week by Germany, Italy and Japan, made the rest of the world catch its breath. With the announcement of the pact, the conflicts raging in Europe, Africa and the Far East swiftly became one. The Second World War was a reality.

World War Begins
Of the six great powers left upon the globe, four were already in it. The United States and Russia, remaining, were now on the spot. Of these two victims of the Jap-Axis "squeeze play," the United States was already throwing its weight on the side of Britain; and Russia, the uncertain quantity, held the balance of power between the two blocs, democratic and anti-democratic.

Russia Holds Balance
Which way would Stalin jump? To join with Britain against Germany? If the U.S.S.R. were to enter the struggle, more than half the German air force would have to operate in eastern Europe, plus a tremendous mechanized army consuming vital gasoline supplies—the defeat of Germany would be certain. (Russia in the meantime, however, would have to be fighting Japan at her back door.)

To join with the new Triple Alliance against the British-U.S. bloc? Very unlikely. It would be much more reasonable to place credence in the statement of the Russians themselves, that the Soviet Union would remain firmly neutral. Signing of a non-aggression pact with Japan would be a definite possibility. Again, Russia might lend more and more support to sore-pressed China, letting Japan bleed herself white trying to conquer the Chinese.

U.S. Accepts Challenge
The United States, far from being scared off by new Japanese threats, last week moved closer still to her ally-except-in-name, Britain. Washington corridors buzzed with talk of "flying fort-

templating, they said, an invasion of Sweden this winter to clinch his hold on iron ore supplies and to give Russia something more to worry about; engineering of a Moslem revolt against Britain; and seizure of French colonies in Africa, from which to launch attacks on outposts of the British Empire,—although if the British made another attempt at Dakar, they might beat him to it.

"Time" Newsmagazine, Sept. 30, declared: "If the Battle of Britain should turn adversely for the Axis, or if it should become a long drawn-out affair of bombings and blockade, the Southern Theatre might well be the deciding area of combat . . . If the Axis could gain control of the extremities of the Mediterranean, Britain's fight would be far harder, might be impossible. Without the oil fields of Iraq, without tentacle bases in the Mediterranean to harry the Axis on its southern flank, without the help of the Moslem world and without the last shred of support in the Balkans, Britain would be hard put to it to win."

Whither China?
China, in its fourth year of resistance to the Japanese aggression, last week faced with comparative equanimity the newest turn of affairs whereby Japan was enabled to attack her in the rear through French Indo-China. Generalissimo Chiang Kai-Shek was determined to hang on till the end. He still had enough ammunition left for another year of fighting; the morale of the Chinese army was never higher. But within the inner councils of the Chungking government it was felt that aid would have to come to China from somewhere outside. Were Britain and the United States really ready to help in a substantial way? Or, would China turn in finality to Russia? These were her two alternatives.

"Escape" School Taught Nazis

Enemy Prisoners Were Taught in Advance How to Pick Lock and Dig Tunnels; Two of Gestapo in Canadian Internment Camp

Careful investigation of German war prisoners in Canada has shown that a number of them are graduates of a German school organized for the specific purpose of teaching prisoners how to escape.

Preparing in advance for their soldiers being captured, the Germans held classes in lock picking, tunneling, and other ways of breaking out of camps. In one Canadian camp there are at least twenty men who have learned scientific ways of opening locks without keys. Two of them are members of the German Gestapo.

Authorities are now able to explain how a tunnel was completed for Gunther Lorentz's escape from a Muskoka camp without a pile of earth disclosing excavation operations. Handling prisoner's mail presents a problem. An average day brings 120 bags of mail through the clearing house in Ottawa and this has to be scanned for code messages, for invisible ink, for compasses hidden in jars of preserves.

SCOUTING . . .

When a train was wrecked near Blue River, B.C., and a number of soldiers and other passengers injured, two North Battleford, Sask., Boy Scouts, Jerry Asmusen and "Scotty" Buchanan, enroute to Vancouver, found their Scout training valuable. With the exception of a few scratches the boys were unharmed, and were promptly rendering first aid to their less fortunate fellow travellers.

Boy Scout training in fire fighting enabled two Scouts of St. Johns, Nfld., to master a fire which broke out at night in a summer cottage at Mount Pearl Park. So successful were the boys' efforts that the services of a fire engine were not required when it arrived on the scene.

An outstanding story of Boy Scout gallantry was that of Troop

A Great Energy Food

BEE HIVE SYRUP

golden corn

Exclusive Pouring Spout

Leader Donald Jones of a Kentish town, acting as an Air Raid Warden. When a number of bombs dropped in his area he hurried to the scene, and found three persons trapped under a collapsed house. Jones wormed his way beneath the timbers until he gained a position where his body could protect the upturned faces of the victims. He held this position for no less than four hours, during which time he kept up a cheerful conversation to allay the fears of the trapped persons, and guided the work of the rescue party.

A unique wartime job undertaken by the Boy Scouts of Acton, England, has been the providing of "listeners" at church. The boys listen closely for air raid sirens during the singing of hymns, when other members of the congregation may not hear. The church also has its own fire-fighting squad, which includes Scouts.

VOICE OF THE PRESS

THEY ECONOMIZED
"We must cut down everything by at least one-third," said a lecturer on economy recently. At the conclusion of his remarks the audience gave him two hearty cheers. — Montreal Star.

FOR EASIER TAXES
Making the last day of every month civic tax-payment day would entail some extra book-keeping — but it would be a less painful method of financial extraction as far as the taxpayers are concerned. — Brantford Expressor.

WOMEN DRIVERS' MILEAGE
Women worse drivers than men? Last year more than 94 per cent. of the drivers in all Ontario accidents and practically 96 per cent. of the drivers in fatal accidents, were male. No one knows, however, what mileage driven by males and what mileage by females — information which would be necessary to a real comparison. — Toronto Star.

Third Set Teeth Coming At 80

Calgary Woman, Now Teething, Has Already Worn Out Two Sets of False Ones

Mrs. Elizabeth Hope Ross of Calgary, who is more than 80 years of age, is getting her third set of teeth.

After having used false teeth long enough to have worn out two pairs, and having started on her third, a new set of molars is coming through her gums.

Mrs. Ross said she first began to notice signs of the new teeth about last Christmas. During the last few days the first of them broke through. Appearances indicate others will follow soon, as there are evidences of 12 in all. Amazed to be teething "at my age," Mrs. Ross said she suffered some distress but found relief in taking powders similar to those given to teething infants.

Mrs. Ross, who has 10 children, 23 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, now has only one regret. It's in connection with a new set of "store" teeth. "They're a lovely set," she said, "almost new—and I won't need them."

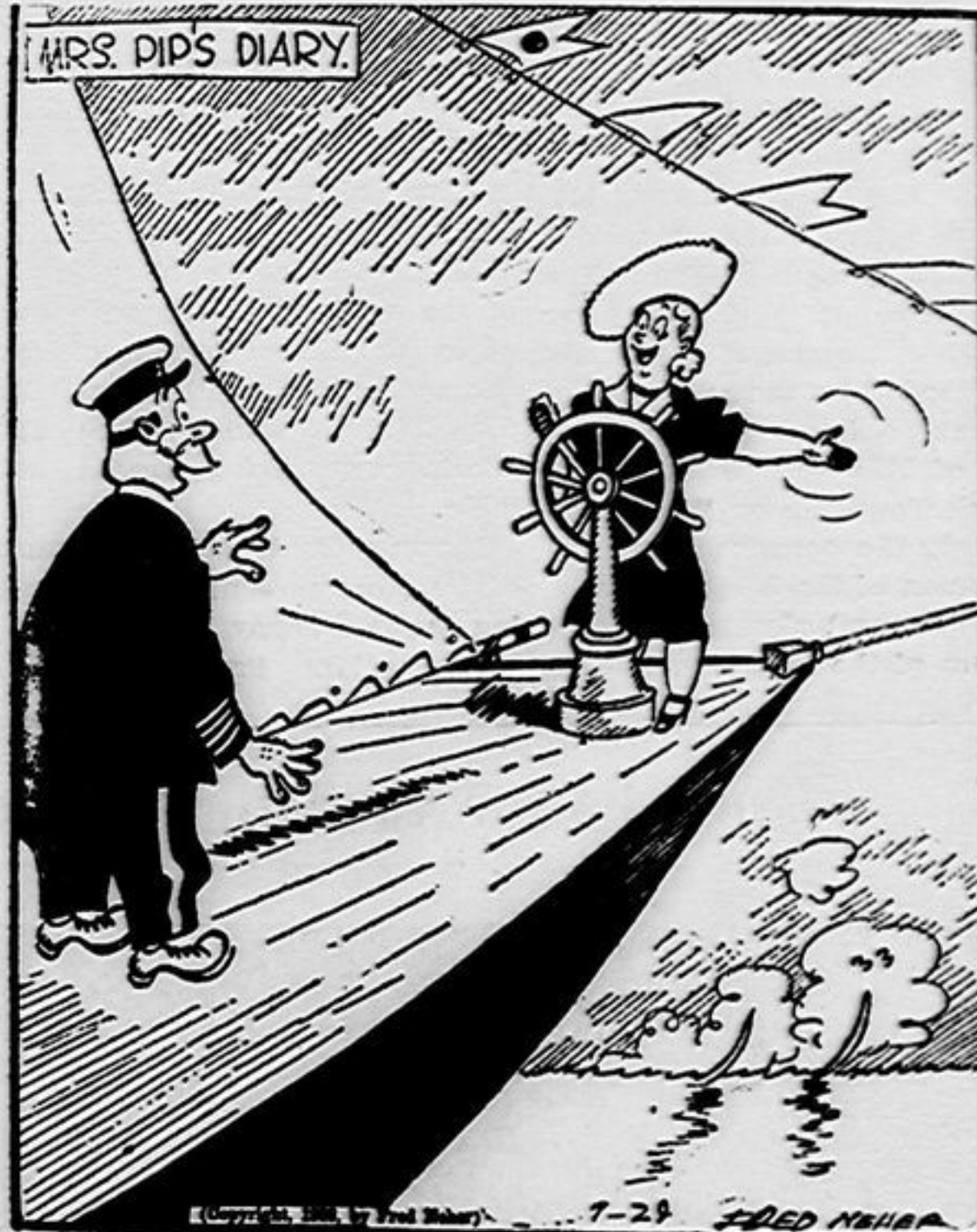
WE ARE "DISCOVERED"

It is only in recent months that, in a news sense, we have been "discovered" by our friends of the great republic. Not much news from this country got into the United States papers unless it concerned the quintuplets or the Mounted Police. Over here we paid our debts, we did not go in for revolutions, from the foreign correspondents' point of view we had a lamentable shortage of assassinations and intrigue, and the reader of the average American newspaper found far more about Mexico than about Canada. — Ottawa Journal.

Canada is the world's largest producer of the platinum metals. Gasoline consumed by civil aircraft in Canada during 1939 totalled 3,297,410 gallons compared with 2,857,847 gallons in 1938.

LIFE'S LIKE THAT

By Fred Neher



"I'm going to turn so I thought I'd better signal."

REG'LAR FELLERS — Is Pop's Face Red?



By GENE BYRNES