

CONSERVATION

A WEEKLY COLUMN OF PRACTICAL OPINIONS OF THE VITAL ISSUES AFFECTING THE USES AND ABUSES OF NATURAL RESOURCES BY MR. LUDLOW JENKINS, MARSHFIELD.

WILDLIFE IN THE NATIONAL FORESTS—WHO OWNS IT?

(Nature Magazine) A question of great interest to conservationists has recently come to the stage of a definite show-down. The 163 million acres of National Forest within the United States contains much wildlife. Such of this wildlife as may be classified as game has, in the past, been under the game and wildlife conservation laws of the various states—not by the Federal Government. The United States Forest Service has recently proclaimed its right to the custody of the National Forests, whether so-called game or not. The Forest Service has not said that it will immediately insist upon taking over the management of game from the game commissions of the states where the National Forests are located, but it claims the right to do so when, as, and if the Secretary of Agriculture feels it to be in the public interest. The program is known as Regulation G-20-A of the Forest Service.

Conservationists might momentarily assume that such a regulation concerning putting game in the National Forests in the same class with game in the National Parks—that is, a step in the direction of restricting killing. However, it is nothing of the kind. The reasons given by the Forest Service for taking this stand are quite the contrary of any such viewpoint. It is claimed that in place wild game on the National Forests has been allowed to become so plentiful in proportion to the degree of food available, and that instances have arisen wherein State Game Commissions have failed to recognize this situation and have failed to regulate the game. The result has been that the amount of game to the capacity of the forest area has increased.

It should be remembered that, particularly in the Southwest, our National Forest areas are used on a permit system for the grazing of domestic stock. This grazing of domestic stock is regulated by scientific principles, in accordance with the amount of forage or feed available. The Forest Service feels that it should have the same rights to regulate wildlife. In short, when an area is used by both wild and domestic livestock, the Forest Service believes it should have the right to reduce the livestock in proportion to the amount of food available. It is not the intention to reduce the amount of game to the capacity of the forest area, which right it now has, or to reduce the wildlife in favor of the livestock, which right it wants to have and hopes to get by this new regulation.

Herein lies an element of danger that conservationists should recognize. To be sure, it is undoubtedly true that regulation of the grazing of domestic stock is better carried on in the National Forest areas than it is anywhere else, and that it is a matter of increasing importance to the public interest that a government bureau with a pretty good record of administration in the public interest should have the authority to sacrifice wild-

life to the grazing of sheep and cattle? Here again we face that strange economic anomaly, in that our present government is undertaking an active program of livestock reduction on the one hand, while, on the other hand, it proposes to protect the livestock interests against possible encroachment by such animals as deer, elk and antelope. It would seem that such land administration planning, as we have suggested previously under our discussion of the Taylor Grazing Act, should view all these problems together and put the whole Federal house in order from a conservation standpoint before it undertakes to create a possible situation wherein commercialization must be defended against wildlife.

At the American Game Conference in New York in January Regulation G-20-A of the Forest Service was one of the topics for discussion. Mr. Silcox, Chief Forester of the United States, made a strong plea for the new regulation on the grounds we have stated. It may have been an unavoidable circumstance, but after delivering his paper, he did not remain to hear the arguments of such Western states as Montana, Wyoming and New Mexico, not only sending the long-time principle of the right of states to control the wildlife within their borders, but also suggesting, as a whole, the Federal record of conservation and wildlife administration had not proved such superiority of judgment in the public interest as would justify the granting of such additional authority. The livestock interests in the West are a thorn in the side of many western game commissions.

These game commissions see no reason why the Federal Government should be given an authority that would enable them to favor livestock in opposition to wildlife. There appeared at the Game Conference at this point the same controversy previously referred to between two opposing groups—namely, between those who want practically no conservation at all and those who feel that the only way to get it is through highly-organized Federal autocracy. Somewhere in between lay the thought that we have enunciated before—namely, that true conservation can progress only in proportion to education and local public support and good will. However, the ideal may seem the position of Federal autocracy in conservation.

History has shown that when all authority is taken out of local hands, local interest is liable to wane. The principle of "let George do it" becomes the principle of "let Uncle Sam do it," with the result that the individual feels himself so small a unit in proportion to the Federal Authority that he might as well leave everything to outside enforcement of law and regulation and pursue his own way to whatever extent he can get away with it. To us it seemed that the opponents of Regulation G-20-A had the best of the argument. They were offering co-operation and mutual aid as opposed to a simple autocratic principle. Our conservation problem is too complex to submit to such a control.

never slackens up in his ruthless march, we too, must ever be on the alert, because—

"Christ has no hands but our hands To do His work today He has no feet but our feet To lead men in His way."

Nothing worth-while was ever gained without a struggle, and the joy of knowing that we are working with and for Him, will compensate for all. Yours in His service. (Mrs. C.) Ella B.C. MacNab.

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In Memoriam MRS. EWEN K. CROSBY. The death took place at her home 1 Bicknell Terrace, Lawrence, Mass., on April 1st, of Mrs. Lillian F. Crosby, widow of the late Ewen K. Crosby, formerly of Bonshaw, P. E. I. Mrs. Crosby was born in Tigard, the daughter of Thomas T. and Clara G. Crosby and had many years ago went to Lawrence, where, except for a few years spent in the State of Washington, she has since resided. She is survived by a daughter, Nettie I. Crosby, a sister, Mrs. George O. Abbott of Lawrence, Mass., and a brother, Thomas H. Fairbairn of Syracuse, N. Y. Her husband predeceased her many years ago. A private funeral service was held from her home on April 3rd, conducted by Rev. G. F. Boeher of First-Congregational Baptist Church and interment was in the family plot in Bellevue cemetery, Lawrence, Mass.

PASTY FACE? DULL HEAVY EYES? FEEN-A-MINT WILL BANISH THESE ILLS.

Encouragement Dear Fellow-Workers:—Recently, in the daily press, a letter from the Social Service Council, gave six reasons why the drink traffic is doing so well. 1st—The Church is against it. 2nd—Temperance organizations are doing excellent work. 3rd—Business men are a force against it. 4th—5th and 6th—Public Schools, the Press, and the Medical Profession oppose it. To this list we might add a 7th reason—God is opposed to the traffic—and "If God be for us, who can be against us?" This letter may be encouraging, yet we must keep in mind that, at the enemy never ceases fighting.

CANADIAN WHITE RIBBON TIDINGS. Encouragement Recently, in the daily press, a letter from the Social Service Council, gave six reasons why the drink traffic is doing so well. 1st—The Church is against it. 2nd—Temperance organizations are doing excellent work. 3rd—Business men are a force against it. 4th—5th and 6th—Public Schools, the Press, and the Medical Profession oppose it. To this list we might add a 7th reason—God is opposed to the traffic—and "If God be for us, who can be against us?" This letter may be encouraging, yet we must keep in mind that, at the enemy never ceases fighting.

Dear Brother Matthew:—The first step to world peace is the will to peace, which can come as the fruit of real religion.

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Dorothy Dix's Letter Box

W. C. T. U. NOTES

And perhaps he would grow a conscience and a backbone. If he is encouraged to take the easiest way of getting money, and he is sure to take it again when he is short of cash. He thinks he is so smart he can get away with anything. He will have to take his chance with his employer, but the odds are that he will either give him another chance or permit him to resign without making public the reason. And, anyway, I think that he would rather have back the stolen money than revenge. Dear Dorothy Dix—Can't you say something to parents who are wrecking a boy's life and turning him against them by refusing to let him go with a girl? She is a nice girl, from a nice family, and my parents do not object to her personally, but they seem to think I might be a boy of 18 is no baby, and it humiliates him to be treated like one. Answer: Well, son, I have written millions of lines on this topic urging parents to wake up and see that a boy of 18 isn't any longer a toddling infant who can be trusted to cross the street by himself, but apparently a lot of fathers and mothers still dream of six-foot lads as little tots in rompers. How they think a boy is ever going to form any character if they keep him in leading strings and tell him everything to do; how they try to meet face to face in two or three years if he is kept shut up at home all the time; how he is to find out anything about girls so that he will be capable of picking out a wife when the time comes if he never sees one. Of course, it is parental love and their not wanting their boys to grow up and leave them that makes parents so tyrannical, but it is hard on the boys. And it is hard on the parents, too, because by suppressing the natural instincts of their children they bring about the very catastrophe they dread. The reason that boys leave home as soon as they possibly can is because home was made a prison to them as they grew up. Nothing is denied all association with girls and to know so little about them that he falls in love with the first one he meets or lets any girl marry him who is determined to have him. Dear Miss Dix—I am a girl of 17 and most unhappy because my mother is going insane. She used to be so jolly and pleasant, but now she makes our home a hell on earth. She has delusions of persecution that my father and I are in league against her. She is always miserable, quarrelsome and irritable, and when crossed flies into a terrible temper. What can we do about it? Answer: The best thing is to send her to some institution where mental cases are treated. At home everything irritates her and nobody can control her, but in an institution all domestic friends will be removed and trained nurses will know how to soothe and comfort her. I have known personally a number of women who have been cured by such expert treatment. DOROTHY DIX.

"FATHER, FORGIVE THEM: FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO." I was a Roman soldier in my prime; Now age is on me and the yoke of time. I saw your Risen Christ, for I am Who reached the hyssop to Him on the tree; And I am one of two who watched the repurchase of Him we crucified. All that last night I watched with sleepless eyes, Great stars arose and crept across the skies. The world was all too still, for mortal rest, For pitiless thoughts were busy in the breast. The night was long, so long it seemed to last. I had grown old and a long life was passed. Far off, the hills of Moab, touched with light, were shining in the hollow of the night. I saw Jerusalem all wrapped in cloud. Stretched like a dead thing folded in a shroud. Once in the pauses of our whispered talk I heard a something on the garden walk. Perhaps it was a crisp leaf lightly stirred— Perhaps the dream-note of a waking bird. Then suddenly an angel burning white Came down with earthen tablets in the breaking light. And rolled the great stone from the sepulchre. Mixing the morning with a scent of myrrh. And, lo, the Dead had risen with the day. The Way of Mystery had gone His way! Years have I wandered carrying my shame; Now let the tooth of time eat out my name. For we, who all the yonder might have told, Kept silence, for our mouths were stopt with gold. —Edwin Markham. PEACE QUOTATIONS BY FAMOUS PEOPLE. Our beloved Frances Willard: That great peace movement, seeking as its final outcome a court of international arbitration as a substitute for war, promises more momentum to our living cause than any other. For, as the chief cornerstone of the peaceful state is the heart-stone, so the chief pulverizer of that corner stone is war. Sacred and beautiful is the mission of the White Cross. The fullness of time has come; the world is ready for it, and the twentieth century shall lift it to the sky, the cross of Him who love—no longer with tinge of war and carnage, but with promise of a manhood that bears forever in its breast the livid of a spotless life, while as of old its gleaming herald still shall be. "By this sign conquer." Dear Brother Matthew:—The first step to world peace is the will to peace, which can come as the fruit of real religion.

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