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**CONSERVATION**

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

**POISONING PREDATORY ANIMALS**

Predatory wild animals, both mammals and birds, have become a problem to conservationists solely because of the unbalance of Nature created by man's civilization. There is no use denying that a predatory animal problem exists, and it is a mistake to take the extreme attitude that the permanent cure is to let Nature restore its own balance. He who takes such an attitude overlooks the plain fact that the conditions of civilization result in man's stealing the natural range of wild animals for his civilized purposes. Civilization makes it impossible for wild animals to move freely from one place to another to escape their natural enemies, and man must, therefore, recognize that there is some obligation to endeavor to restore some sort of balance, even by artificial means.

All this does not mean that we must go predator-mad and overdo so-called control. There are many phases of the present situation that the majority of conservationists find hard to swallow. There is something in the human mind that reacts against unnecessary crudeness and cruelty. It may be that we have to put even human beings out of the way when they are a menace to society, but we choose the most humane methods possible. We also endeavor to choose such methods as will harm only those individuals directly responsible. For this reason, the American Nature Association has always taken a stand against the use of poison in the control of predatory animals.

Practical-minded stockmen of the West, and practical-minded Game Commissioners of states that derive revenue from wild game, confront the predator problem and decide that they must attack it by whatever means come to hand. Such people have demanded and secured the dedication of public relief and public works funds to additional projects for poisoning certain forms of wild life. They have urged the use of poison for two reasons—first, because they realize that it takes skill to destroy predators by means other than poison, and that such skill is not available or is too expensive. The other argument is that poison is believed to produce greater results in terms of death of supposedly undesirable wild creatures. Here again we are confronted with the lack of scientific knowledge and an impatient unwillingness to face the facts.

The Bureau of Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture has been under constant attack from various groups because this is the agency through which the Federal Government has gone into the business of the destruction of wild life by poison. Lined up in this attack upon the United States Biological Survey are some strangely assorted groups. Some, with the highest idealism, are fighting blindly according to the dictates of an honest conscience. Others are fighting for a particular purpose or a particular interest which affects them. In all this there has been little or no impartial scientific study of the problems. The Biological Survey in its predatory animal activities works something like the Federal Bureau of Public Roads. It takes money appropriated by the several states where the predatory problem is severe, matches it with an equal amount of Federal money, and, with that total, carries on the work. These men in the Biological Survey, who have been actively in touch with the situation for years, seem to possess the thoroughly ingrained belief that poison is the only way that they can kill enough predators to maintain the necessary artificial balance of Nature, without spending more money than the combined state and Federal totals. So they answer every attack of conservationists with rows of figures and statistics to bear out their contentions that what they are doing is necessary, inevitable, and incapable of being unwisely handled. Venomous epithets are hurled back and forth. Those opposed to the use of poison are recruiting their numbers from year to year, but because of the system of local government within the most affected regions, the anti-poisoners have made little headway.

From time to time the question has been brought up at the annual meetings of the American Game Conference in New York. The topic was, indeed, on the preliminary program for the meeting of January, 1935, but, for some reason or other, it was left off the final program—probably because the government bureaus and some of the game in-

terests themselves felt that in the watershed situation they had enough to quarrel about.

Meanwhile, in that supposed hot-bed of predators and anti-predator sentiment, the great Southwest, there has arisen for the first time a constructive attack from the scientific practical viewpoint. The Southwestern Conservation League, with headquarters in New Mexico, with the cooperation of the American Nature Association, is endeavoring to work out a practical study and test. Even the stockmen who claim to be among the most seriously injured parties, and the New Mexico Game Commissioner which carries a strong anti-predator bias, are wondering about this poison business and would like to find some practical means of meeting their problems without poison. In the Southwest the Biological Survey has for some years been carrying on its anti-predator activities, using poisons developed by the Survey and applying them according to methods which they claim to be harmless to animals other than those sought to be poisoned. Not only is this claim open to serious question, but, also, the results have been far from satisfactory. The testimony as to the effectiveness and destructiveness of poison varies according to the individual making the report. There are those who believe that the coyote of the present day is far more destructive and far more of a killer of other wild life and livestock than he used to be, largely because generations of poisoning have brought about a gradual evolution in the coyote himself. Taught by the use of poison to shun carrion and dead baits, he has become a killer of animals, such as he never was before. This is presumed to be due not merely to the actual use of poison on baits set for coyotes, but, also, to the destruction of the small rodents on which the coyote formerly lived quite largely. Made ill from the second-hand poison obtained for eating poison-killed or poison-weakened rodents, the coyote concentrates less on rodents and more upon deer. This is a theory; it is not given as a scientifically proved fact.

In New Mexico it is now proposed that the various interests shall sit down together and select a large mountainous area in the State, wherein the use of poison will not only be forbidden by cooperative agreement between the Biological Survey and the other parties, but where the private use of poison will be discouraged by the cooperative effort of all the various groups. The project would be supervised in the field by a special agent of the

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Southwestern Conservation League. The employ of this agent for the study of the predatory problems has already been made possible by a grant to the Southwestern Conservation League from the Charles Lathrop Pack Forestry Foundation. The present costs of predator control by poisoning methods are known. Over a period of two years or more, a careful study will be made of other methods of predator control, to the degree that may be actually necessary to determine what, if any, difference there is in cost, and whether a satisfactory degree of control can be evolved. At the same time, a careful check will be kept upon the so-called predators within the area, and upon

the reactions of persons living therein and hunters who are accustomed to blame their failure to get game upon the destruction of game by predators. In the end, it is hoped that there will be available some actual data on this whole controversy, which has hitherto been so unburdened by facts. The findings will be promulgated as widely as possible. It is believed by conservationists that this scientific approach by test projects will eventually offer some practical termination of the bitter controversy. It is significant to note that the United States Biological Survey has agreed to refrain from the use of poison in the area designated.

**CORONATION ORDERS**

(By The Canadian Press) LONDON—Orders for coronation decorations by business houses stipulate they must be of fast colors that will neither fade in the sun nor run in the rain and strong enough to stand heavy winds.

**HEADMASTERS AS CLERKS**

(By The Canadian Press) MANCHESTER—A delegate at a conference of headmasters here declared the amount of clerical work heads of schools were required to do constituted a sheer waste of good material.

**Business and Professional DIRECTORY**

When in need of professional or specialized business of any kind, consult this directory and here you will find listed reliable professional and business firms, of P. E. L.

- Art**  
GULLISON'S BEAUTY SALON for your hair problems. 176 Great George Street. Phone 1329.
- Barbers**  
STEPHEN BOYLAN, QUICK Satisfactory Service. Low Reduced Rates. Opposite Guardian, Grafton Street.
- Clothes Cleaners**  
SUITS CLEANED, PRESSED, Repaired. Suits made to measure. Theo. Semler, 124 Kent Street.
- Electrical**  
MOTOR SERVICE AND REPAIRS. Refrigerators, Washers, Vacuum Cleaners, Blowers, Oilburners. All commercial motors. Phone 1444. Palmer Electric, 155 Great George Street.
- Investments**  
EASTERN SECURITIES CO., Ltd., 146 Richmond Street. W. H. V. Dunbar, Manager. Securities Bought, Sold and Quoted.
- Optometrist**  
E. W. TAYLOR, REGISTERED Optometrist. 142 Richmond Street. Alberton Branch, J. S. Taylor.
- Printing**  
THE GUARDIAN CENTRAL Job Printery. Phone 133. Letter Heads, Bill Heads, Envelopes, Posters, Receipt Books, Window Cards, Programmes, Wedding Announcements, etc.
- Refreshments**  
LOBSTERS, OYSTERS IN SEASON. Canned goods, Smokes. Alex Le Clair, 112 Richmond Street.

**Books Art Music**

(Continued From page 8)

While Professor Phelps writes—"I was enthralled by the new play on Napoleon, written by R. C. Sherriff... This drama is called 'St. Helena' and deals only with the life of Napoleon on that fatal island, after the days of his glory. It may seem strange that a thrilling drama could be made out of such a succession of quiet years, with the hero a caged lion; but it is thrilling and I felt its intensity. The acting is magnificent. Maurice Evans looks so much like Napoleon that the effect is startling..."

A fascinating play that came from London, to America appearing in Toronto last November, is "Lady Precious Stream." Conceived by a Chinese playwright two thousand years ago and called "The Eight Acts Concerning the Wang Family" this charming love-drama had been handed down from generation to generation by word of mouth, every year delighting millions of Chinese.

Dr. Shih I. Hsiung, young Chinese poet, playwright and producer has transcribed it into English as "Lady Precious Stream" and after a two year run in London Morris Gest has brought it to America, the first Chinese play to reach the American stage in the English language.

"The Foundations of Chinese Musical Art" a new book by John H. Levis is the first attempt in English to examine on the basis of authoritative documentation, the fundamental features of the Chinese art of music from the fifth century to the end of the Sung Dynasty. The book considers—the actual stages of development; that music has reached in China; its distinctive features; the possibility of recovering from the ancient Chinese an organized art of musical composition, and what value this art of the far East may possess for Western ears and intelligence.

Mr. Levis in an article in the P'ien Hsai monthly says that to answer the question, "Has Chinese music a value comparable to Chinese painting?" we must begin by understanding the Chinese principles of musical form and—"The Chinese defines form not by harmony but by line and musical movement. It is the way in which movement is employed that determines, for the large part, the degree of development of the music of a people, whether single or complex.... Now of all the peoples in the world, I should say that the Chinese have reached the highest point in connection with this self-conscious control of motion in music."

**FROG 870 FEET UNDERGROUND**

(By The Canadian Press) BENDIGO, Australia—A crystal white frog was found in an aperture on the 870-foot level of a mine here. Jelly-like in appearance and semi-transparent, the frog died when exposed to the sun.

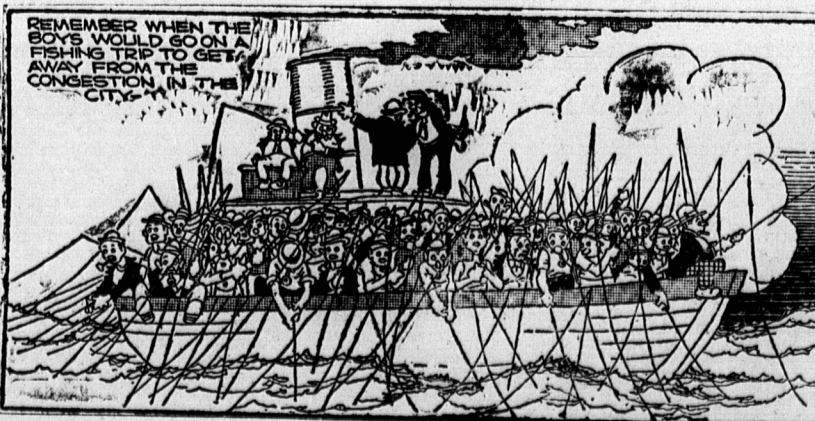
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**BRINGING UP FATHER**



The Governor-General and Lady Tweedsmuir were photographed, as above at the Junior Red Cross exhibition at the Montreal High School. The exhibit of handicrafts and Their Excellencies bestowed high praise on the work of the boys and girls displayed.

—By George McManus