

CONSERVATION

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

THE CROW AS A "VILLAIN"

By ELLSWORTH D. LUMLEY Reprinted with permission of Nature Magazine

The crow has been so widely publicized during the past three years that the mere mention of the bird brings to the mind of many listeners a picture of a black demon, a destroyer of all song and game birds, a very devil who has increased so prodigiously during the past few years that he not only blights his former territory, but has invaded and ruined the vast breeding grounds in the far north.

Before 1933, relatively little was said or written about the crow. He was shot whenever the opportunity was given, but most men would not waste shells on him. The bird was looked upon as a nuisance but not as a menace. Few if any major articles appeared in magazines citing the crow as a cause for the decline in our wildlife. An investigation of the crow and its habits, made by the Biological Survey in 1920, indicated that the bird was of neutral economic value, for it did about as much good as harm.

Yet on December 29, 1932, just nine months after the hearing in Washington, D. C., there was issued a form letter from the offices of Field and Stream stating in part, "If you have been following the reports from Canada you know that practically everyone is competent to judge. The crow is the greatest destroyer of North American wildlife."

That the sportsman took this "conservation war" too seriously and resorted to killing methods not anticipated by the originators of this form of conservation is indicated by more recent articles appearing in sporting magazines.

Two methods to put crow killing upon a shooting basis are now being used. One method is to make "I shoot crows, plenty of them; but I shoot crows for sport;—I think a good day's crow shooting is just about as much fun as a good day's duck shooting; "Because why? Well, first because it's And second because it's good con- servation; "To anyone who hunts game birds, crow hunting offers a challenge to his skill with gun and call." And more, and more.

The second method is to convince people that the crow is an edible bird. And so we hear of crow dinners being served in Tulsa, Decatur, Wichita, and other cities. Certainly the sportsman won't dynamite or poison the crows they serve on their own tables.

While it is admitted by all that crows do sing and game birds, many people object to the widespread crow propaganda that today is flooding the country. Such propaganda is reminiscent of the war days, when as a nation we aided the ammunition companies in amassing vast fortunes by believing the many reports of enemy atrocities.

The Biological Survey has received rather sharp criticism from the sporting fraternity for not giving financial and moral aid to crow hunts. These Federal officers have refused to believe the reports on crow damage and, with the aid of their field men, have attempted to get a true and accurate picture of the relationship between crows and waterfowl.

If the time, money and energy expended in crow killing campaigns were spent in projects based upon the findings of science and research, real conservation would be accomplished. It will be necessary for men to think, reason and abide by the findings of wildlife authorities, rather than to accept as true the propaganda spread by selfish concerns if wildlife conservation is to advance.

ESTHER C. HARPER, Teacher. (Patriot Please Copy)

SEA VIEW SCHOOL Honor roll of Sea View School: Grade X—1. Arnold Hiltz; Grade IX—1. Henry Meek; 2. Florena Adams; 3. Evelyn Donald.

NEWSY NOTES

BY AGRICOLA

REMINISCENCES OF LONDON

These recollections have strayed from London to some degree, but before taking up the thread again I must say a final word on the English taverns. In "good King Charles's golden days" our ancestors appointed "ale-tasters," just as we appoint pound-keepers. These officials were obliged to visit the taverns and sample the quality and strength of the ale, for the protection of His Majesty's loyal subjects. When the taverns fell into the hands of the brewers and distillers, the office of ale-taster fell into disuse, (though a few of these gentry are still to be found playing a traditional role) and in- stead of the ale-taster, the adulterator took their place.

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It is difficult to say which is doing the most harm now in the Old Country: as drinking declines—to the alarm of the brewers—cigarette-smoking is increasing among both men and women; so much so that on London's underground trains smoking is permitted in all carriages, except those labelled, "Non-Smoking." When I visit London it was the "Smoking Carriages" that were labelled.

The underground railways were nearer the surface than the newer "tubes," as they are called with Anglo-Saxon brevity. You bought your ticket at the booking-office, above-ground; then went downstairs to the platform perhaps 20 feet below. Wherever you looked on the walls of the platform, you saw advertisements; so that it was difficult to find the name of the station! (All that is changed they tell me: every platform now bears an illuminated list of all stations served from that platform, together with a supplementary sign giving the stations not stopped at by the train next due.)

Some of these "tubes" came to the surface on the outskirts of London. On the occasion of our visit to "Kew Gardens" a scene of beauty which no visitor should miss—we took the tube at station near King's Cross, and so nearly as I can recollect the line came to the surface near Paddington, and continued above ground, via Shepherd's Bush, to Kew Gardens Station.

But we were exploring London proper. About half a mile from the Houses of Parliament, on the Thames Embankment, stands "Cleopatra's Needle." It is a granite obelisk or monument with a curious history that has nothing to do with that famous queen. Originally it stood, with five of its fellows, before the Temple of the Sun at On, near Cairo in Egypt. There Moses was educated and there he must have often cast his eyes on the noble monument.

Julius Caesar when he erected at Alexandria a temple called after himself the "Caesarium," had two of the pillars brought from On (then called Heliopolis) and erected in front of the building. Many centuries passed away before the needle is again mentioned; in 1812 it was lying prone in the sand, while its fellow still stood upright. The ruler of Egypt, Mohammed Ali, presented the obelisk to the British Government in 1820 but it was not moved till 1878.

A row of trees ran up the landward side of the Embankment in those days; they were maples, of the kind called Acer pseudo-platanus. In Spring the outer bark peeled off in flakes as large as one's palm, exposing the new bark in varying shades of yellow, most attractive in appearance. (To be Continued.)

LIST OF NEW PLANTS (2)

This is another instalment of Professor Adams's list of plants not before recorded for the Island. Carex deflexa Hornemann, Northern Sedge; C. deweyana Schwein. Dewey's Sedge; C. diandra Schrank. Lesser Panled Sedge; C. disperma Dewey. Two fruited Sedge; C. flexuosa Muhl. (Not in "Gray" nor "Britton")

Readers who are interested in the botany of our region, are advised to preserve this and the coming instalments.

DOG RACING IN ENGLAND

A short article in a recent number of The Guardian, was headed "Dog racing is major English Sports Event. In it, one General C. Critchley, a millionaire, is stated to have left the Army in 1926 to introduce hound racing to England. This means, I imagine, that he spent some of his millions in popularizing the sport; for it needed no introduction. It was an old sport in Northern England, when I was quite a youngster, and I have come down from medieval times.

An old writer says "The pitman (miner) is often more or less a sportsman, and rabbit coursing, hunting and fowling, where he dares to follow them, are amongst his favorite pursuits. The pitman and his dog, which is generally a rabbit dog, on which he sometimes bestows more care and tenderness than upon his family, are frequently almost inseparable."

This none of the "better class" was ever present at a greyhound race, and if a "general" had turned up at one, he would probably have been run off the field. A small boy, however, need not be very conspicuous at public gatherings, and I once contrived to witness a race which was held on some moorland not far from home.

The hounds were of the greyhound tribe, "built for speed," long tail, long body, long legs and long chest. Every dog was with deep chest. Every dog had a nice rug on, like a miniature horse rug; and it was said that no matter what privations the family suffered the hound got his quantum of beef-steak. Presently the course was formed; a lane about 100 yards long, with a row of miners on each side. Two competing hounds were held on leash at the open end of the course, till a rabbit was released from a trap, a little ahead of them. Then the leash was slipped, and the hounds were allowed to outrun a cat, but has no chance with a greyhound. The rabbit goes up the lane at full speed—patter, patter, come the hounds the men yell—the rest of the dogs, who will nearly howl their heads off. One of the flying hounds nears the rabbit—he passes—and as he passes he turns his head and the long sharp jaws break the rabbits spine. Then pandemonium breaks loose, for both winners and losers swear like troopers; a forthright kind of swearing quite unlike that of the southern countries.

That was my first and last visit to a greyhound coursing. It wasn't a nice sight to see the rabbit killed in such a cruel fashion, and the company was not congenial. I have heard that the newer style of racing has real hounds—perhaps of whippet type, a kind of small greyhound—but the rabbit is a "dummy" actuated by electricity.

From an old "Table of Velocities," published by the Geographical Society, of Paris, in 1895, I gather that the greyhound had been timed at 25.34 metres per second; this will be more expressive if we think of 57 miles per hour though of course the hound could not, I think, run for an hour at top speed. In the same table a noted racehorse is said to have run 18.71 metres per second.

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Botanical Notes For November

(Experimental Farms Note) "The month of November And the weather a subject for prayer." It is difficult for plant-lovers to understand why the poets malign this month. Thomas Hood is particularly abusive. In his opinion there is: "No warmth, no cheerfulness, no healthful ease— No comfortable feel in any member— No shade, no shine, no butterflies, no bees, No-venember!"

Nevertheless November undoubtedly possesses charm. At the beginning may be expected those few glowing days—the Indian or St. Martin's little Summer—which come after the first fall of snow, as a gentle and sweetly-kind suggestion that Winter must be prepared for in earnest.

Botanists anticipate the first week of Winter with real pleasure, for then is the time that the cone-bearing evergreen trees and shrubs may be studied with concentration—the pines, hemlocks, spruces, firs, sequoias, cypresses, cedars and junipers.

The pines and their relatives (conifers) are an ancient race; they are said to have existed before the advent of broad-leaved trees. Coal measures reveal the fossil remains of prehistoric conifers which have reached their prime when the more vigorous broad-leaved trees appeared and drove them to the swamps, mountains and sea coasts.

All members of the pine family are either trees or shrubs, varying from low creeping forms (Junipers) to the largest forest trees (red cedars). Most species of the group are evergreen, with hard-surfaced leaves, either needle-like or scale-like in form.

The flowers, which appear in the spring, are of two kinds: the male or pollen flowers and the female or ovulate flowers. After the pollen is shed in clouds of yellow dust the male flowers usually drop off, though they may sometimes be found in a withered condition to a branch. The female flowers grow into the familiar cones. The cones, when mature, liberate the opened seeds, which are often provided with a thin membranous, wing-like appendage for dispersal by wind. The seeds of several species of pine are said to be edible.

The pine family is of great economic importance, and it has claimed the aesthetic attention of writers and artists down through the ages. Who has not heard of "The Trail of the Lonesome Pine," admired well-known paintings of pines, and read of the romantic soulful pines? In the Book of Kings it is said of a member of the family—"And he spake of trees, from the cedar tree that is in Lebanon even up to the hyssop that sprineth out of the wall."

Advertisement for Eveready Prestone anti-freeze. Includes a calendar for October, November, and December 1937, and a large illustration of a radiator. Text: "DON'T LET THE COMING WINTER threaten you with a frozen radiator. Or frequent trips to filling stations or garages because of evaporating anti-freezes—cheap at first but expensive before the season is over. Preserve the summer driving efficiency of your car and the carefree confidence of yourself and family by using Eveready Prestone, the guaranteed anti-freeze. Cold days! Mild spells! Prestone, mixed with water, takes care of both. Protects to any below zero temperature desired. Will not evaporate."

Advertisement for Eveready Prestone. Text: "EVEREADY PRESTONE THE CONCENTRATED ANTI-FREEZE. Insure against costly repairs caused by a temporary anti-freeze letting you down in an emergency. The guarantee is printed on every tin! CANADIAN NATIONAL CARBON CO., LIMITED Halifax Montreal TORONTO Winnipeg Vancouver. MIX PRESTONE AND WATER FOR DESIRED PROTECTION"

Reclaims Watch After 18 Years In Jewelry Shop

A big, old-fashioned, silver-cased pocket watch, wound with a key after taking the back off, purchased in Boston about 50 years ago, was keeping "excellent time" today after hanging on a jeweller's rack here for 18 years waiting for the owner to call and pay the \$1.80 repair charges.

John Beaton, farmer and fisherman of Flat River, P.E.I., took his watch to a Charlottetown jeweller store 18 years ago to have it repaired. The clerk in the store gave him a ticket and a duplicate was attached to the time-keeper.

Not long ago, Beaton, while talking with Hector MacLean, carpenter of High Bank, P.E.I., told of taking his watch to Charlottetown for repairs about 18 years ago, but said he had never called for it. "I expect they haven't got it now," Beaton said. "Have you got the ticket around?" I asked MacLean. "I don't know but I have," replied Beaton and later, after rummaging through some old papers, produced the ticket, none the worse for its age.

SOUTHPORT SCHOOL Following is the standing of Southport School for the months of September and October: Senior Department

Grade X—1. Helen Kelly, 2. Kathleen Kelly; 3. Boyce MacKie; Grade IX—1. Ruth MacInnis; 2. Eileen Aylward; 3. Roland Jones; Grade VIII—1. Alphonus MacInnis; 2. Keith Mutch; 3. Hammond Kelley; 4. Ib Jorgensen; Grade VI—1. Lois Henry; 2. Gilbert Genge; 3. Stanley Machin.

Junior Department Grade V—1. Mary Tall; 2. Louise Henry; Grade IV—1. Margaret MacInnis; Grade III (Senior)—1. Barbara Rogers; 2. Lorna Flood; 3. Evelyn Henry; Grade III (Junior)—1. Michelle Raymond; 2. Mary Cahill and Norman Corish (equal); 3. Mary Machin and Ruth Pippy (equal); Grade II—1. Eileen MacInnis; 2. Edith Kelly; and Clara Vollum (equal); 3. Francis MacCarron; Grade I—1. Blair Kelly; 2. Joyce Coe; 3. Gordon Cooper. Principal: Austin Kennedy. Assistant: Gladys McCordle. (Patriot Please Copy)

LADY SOMERS DUE SUNDAY MONTREAL, Nov. 5.—Returning from a 25 day voyage to Bermuda, the Bahama Islands, and Jamaica the liner Lady Somers, Canadian National Steamships, will be due here at shed 14, 6 o'clock on Sunday evening bringing in a number of passengers from a wide variety of points. The "Lady Somers" will sail again next Wednesday evening over the same route taking another quota of late fall vacationists down to these Caribbean resorts, terminating this northbound voyage at Halifax, N.S., where she will be using during the winter and early spring. The departure on Wednesday will therefore be the last appearance in the local port of this liner until the St. Lawrence navigation season opens next spring. Her sister ship, the "Lady

Far Sighted Eyes Seventy per cent of far sighted eyes are weak refractively. Discomfort from this condition shows mostly at near work and may be headache, sore eyes, nervousness or even upset mach. Car drivers in this class may suffer considerable discomfort. Glasses relieve the strain. G. F. Hutcheson

S. S. SURF From Montague and Georgetown, Wednesday morning for the Sydney via Strait of Canso, Lennox Passage, Bras d'Or Lakes arriving at Sydney Thursday afternoon. Returning the Surf leaves Sydney every Monday arrives at Montague early Tuesday morning. Passengers wishing a more rapid trip to Sydney may take their automobile and leave the ship at Mulgrave and motor to Sydney arriving Wednesday afternoon or arrival C. N. R. Express from Mulgrave Wednesday evening. For particulars write or telephone

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