



LOU TAKES A FALL

Bad boy of the NHL, Ranger defenceman, Leapin' Lou Fontinato finds the world cold and

hard as he bounces to the ice during a game against the Toronto Maple Leafs.

Lou and his teammates dumped the Leafs 5-2.

SPORT FORUM

Go Carefully On Pheasant Re-Stocking Programme

Sir.—In the Guardian under date of December 26 a letter was published under the heading: "Fish and Game Ass'n Answers Hunters Letter" and signed E. G. Acorn, Sect. Treasurer, Queens County Branch, P.E.I. Fish and Game Association. This letter was in reply to one written on December 20th and signed Frank Burke.

A paragraph in this letter warrants comment: "We also have a comment from Dr. George Fisher, Chief of Veterinary Services (of P.E.I.) he says. There is little or no danger associated with the dissemination of disease in this programme (namely the Fish and Game Pheasant Program) Dr. Fisher also felt the programme was well set up, and in the end would be a benefit to the building up of our Pheasant population on the Island."

I do not profess to be an authority on diseases affecting wildlife but have knocked around the Great Outdoors long enough to know that birds or animals do not suddenly die in thousands almost over night without a cause. In my opinion we needed a pheasant re-stocking programme about as much as a wagon needed a fifth wheel.

In 1955, the year prior to the programme's introduction, our pheasant population hit a new high despite an open season from Oct. 1st to November 15th and for three years a daily bag limit of 5 (either hens or cocks). There was plenty of birds left for seed at seasons close and they wintered well. There was a normal crop of young birds in evidence in May and June judged from personal sight and reports from farmers.

They were not present on October 1st in normal numbers — down approximately 75 per cent — and their disappearance coincided with the release of approximately four thousand pen-raised pheasants in late summer and early fall (1956). On the whole they were a trashy lot. There was a small percentage of passable specimens in the release but the bulk of them were small and lacking in vitality. Some were deformed, clubfooted and crooked necked, with nothing between their ears but a vacuum.

Despite favourable weather for weeks following this release, warm with the odd light shower, they failed to survive in any worthwhile numbers — a scant 10 per cent. Groups of four and five were found dead within few feet of each other.

The sponsors of such a programme most certainly lacked knowledge of the ethics of selective or line breeding or such inferior stock would never have been set down among a stand of pheasants which, in both numbers and quality, were second to none in the North American continent. The Game Association contends that disease associated with the released stock was not a factor in the general pheasant decline that followed on the heels of the planting. It was purely a co-incidence. Was it a co-incidence that brothers and sisters of the released birds, kept over as breeding stock for 1957, were ordered destroyed, both them and their progeny, by the Department concerned, due to an outbreak of disease the following spring (1957)?

Gas was the method used and there were no exceptions. The investigation which follow-

ed indicated that ducks were responsible for carrying the virus that spread to the pheasants. As a result I heard members of the Game Association criticize the hatchery management at Tryon for hatching eggs other than from pheasants. This is a Commercial hatchery and handles eggs from ducks, geese, hens and turkeys. In view of the foregoing I was greatly surprised to hear these re-stocking program for 1958 (if the same) to wit: the purchase of several thousand pheasant eggs and distributing them to farmers for hatching.

There are ducks on almost every farm in the country or is it just the Tryon ducks that are carriers of a virus disease?

I understand that a letter was written to the MacFarlane Bros., Janesville, Wis., complaining about the quality of the initial breeding stock shipped to the province dealing specifically with the presence of club foot with which some birds were allegedly afflicted. I have been told by persons who stated they had read the reply that the explanation was: "If we had known the birds were going to be utilized as breeding stock we'd have shipped a better quality pheasant. . . ." I wonder of the Sect-treasurer Mr. Acorn is able to throw any light on this angle of the situation.

The importation of pheasant eggs for hatching purposes was tried out by the Game Association about 20 years ago when one thousand dollars was voted to purchase pheasant eggs from Quebec and have them hatched and reared to release age at the Experimental Farm, Mt. Edward Road. As usual I was the one who opposed this scheme. To quote my exact words: "You'll throw away a thousand dollars and have nothing to show for it but a headache". How true. If the Game Association members who were involved in this transaction forget about how the project back-fired I haven't. There is a reciprocal arrangement between pheasants and domestic poultry — each is capable of transmitting disease to the other. I have been accused as being a champion monkey wrench thrower with respect to pheasant re-stocking. In this respect I am governed by a firm belief in what I stand for and am not motivated by personal feelings. Over 30 years ago I was engaged in hatching pheasant eggs under brown leghorn hens and allowing them free range. I also kept close tabs on the survival rate, etc. of course that was long before some of the present crop of pheasant enthusiasts were on the rounds. I wish to remind Frank Burke that it was not the Game Association but private citizens with money from their own pockets who introduced Pheasants and Hungarian partridge to this province; Pheasants in 1917 and Huns in 1929. If he has enjoyed excellent upland game bird hunting let him give credit where credit is due.

Any results achieved so far with the pheasant re-stocking program is on the debit side of the Ledger. The daily bag limit on pheasants reduced from 5 to 3 and on Huns from 8 to 5. Pheasants are reduced to a mere shadow of their numbers in 1955 — that's no news, it's common knowledge. Sportsmen are asking the question: Is it co-incidence that our Hun population hit a record low in 1956?

I am convinced that the surest and safest way to bring our pheasants back to their former plentitude is to leave them on their own. There is sufficient breeding stock tucked away in out of the way pockets to bring them back in goodly numbers in 4 or 5 years. If they suffer another loss like they did in 1956. . . a loss that bordered on being a major wildlife disaster — pheasant hunting in this province may be written off for twenty years.

I am Sir, etc., J. S. JENKINS Editor Hunters' Corner.

Remember When
Dave Castilloux, Canadian featherweight and light weight boxing champion, hammered out a 10-round decision over Leo Rodak of Chicago 17 years ago tonight at Toronto. The Montreal fighter weighed 132, Rodak 133.

PIONEER MILL
The first cotton mill in America is believed to have been established about 1814 at Waltham, Mass.

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Former Cleveland Pitcher Is In Critical Condition

CHARLOTTESVILLE, Va. (AP)—Don Black, who has survived some tough battles, is fighting another at the age of 40.

He was brought to a hospital here after a highway accident Saturday. Surgery was necessary, as he had suffered numerous head injuries and cuts. He is on the critical list.

Black was a pitching star for the Cleveland Indians in 1947 after making a comeback, but in September of the following year — when the Tribe was fighting every step of the way toward a pennant — he suddenly collapsed at the plate one day and later a brain operation was performed. That cut short his pitching career.

State police said Black apparently lost control of his car Saturday when he suffered a fainting spell.

The year 1947 was the peak of Black's career. The year before he failed to win a game at Milwaukee. At the urging of President Bill Veeck, the pitcher

joined Alcoholics Anonymous before the 1947 season opened, and his rejuvenation gave him a second career. Later he freely acknowledged his debt to AA.

He pitched a no-hitter against the Athletics, who then were based in Philadelphia, on July 10, 1947. In 1948 he was used only as a "spot" pitcher and on Sept. 13 he came to the plate in the second inning, fouled off a pitch, complained of a headache, and slumped to the ground.

LAPSED INTO COMA
For days he was in a coma and on the critical list. After his release from the hospital further examinations indicated a brain operation was necessary, and it was performed in December.

Meanwhile the Indians had held a benefit game for him, raising a fund of about \$40,000. In the spring of 1949 the surgeons pronounced him well enough to play. But it soon became apparent that he was not strong enough to continue. His major league standing was 34 wins and 55 losses.

FUR, FIN AND CAMPFIRE

THE HUNTING ANIMALS, LIKE THE CATS, HAVE THEIR EYES FACING FORWARD

THE PREY UPON, SUCH AS RABBITS AND DEER, USUALLY HAVE THEIR EYES ON THE SIDES OF THEIR HEADS

PEOPLE HAVE BEEN KILLED USING A GUN TO CLUB A WOUNDED RABBIT OR PHEASANT. DON'T DO IT!

LEARN TO KNOW YOUR WATER-FOWL. VISIT TO THE LIBRARY OR ZOO WILL HELP. OR BUY A BIRD BOOK. PROTECTED SPECIES SUCH AS SWANS AND EVEN EARLES ARE KILLED EACH YEAR BY CARELESS HUNTERS.

IF YOU SHOULD SEE AN EMPTY BOTTLE IN THE WOODS, BURY IT. WHEN LINES JUST RAIN, IT COULD ACT AS A MATCHING GLASS AND IN DRY FORESTS, START A FIRE