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WILD LIFE OF NATION GUARDED

Millions Saved Annually in Conservation Work of Biological Survey Division.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 13.—The government's accounting to the American people of its stewardship of their wild animals and birds during the past fiscal year, as exercised through the Bureau of Biological Survey, United States Department of Agriculture, is contained in the bureau's annual report, made public today.

In its supervision over the wild life resources and liabilities of the nation, the government deals with those birds and animals of the first value to agriculture, commerce, and industry as well as with those injurious species whose natural habits in years past have cost the country many hundreds of millions of dollars. On the asset side of the balance sheet the total mounts; and the liabilities, thanks to the increasing efficiency and thoroughness of the government's supervision, are shrinking. Sketched in its high lights and dealing only with major facts and totals, the bureau's work during the past year shows among other things the following results:

A saving to farmers and stockmen of about \$14,000,000 during the year—at a cost of \$1,345,220—in the campaign west of the Mississippi against wolves, lynxes and bobcats, coyotes, mountain lions, bears and rodents.

Destruction by rifle, trap and poison of approximately 40,000 of the predatory animals.

Continuation, with marked success, of the work begun five years ago of ridding the ranges—and thereby making them safe for grazing—of predatory animals.

Saves \$11,000,000.

An unrelenting campaign against prairie dogs and ground squirrels during which 18,331,861 acres of Federal, state and private lands were given a first poison treatment and follow-up work was done on 4,402,662 acres. One hundred thousand farmers and stockmen took part in the work; 1,235 tons of poison grain were prepared and distributed under the bureau's supervision; and an annual saving of more than \$11,000,000 is estimated to have been effected through this phase of the bureau's work alone.

Wholesale destruction in Idaho, Oregon, Washington, Nevada, Utah and Arizona of jack rabbits whose foraging annually damaged alfalfa, cotton, hay and other crops to the extent of millions of dollars. In one Idaho county alone, 186,166 jack rabbits (actual count) were killed, and in other counties as many as 50,000 jack rabbits were disposed of in organized drives.

The beginning of active and intensive campaigns against meadow mice

and pine mice whose depredations in orchards, gardens and truck farms annually mount into the millions.

Destruction in one campaign alone (in Texas) of 670,000 rats by aerial count, and continuation of the nationwide campaign against this most destructive and ubiquitous of rodents.

Protection of valuable fur-bearing animals, encouragement of their importation, and study of best methods for successfully raising them. The rearing of silver black and cross foxes alone has grown to the extent that during the past year there were 349 fox ranches in this country having 4250 breeding animals with stock and equipment valued at more than \$4,280,000.

Its investigations have resulted also in protection for the great army of birds which are of inestimable value to the farmer; checking, so far as possible, the depredations of the few feathered marauders which damage orchards and crops.

Continued and painstaking study of the habits of various kinds of birds that the valuable ones might more intelligently and definitely be determined.

Survey of the grounds of migratory wild fowl and recommending measures for improving them.

Bird Migration.

In a continuation of the nationwide investigation on bird migration, the information of the survey covering habits, distribution, and migration of birds has increased and become very valuable.

Further study has been made of such injurious rodents as ground squirrels, pocket gophers, rabbits, kangaroo rats and pocket mice in order that more effective means against their depredations might be found and made available for use by American farmers.

Under the protecting care of the bureau big game on government reservations has multiplied fast. The annual census shows 508 buffalo on such reservations now, as compared with 205 five years ago; 504 elk, as compared with 159; 92 antelope, as compared with 40, and so on.

Care of the birds progressed materially during the year through posting and defining boundaries of many of the bird refuges, the planting of grain to provide food and cover, establishment of new reservations, provision of additional warden service at certain reservations, and increased number of patrol boats.

Its administration of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, which prohibits the shooting of migratory birds on their flight north in the spring and contains restrictions as to the manner in which they may be hunted during the open seasons, and of the Lacey Act, which regulates interstate shipments of wild animals and game, resulted in the apprehension of nearly 1,000 alleged violators of the federal game laws and the securing of more than 500 convictions, in which fines were assessed ranging from \$1 to \$500 each.

Numerous seizures of migratory game birds illegally killed or possessed, the birds being disposed of by the bureau with the consent of the accused by gift to hospitals or charitable institutions for use as food, and seizures of contraband plumes and mount of specimens of migratory birds of an estimated value of \$5,000.

A notable increase among the migratory birds is attributable almost solely to the limitation of spring shooting, the issuance of migratory game birds, and the establishment of a uniform bag limit, the three fundamental restrictions made possible by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, according to the report.

Permits were issued for the importation from foreign countries of 182,002 birds and 3,268 animals, the latter including 1,574 black or silver foxes from Canada.

The foregoing states in bare outline some of the bureau's activities within the United States. In Alaska the bureau secured, under the department's supervision, over 100 head of caribou, reindeer, muskoxen and sheep, and also secured 100 head of sheep and 100 head of goats for the purpose of introducing them into the territory.

ing the killing of such animals. One of the chief items of interest in connection with the bureau's work in Alaska was its study of the reindeer industry in the territory, with a view to establishing it on a sound basis, by improving the health and general condition of the herds.

BLOODLESS FEUD BEING STAGED

LEXINGTON, Ky., Dec. 13.—Kentucky has had its feuds in the mountains and its duels in the Bluegrass but not for a century has a more bitter bloodless feud been fought than that now being staged in the courts here between the farmers of Fayette county and the city dwellers of Lexington.

For the city dwellers have decreed that "Court Day" on Cheapside, a block in the center of the city, an institution of a century's duration, must go. And the farmers say that "Court Day" must stay.

The courts have decided in favor of the city dwellers once, but a mistake was made in not including the county in the suit to abolish the custom of farmers bringing their horses and mules and livestock of all kinds to Cheapside for sale and of the people of the countryside gathering in the shadow of the statue of John Campbell Breckenridge, former vice-president of the United States to discuss the political issues of the day. For it develops, Cheapside has for a hundred and sixteen years been the property of the county.

Back in 1790 Cheapside was the center of the city of Lexington, then the metropolis of the west. At that time the city trustees ordered the first market house erected on the square, the pillory and the stocks, the public well and the court house (as at present) stood on Cheapside. There on Wednesdays and Saturdays the country people brought in their produce and the city dweller and the country dweller met and traded and swapped tales and talked politics. In later years James Lane Allen, a Kentucky writer made Cheapside famous with his description of the monthly "Court Day," the last of the ancient institutions of central Kentucky.

In 1805, it develops, the city of Lexington decided Cheapside to the county of Fayette. Since that time the county has been responsible for it. In late years the brick pavement of Cheapside has become pitted and rough. On court days it is crowded with farmers and their stock and wagons loaded with produce—this once a month. On other days automobiles filled the places, parked at all angles.

For many months there have been complaints of the unsightliness of Cheapside and the apparent lack of authority by the city police. So action was started in circuit court to force the city to "abate the nuisance." The circuit court ordered the "nuisance" abated. But the court did not count on the county. Now the action has been revived through filing of a petition by the county declaring it alone has jurisdiction over this plot of ground, containing perhaps a quarter of an acre, in the heart of the city.

What the result will be cannot be told until the circuit court again acts and the court of appeals has its final say. But one thing is certain, the country folk are going to fight to the last ditch to retain their plot of ground in the city where they can

gather and sell their stock and talk politics.

One custom of Cheapside that has long passed, but of which James Allen tells in his story was the settling of physical encounters and drinking of the latter, Mr. Allen says:

"Another notable recreation of the day was drinking. Indeed, the two pleasures went marvelously well together. . . . The merchants kept barrels of whiskey in their cellars for their customers. Bottles of it sat openly on the counter."

Salvage Engineer Tells War Secrets

PORTSMOUTH, ENG., Dec. 13.—Commander Sir Frederick Young, salvage engineer who was technical head of the British naval salvage effort during the war, in a lecture here, told how German submarines which had been sunk, were located and examined. Each submarine carried valuable material. Special salvage codes, operations, orders and other men were sent where the submarines had been sunk, divers went down and "cut their way" into the interior after which they thoroughly examined it. Much information that proved of greatest value in combatting the U-boat offensive was obtained.

The DAILY MAIL says: "It was this submarine intelligence branch which also unearthed the secret of the German magnetic torpedo (although Sir Frederick Young did

not tell his audience this) and thus led us into the secret of a grave new menace to our shipping."

After a merry chase over three counties, Milford Emmel, an insane man, was returned to the state hospital last Monday, having been found at Eugene.

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