

### Out-of-Doors Stuff

By LARS LARSEN

One of the greatest duck seasons in the history of the Coquille valley and points east and west, has ended. We have been informed that once in the Klamath Valley marshes and lakes that shooting was not up to par either. We are still wondering where all these 180 million ducks went to that were enumerated by wildlife officials.

The ducks are really getting smart. During the past season they would wing into the fields and marshes that contained water and remain there feeding during the night. At the break of day many moments before lawful shooting time, the wise birds would set wing for the ocean. Out on the bosom of the broad Pacific there were plenty of ducks throughout the season—out there just beyond the breakers they floated peacefully throughout the day, awaiting the darkness of night to again make their flight into the valley fields and marshes.

What ducks didn't take off for the Pacific were content to swim about in the Coquille river, instead of frequenting the marshes. Taking it all in all, the birds out-foxed the hunters this year.

It is our contention that a hunter be allowed to shoot ducks at the first crack of dawn. This would provide good shooting during any ordinary duck season. It is at this hour that the birds are leaving the marshes and being allowed to shoot at that time would give the hunter a break and really not frighten the birds away from their feeding grounds, as is the case of late evening shooting when the ducks are coming into their feeding grounds.

Many hunters are sadly lacking in the ethics of good sportsmanship. Take for instance the case of some hunter who goes to a lot of trouble in cutting and carrying out material for a considerable distance and in erecting a blind. Then the decoys must be carried out to the blind and strung out. It is quite a chore and this particular sort of hunter is entitled to enjoy shooting over his decoys. But usually some hunter will conceal himself along a fence row or erect another blind within shooting distance of the blind, occupied by the man with the decoys and will bang away at everything that comes along, ninety per cent of the flying birds being out of range. Many flocks, sighting the decoys, will start to circle and, if left alone, will come into the decoys within easy range, but the hunter who has lined up along the fence-row, or nearby, will shoot at these circling birds, thus spoiling the shooting for the poor devil who has worked so hard preparing a blind and putting out decoys to lure in the birds. We contend that a hunter who spoils shooting for a brother sportsman in this manner is sadly lacking in sportsmanship.

There's another thing that has always remained a dark mystery to us and that is the fact that there are many hunters who erect a blind, string out decoys and then bang away at every bird that comes along, no matter how high it may be flying and never giving them a chance to circle the decoys. What we can't dope out is why the decoys were strung out in the first place, for the main object in using decoys is to lure birds within shooting distance of your blind.

And there is the fellow who tries to imitate the call of a hen mallard, either with a caller or by using his lips. Ye gods! We have listened to notes from such persons that would frighten evil spirits away and then they wonder why such infernal noises failed to attract ducks to their decoys. The average hunter, armed with a duck caller, will frighten away more birds that he attracts to his decoys. And while some hunters are good with a caller, nine out of ten of them are the bunk. In all our experience in the marshes there is one hunter who is outstanding—one who can imitate the called of the hen mallard to perfection and he does it by use of his vocal cords and without the aid of a caller. That man is George Lorenz, of Coquille. George can actually make a duck feel ashamed of itself when it comes to giving lessons in duck language. We envy George this gift and we are backing him against any duck caller, yes, even against any hen mallard itself, when it comes to a perfect imitation of a webfoot's voice.

Well, the coming season it appears that we won't be worrying much about how to bag ducks, for with ammunition frozen there will be many of us without shells. Perhaps I should reverse that statement and say that most of us would be worrying as to how we could bag them. You fellows had better drag out your bows and arrows for next season if you have no shells left over. It's really come to that.

Insurance Specialist, F. R. Bull.



Washington, D. C., Jan. 11.—Among the many contradictory complications which have arisen out of government handling of materials essential to the war not the least puzzling is the manner in which wheat prices are maintained. At the beginning of American participation in the conflict there was a vast stockpile of carryover wheat, owned by the government either through outright purchase as a means of stabilizing prices or by the taking over of wheat pledged as security for loans to farmers. The quantity was so great as to be a source of worry to Commodity Credit Corporation, through which the wheat had been acquired. This visible threat to market prices was so great that, for the protection of farmers, it became necessary to set up a floor below which the price should not be permitted to fall.

Later, as lend-lease and other demands diminished the stockpile and the price began to soar, OPA fixed a ceiling to protect both the millers and consumers of flour. The demand increased, and War Food Administrator Marvin Jones entered the market with an offer of 15 cents a bushel above the OPA ceiling. There was an immediate protest from OPA, which was valiantly trying to hold down flour prices, and a suggestion that the ceiling on wheat be raised was refused. Chester Bowles of OPA and Administrator Jones could not arrive at an understanding, and the mess was referred to Economic Stabilizer Fred M. Vinson with the result that Bowles was overruled and was forced to boost the wheat price ceiling by four cents a bushel. Bowles, however, refused to permit an increase in flour prices and now the government is compelled to pay an additional subsidy to the millers to enable them to continue flour production.

Thus the spectacle is presented of one government agency compelling another government agency to pay out more money to protect the policy insisted upon by still another government agency. The farmers, as a whole, lose nothing, the consuming public is still able to buy flour at the low prices, but all the taxpayers of the nation are called upon to make up the difference through payment of taxes. It has been suggested that this tangle of cross-purposes might be averted by the vesting of regulatory authority in a single agency, but nowhere has this suggestion been welcomed.

Whether cheaper fertilizers are available to farmers in the post-war period will depend upon what action the surplus property board and congress take in disposing of the \$200,000,000 government investment in nitrogen-fixing plants. Representatives of the chemical industry insist that their facilities are adequate to supply the demand and that the government go out of the fertilizer business. Private plants are capable of producing 600,000 tons annually, while average consumption in agriculture 1936 to 1940 was 389,840 tons, with a peak of 453,500 reached in 1941. Total capacity of the government plants, now in war production, is 760,000. According to these figures, the claim of the chemistry people would seem to be valid.

But the department of agriculture estimates that under ordinary favorable post-war conditions agriculture will require 750,000 tons, and that an additional 200,000 tons will be required by industry. Department officials are no less interested in the price which farmers should be asked to pay for this chemical fertilizer, and they believe that the surest way to hold prices down to a sound basis is to continue operating the government plants. Under the surplus property disposal law the nitrogen-fixing plants are among others reserved for special consideration by congress, so that any action the board may take will be subject to review on the floors of congress and must receive the approval of the farm bloc. Actually, what congress will be called upon to decide is whether these government plants shall be sold or closed down, or whether they shall continue in competition with private industry.

There is possibility of some relief in the textile situation through the use of French Mills, but there will be no immediate increase in domestic supply because of manpower shortage. The army has already placed orders in France for 2,500,000 uniforms and it is hoped that French mills may produce cotton ducking

### Legion Auxiliary Met Monday Evening

The American Legion and Auxiliary enjoyed a pot-luck supper Monday night preceding their separate business meetings. About fifty members and their families were present.

At the business meeting of the Auxiliary it was decided to help out as much as possible in getting a girls' play night in the basement of the Community Building started.

In reporting on the Christmas gifts for "Yanks Who Gave," it was found that Oregon had responded in such a big way that there were more gifts sent than there were patients to give them to, so the surplus was sent to patients in California hospitals.

As many members as possible are urged to attend the sewing meeting with Mabel Kunz, Friday afternoon, when the ladies will continue to make the wheel-chair jackets for the Roseburg hospital.

The Auxiliary is now working with all its strength to help win the victory and get our men back home. Eligible to join now are the mothers, wives, sisters and daughters of men who have been honorably discharged from either war and who are members of the American Legion. Also eligible, and with a place of special honor awaiting them, are the women who have lost a son, husband, father or brother in the country's service. Eligible, too, are the women who themselves have served and been honorably discharged, all of whom are invited into Auxiliary membership for the vital and interesting activities ahead.

### Pearl Harbor Of Timber Conservation

Appraising the Tillamook Burn of 1933 as "the Pearl Harbor of timber conservation" a recent Saturday Evening Post tells its millions of readers how the lumbermen of the Pacific Northwest are waging the battle of forest conservation. In "Big Timber Gets Religion," the author, Robert Ormond Case, says that it was not the \$200,000,000 loss of this conflagration but the black thumbprint of desolation left in the wake of this burn that jolted thoughtful timbermen to their heels.

There had been ample previous warning that the industry was heading for disaster but this Portland, Oregon, fire marked the turning point. The old business cry of "Cut and get out" was abandoned and the author says, "What happened thereafter comprises a stirring chapter in the history of the most colorful of our basic industries. The battle for timber conservation has not yet been won, but in the eleven years since the burn, the pendulum has swung from a steady and ominous depletion of our reserves to a sustained-yield program which should make our forests adequately productive forever." Incidental light is also shed on the theory that only an unselfish government is capable of long range planning "in the public interest." Self-interest or not, the record shows that, at least in the Pacific Northwest, the struggle for fire control and reforestation is being won largely by the operators themselves, using their own money, on their own ground.

Mr. Case points out that a natural correlation to this conservation is maximum salvage of waste. Inevitably in the postwar picture will be the wider use of veneers, and the whole new world of plastics and resins. The great experiment long promoted by the West Coast Lumberman's Association and American Forest Products Industries, Inc., in the direct conversion of wood waste into ethyl alcohol has proven successful. The plant now being built at Springfield, Oregon, will use any wood material and turn out alcohol at an estimated twenty-two cents a gallon, a more than favorable competitive price. Moreover, it is confidently predicted the Springfield plant will usher in an entirely new field of postwar industries.

Public enthusiasm for the future of the conservation program is shown by the fact that cut-over lands, once a drug on the Northwest market, have doubled in price in the past five years. The Post article concludes, "In other words, we have reached the maximum net drain upon forest resources. Instead of a broadening gap between new growth and depletion, it is a narrowing gap. In an industry that is never static, victory begins where retreat ends."

for tents and cargo covering for the army. If this output can be brought up to 5,000,000 yards a month the strain on American mills will be eased and there is a possibility that this will permit them to increase production for domestic use. However, these expectations are only tentative.

RHUBARB — Plant now, have fresh rhubarb pie this Summer. FARR & ELWOOD.

### 4-H Rally At Bunker Hill Saturday

L. J. Allen, Assistant State 4-H Club Leader, will be the guest speaker at the County 4-H Rally Program to be held at the Bunker Hill school gymnasium, Saturday night, January 13, beginning at 8:00 p. m.

Entertainment features of the program has been arranged by Mrs. Pearl Batchelor of Eastside as follows: Musical selections by the Bunker Hill school orchestra; "Star Spangled Banner," led by Dorothy Gibney and accompanied by Sharon Smith, both of Greensacres; Presentation of Colors, Hugh Lockhart and Lloyd Felkner, Bunker Hill; Tap Dance and Song, Betty Hammond and Isabel Charlmer, Eastside, accompanied by Dorene Fischer, of Bunker Hill; Reading, Karin Peterson, Sunnyhill, and a skit by the Sunnyhill 4-H clubs.

Following the program the yearly awards will be made by Martha Mulkey, county school superintendent; Ed Stelle, manager Coquille Branch First National Bank of Portland; Dorothy Bishop Dunn, county home demonstration agent, and Almon L. Geiss, assistant county agent. The awards to be given are 286 first year, 105 second year, 65 third year, 47 fourth year, 8 fifth year, 10 sixth year, and one each for the seventh, eighth, and ninth years. In addition to the yearly awards, there will be several special awards presented.

These awards are given annually for the completion of 4-H Club projects. During the past year projects have been carried in Cooking, Sewing, Homemaking, Health, Camping, Gardening, Livestock, Crops, Woodworking and Forestry. There was a total of 702 projects carried to completion.

The program will be followed by a social hour. Persons planning to attend are asked to bring enough sandwiches and cookies for their own group. Beverages will be furnished by the 4-H Leaders' Association.

### Townsend Club No. 1 Notes

Forty members attended the dinner meeting of Townsend Club, No. 1, Tuesday evening. The tables were decorated with red candles and red carnations. This was a birthday dinner and at eight o'clock the president, Mr. McCue, opened the business session.

On Jan. 28 the Caravan of Clubs gave a gift of \$10.00 was sent to

Dr. Townsend. Mrs. Roth was in charge of the program which consisted of readings, solos and piano music. The door prize was received by Mrs. Kistner. No eats next meeting but come, we may have moving pictures to show. Electric Fence Units, \$14.75 and up. Will work on 110-volt line, or hot shot battery, or automobile battery. Also Hot-Shot Batteries for sale. Geo. F. Burr Motor. Insurance Specialist, F. R. Bull.

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# DANCE

AT

Gravelford Grange Hall

Saturday

January 13

Dancing from 9 to 12

Music by a Marshfield Orchestra

Sponsored by Coquille Eagles

Proceeds for Building Fund