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Out-of-Doors Stuff

by LANS LEBEVE

A recent survey and enumeration by the State Game Commission shows that along a section of Southwestern Oregon elk country consisting of 124 miles, that the following elk were enumerated: Eight bulls, 43 cows and 20 calves. And, the report goes on to state "in 1944 open season 375 hunters checked in Coos county. A total of 89 bulls were killed, of which 46 were yearlings, or spiked elk, 37 were one to three year olds and 12 were old bulls."

In view of the above report which states that a stretch of country 124 miles long was covered in the enumeration, it may be seen that that much territory covers practically all the elk territory in Coos county, in fact in Southwestern Oregon. So now, what we should like to inquire is just where have all those five thousand elk disappeared to that the Game Commission claimed when the season was opened on them? According to their own figures there are only 71 frequenting 124 miles of territory today. And their figures show that last season there were 89 elk checked out. We do not know how many were killed in 1943 when the season was opened first, but we are positive of the fact that during that season there weren't 4,840 killed, which would have to be killed in order to jibe with the present elk population enumeration.

While seeking to fool their people the Japanese military leaders put out propaganda that is really laughable, but their propaganda falls far short of the propaganda put out by the State Game Commission regarding the elk situation. In order to collect a \$5.00 special license fee, in order to enrich the coffers of the Commission and in order to excuse themselves for the opening of the elk season, the claim was made that 5000 elk roamed the woods in these parts, when really 500 would have been closer to the correct number and that included bulls, cows and calves. And now, with two open seasons gone by, we have the information advanced us that 71 elk roam 124 miles of elk territory.

The fact of the whole matter is that the elk were "sold down the river," that they were sold for \$5.00 per head. And furthermore, the season was opened on them when the big bulls were unfit for human consumption; in other words, the meat stunk.

As we have stated before in this column, the elk were doing no damage, most of the herds ranged far from civilization and they were so tame it was just like going out and shooting down some farmers' old milk cow. But evidently the Game Commission needed money for some fool project or experiment and the poor old elk were made to pay for it with the sacrifice of their lives. The voices of sportsmen and the visits of delegations from various clubs and organizations that protested against the opening of the season, were brushed aside and the bull-headed commission plunged ahead behind a barrage of propaganda boasting the elk population a few thousand and declared an open season.

Over in eastern Oregon there is plenty of dissatisfaction regarding the present Game Commission, as there is in other points of the state protesting against their high handed methods. Personally, we should like to see a petition circulated to recall the whole outfit. We can name 40 different Boy Scouts who would be a credit to the present Game Commission, so far as game administration is concerned.

Politics when connected with the welfare of our wildlife is mighty heard on the latter. If politicians were entirely eliminated and replaced by men with an actual knowledge of game affairs, our game would stand a better chance of survival. Sportsmen are appointed to various game commissions directly by the governor and usually by influence brought to bear by their friends. These sportsmen who are appointed have gained the name of sportsmen by having hunted or fished to a certain extent, but so far as their actual knowledge of wildlife conditions are concerned most of the appointees have demonstrated the fact to our entire satisfaction that they are sadly lacking in knowledge pertaining to snaring and hunting conditions, the habits of game birds and animals.

One has but to consult the present game code to bear me out in this contention. We have already cited the open elk season. The deer season is also off balance and sees many bucks slain each season that are unfit to eat. Band-tailed pigeons are allowed to be killed after they have eaten orchard crops and grain crops and have taken to the woods and about ready to depart for the southlands. But just so long as politics are mixed with game affairs we are

By A Marine Who Saw Action

The author of the article printed below is unknown. State Police Officer Turnbow, who brought it into the office, says he picked it up on the street, and as they had had a good laugh over it down at the police office he thought others might enjoy it too:

I'm one of the fellows who is making the world safe for democracy. I fought and fought and fought, but I had to go away. I was called in class A. The next time I want to be in Class B. Be here when they leave. And B here when they come back. I remember when I registered. I went up to a desk and the man in charge was our milkman. He said, "What's your name?" I said, "August Childs." He said, "Are you alien?" I said, "No, I felt fine." He asked me where I was born and I said, "Pittsburgh." He said, "When did you first see the light of day?" I said, "When we moved to Philadelphia." He asked me how old I was, so I told him 23, the first of September. He said, "The first day of September you'll be in China and that'll be the last of August."

Then I went to camp and I guess they didn't think I would live long, because the fellow I interviewed wrote on my card, "Flying Corps." I went a little further and some fellow said, "Look what the wind blew in." I said, "Wind nothing, the draft is doing it." On the second morning they put these clothes on me. What an outfit! As soon as you are in it you think you fight anybody. They have two sizes—too small and too big. The pants are so tight I couldn't sit down. The shoes were so big I turned around three times and they didn't move. The raincoat they gave me, it strained the rain. I passed an officer all dressed up with a funny belt and stripes. He said, "Didn't you notice my uniform when you passed me?" I said, "Yes, but what are you kicking about? Look what they gave me."

One morning it was five degrees below zero and they called us out for underwear inspection. Talk about scenery—red flannels, BYD's, all kinds. The union suit I had on would fit Tony Galento. The Lt. lined us up and told me to stand up. I said, "I am, Sir, but this underwear makes you think I am sitting down." He got so mad he put me out digging ditches. A little later he passed me and said, "Don't throw that dirt up here." I said, "Where am I going to put it?" He said, "Dig another hole and throw it in there."

Three days later we sailed for Australia. Marching down the pier I had the worst luck. We had a Sergeant who stuttered and before he could say "Halt," 27 of us marched overboard. They pulled us out and lined us up on the pier. The Captain came along by and said, "Fall in." I said, "I already have, sir."

I was on the boat 12 days—jeasick for 12 days. Nothing going down and everything come up. I leaned over the rail all the time. In the middle of one of the pitches the Captain rushed up and said, "What company are you in?" I said, "I'm all by myself." He asked me if the Brigadier General was up yet. I said, "If I swallowed it, sir, it's up." Talk about dumb people, I said to one of the fellows, "I guess we dropped anchor." He replied, "I knew they'd lose it. It's been hanging out ever since we left New York."

Well, we landed and were immediately sent to the trenches. After three nights the cannons started to roar and the shells started to pop. I was shaming with patriotism. I tried to hide behind one of the trees but there weren't enough for even the officers. The Captain came around and said, "We go over the top at five o'clock." I said, "I'd like a furlough." He said, "Haven't you any red blood in you?" I said, "Yes, sir, but I don't want to see it." Five o'clock we went over the top and 10,000 Japs came at us. The way they looked at me, you'd think I started this war. Our Captain yelled, "Fire at will." I didn't know anybody by the name of Will. I guess the fellow behind me thought I was Will, because he fired and shot me in the excitement.

going to have screwy laws to contend with. When the everlasting procession of sportsmen-doctor, bankers and wealthy politicians are taken from the game commission and replaced by men with an actual knowledge of wildlife, we will have sensible game legislation, but we never shall by the present method.

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Washington, D. C., Aug. 16—With federal tax collections for the year ending June 30 last totaling in excess of \$45,000,000,000 there was still a deficit of \$50,000,000,000 and it is not anticipated that this excess of expenditures over income will be materially reduced in the coming 12 months, according to statements made on the floor of the senate, even with an ending of the war against Japan. In addition to the war costs so many commitments have been made, so much has been pledged toward world relief and rehabilitation that the lopping off of a few billions by cancellation of war contracts will have little effect on the over-all financial condition of the United States. It is because of this situation that there is in congress a growing sentiment for the curtailment of certain expenditures over which congress still has the ultimate control.

One of the matters which will be gone into at some length when the session is resumed next month is the apparent continued prodigality in the expenditure for lend-lease, for which already more than \$65,000,000,000 has been appropriated. Not all of this money has been spent and there is a possibility that certain of the allocations may be rescinded. It is recalled that when lend-lease was first proposed in 1941 it was estimated that the total required would not exceed \$7,000,000,000 but this proved to be no more than a starting point. So far the British Empire has received more than \$30,000,000,000 in lend-lease and the end is not yet in sight. Russia has received between 12 and 15 billion, China has been helped and the aid has been extended to all South American countries except Argentina and to more distant parts of the globe.

Since the war in Europe ended Russia has received another \$1,000,000,000 and is asking for several times this amount in long-term credits. England, also, wants something more from the federal treasury; France is on the list to receive supplies for the rehabilitation of that war-torn country, and there are numerous other applicants waiting to file their requests. The national debt is now in excess of \$280,000,000,000 and may yet exceed the \$300,000,000,000 mark. Not only has this stupendous sum been distributed in cash but there has been a nearly equal contribution from the American people in the way of food and supplies to distressed peoples suffering from the ravages of war. Congress is in the mood to call a halt.

Recently announced plans for extension of rural electrification will not lack for available cash, since \$300,000,000 has been allotted for this purpose; but their realization may be delayed for lack of poles. In various sections of the country expeditions have been resorted to in an effort to overcome this handicap and a considerable amount of construction is under way. In both Oregon and Washington reports indicate revival of interest in the building of new lines and this is understood to have received encouragement from the Bonneville administration which is trying to build up a backlog of power demand against the time when war industries in the Pacific northwest cease to be customers. The pole problem does not seem to be so acute in that region.

Not until the 1945 corn crop has been harvested will it be known whether the allocation of wheat may be necessary. If corn production should fall much below present estimates by the department of agriculture it will be necessary to conserve this year's wheat for stock feed. Early guesses by corn experts place the probable yield at more than three billion bushels, but unfavorable weather has been reported from several corn states and while a huge crop is reasonably certain it is equally certain that the total will be something less than present estimates. It is not yet possible to say just how much wheat will be required for relief in liberated countries but it is expected to be in excess of 200,000,000 bushels. Under normal conditions this is less than the annual surplus, but if considerable quantities are to be fed to livestock and used in the production of industrial alcohol, government control over wheat distribution may become necessary.

Action has been taken by the surplus property board which may be of advantage to Henry Kaiser in his

desire to purchase a government-owned steel plant in Utah. The board has instructed RFC to give local purchasers preference in the sale of war plants even if it means acceptance of a bid requiring extension of long term credit as against a cash offer, with RFC carrying the loan.

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