The Hermiston Herald

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PROTECTING GAME BIRDS

Passage by the United States senate of the bill requiring a federal license for every person hunting on a game preserve set aside by the fdral government brings to attention the success of the agreement by which the United States and Canada have sought to protect the great resources of wild game with which the entire American hemisphere abounds. Our migatory wild bird law was passed only ten years ago; the treaty with Great Britain by which Canada and the United States were mutually committed to an enlightened policy conservation was completed in 1916. Since then there has been an undoubted increase in game-bird life in both countries, though, curiously enough, there have been increased bags by hunters. The law seems to have operated for the benefit of everyone concerned.

The genuis of the original law was that it sought to give the wild birds an opportunity to breed and feed in the vast regions which at present have no other economic use. Both the uncharted marshes of the senm-tropics and the wide stretches of the unexplored north furnish pasture and havens which may thus, though indirectly, be made to yield food for human beings. It was not in the spirit of sentimentalism that the movement was first conceived, but in the idea that regulater sportsmanship would serve better than anarchy to achieve the hunters' end. The estimate of the game warden of Minnesota that the duck season last year furnished $2,000,000 worth of food is a measure of the substantial and practical advantage that already has accured.

It is proposed that the federal government shall acquire from time to time, with the proceeds of hunting license, game reservations in all the states which are willing to cooperate, these reserves to furnish a perpetual guarantee against the extinction of valuable species which was threatened only a few years ago. It is as yet too early to begin to fear that the birds will become an economic pest. They are hardly restored to the status they held before the work of extermination began. To a limit very far beyond that which has been reached they are an actual benefit, and if the balance of nature shall be disturbed this can be regulated by lengthening the open season as occasion justifies. The important achievement of the migratory bird treaty is that it checked ruthless hunting before it was everlastingly too late.Oregonian —

FARMERS' OPPORTUNITY

The time is certainly at hand when this nation will eat as much food as it produces. Any further increase in demand which will surely come with enlarging industries and expanding city populations which will give our farmers a better market for their products. It is very unlikely that the numbers of people engaged in farming will increase as rapidly as will the national population. We know that the enlargement of our good farming area has its limitation. The possibilities of imports of foodstuffs are fully as limited.

No amount of increase of demand will make every farmer prosperous, nor will it make good crops and high prices every year. There will always be ups and downs and there will always be some who fail to succeed. Year in and year out, however, the progressive farmers should be glad in the future tha they did bib not give up the land. Their business chancs should b fully as good as the city man's. One thing, however, Amrican ricultur must larn: If this nation is going to tat more food than it produces, the first job of our farmers is to study the home market. The real demand for our food will not be in foreign trade. Home cansumpaion will be the demand to which the farm will cater and those who study the home demand most carefully will reap the best profits. — Prof. Robert McFall in Farm Life.

O. A. C. FARM REMINDERS

The United States imports as much red and alsike clover seed annually as may be grown on 4$,000 acres. If grown in Oregon this would annually bring in 1 1-2 to 2 million dollars for seed and it would mean increased yields of other crops following the clover. How to get stands of clover and how to fertilize and handle the clover successfully for seed will be fully discussed at the farmers' short course beginning January 2 at Corvallis. The demand for clover seed from Oregon is very strong because of its high color and this together with lowering transportation charges by rail, low freight rates to the Atlantic seaboard by boat, and the new tariff on seed, promises much in the future clover seed business.

The Oregon Experiment station has been leading in vetch experimental work in the United States for a number of years. A number of new vetches have proved very successful and quite well adapted to our conditions. The problems of growing Hungarian vetch, purple vetch, Tansier peas, and the possibility of growing hairy vetch for seed will be a part of the seed production program at the farmers' winter short course, January 2 at the O. A. C. Quite a large business may be developed for Oregon by the proper development of the seed industry in connection with these crops.

ADDING machine rolls at the Herald office.

The Story of Our States

By JONATHAN BRACE

X.—VIRGINIA

THE EARLY history of Virginia revolves about the name of Capt. John Smith. It was his indomitable spirit which enabled the settlement at Jamestown to survive the privations and difficulties that encompassed it during those first years. There in 1607 was made the first permanent English colony in America. The charter given by King James I to what was known as the London company, under whose auspices Jamestown and the later Virginia settlements were founded, designated that this colony should extend 200 miles north and 200 miles south of Old Point Comfort and stretch westward to the sea. Under the reign of Charles II it was considered such an important colony that it was called the fourth dominion of his empire, that is, England, Scotland, Ireland and Virginia. From this Virginia was often called the Old Dominion. The name Virginia itself means the virgin land and was so called after Queen Elizabeth, the "Virgin Queen." The early government of Virginia is of great interest. At first communism was tried, under which system the land and all property was owned in common and all profits were divided equally. This proved a disastrous failure. In 1619 the first real representative government in the colonies was established, called the house of burgesses, which continued in force under varying fortunes until Virginia joined the Union and became the tenth state in 1788. Much might be written of the character of the early Virginian settlers and their great influence on American life. From Virginia has sprung two other states, Kentucky and West Virginia. Even so, the state's present area is 42,627 square miles. Politically the Old Dominion state is entitled to twelve presidential electors. This is about the average of the southern states.

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Suspected of Wholesale Poisoning

Right to left, Mrs. Tillie Klimek and Mrs. Nellie Stermer Koulik, cousins, who are held by the Chicago police on suspicion of having caused the deaths of their former husbands and several other relatives by administering arsenic. The case involves a total of fifteen mysterious deaths and illnesses.

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