

The Evening Herald

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 1922

GAME CONSERVATION

By A. E. Burghdoff,
State game warden

The original forests of the United States contained approximately 822,000,000 acres. Today there remains only about 131,000,000 acres of virgin timber, three-fifths of the timber once growing in the United States having been cut away. We are using annually four times as much timber as we grow. Hence, at this rate of consumption it is easy to see that our forests will soon be exhausted. These forests are the home of 90 per cent of the game and game fish resources of the country, and as civilization advances and population increases it is not difficult to show by mathematical calculation that the game resources of the country will soon become extinct.

Conservation does not mean absolute prohibition, but it means the wise use of our resources; it means taking from Nature's store-house just so much as our needs require, and passing on to future generations at least as much as we found, as their legitimate birth-right.

Restrictions Necessary
As our forest areas were depleted by advancing civilization, the game resources were depleted in direct proportion to a point where it ultimately became necessary to provide certain restrictions covering the killing or taking of game and fish. This development resulted in the necessity of establishing game commissions for the purpose of protecting the wild life resources. Finally it became necessary to assist nature in restocking our forests, fields and streams by artificial propagation. In order to provide funds for this protection and propagation, the State of Oregon provided a license system and established a game protection fund to be used under the supervision of a game commission in carrying on this work. Under this method of organization the game department is self-supporting, receiving no moneys from legislative appropriation or taxation. The entire revenue for maintaining this important state department is derived from the sale of licenses, the sale of confiscated property and one-half of moneys collected in fines, the other one-half of fines going to the county in which violation occurred.

During the year 1919, there were distributed by the Game Commission in various sections of Oregon, 5,725, 412 trout; during the year 1920, 6,524,945; during the present season of 1921, there were distributed 13,671,990. In addition to this, there were distributed in 1921, 63,050 black bass fry; 61,250 catfish fry; and 195,526 crappie fry.

Hatchery Increase Shown
Our Game Department at the beginning of 1921 had available five fish hatcheries for trout propagation. At the opening of the 1922 season there will be in operation 13 and possibly 14 trout hatcheries, and the planting of trout by the Game Department in the future will be limited only by the supply of trout eggs available. This great increase in the number of trout hatcheries is possible by reason of the 1921 session of the Legislature increasing the license fee and providing the department with additional funds with which to carry on its activities.

Our game farms produce annually from 5,000 to 6,000 mature Chinese pheasants which are distributed in those portions of the State where it is desired to stock these birds, or where they have become depleted on account of excessive hunting. The policy of holding Chinese pheasants until they reach maturity before they are released from the game farms is an expensive one but a policy which is justified, more particularly in those sections where an open season prevails.

The policy of planting trout is entirely different from that which prevailed a few years ago. During the present season all trout distributed from our hatcheries were placed in the streams under the personal supervision of experienced hatchery em-

ployees, this resulting in the trout being planted in the proper places at the right time, and it is believed that much better results will be obtained from planting of this kind.

Sportsmen Increase
Within the last 20 years the number of hunters and fishermen have probably increased ten-fold, and at the same time good roads and modern transportation makes it possible for the sportsmen to reach any section of the state and penetrate all portions of the mountain ranges in a few hours' drive from any of our centers of population.

With the advent of the automobile and modern highways, the big game of Oregon, more particularly deer, would have been rapidly exterminated had not the Legislature in 1913 passed what is commonly known as the "Buck Law," a statute which provides that female deer shall be protected at all times. In spite of the fact that hunters have increased and our mountain vastnesses opened up by a system of good roads and trails, our deer in Oregon have been on the increase since this law went into effect. It is not believed that this rate can be maintained with the present season and bag limit on deer. In the not distant future, it will in all probability be necessary to provide a 30 day season for deer with a bag limit of one male deer each season. With a further restriction of this nature and the policy of the Game Commission in paying a bounty on predatory animals and hiring experienced trappers and poisoners to carry on a campaign against such animals during the winter months, it is believed that the number of deer in the State will increase appreciably.

In addition to these added restrictions, game reservations should be established in all our national forests in order that there may be some spot to which our wild life can retire in security.

About the same time the Oregon Legislature passed the "Buck Law," the migratory water-fowl, through a treaty with Canada, were placed under the jurisdiction of the Agricultural Department. Immediately thereafter, regulations were promulgated which eliminated entirely spring shooting when the migratory water-fowl are on their northern flight. Reports from all over the country indicate a continuous increase in wild water-fowl of all kinds since this regulation has been in effect.

Educators Necessary
Oregon has 97,000 square miles of territory and the impossibility of providing adequate patrol service for a territory of this size is self-evident. The only effective and lasting system of game protection is by educating the people to the value of our wild

life resources. Education is necessarily a slow process, and in the meantime a patrol service is necessary to protect our wild resources pending the time public sentiment has reached a point where the enforcement of rational game legislation will be demanded in every locality. A patrol service will always be necessary, but will be effective only in so far as local sentiment will support such patrol service.

Some of the states require that certain study periods each week be devoted to a study of the wild game of the state. It appears to those who realize the enormous value of this asset that a period devoted to such study would be an excellent manner in which to assist in educating the younger generation on this subject.

The commercial possibilities of the wild life resources are appreciated by very few. Tourist traffic leaves in California annually \$400,000,000. In Oregon approximately \$20,000,000. During the summer season Oregon has much more to offer the tourist than any other section of the country. If by a wise and sane regulation of our natural resources, we can entice the tourist to tarry for a period in Oregon and enjoy not only scenery but our fishing and hunting, the tourist travel would soon become the greatest individual asset in our State.

PLAN CAMPAIGN TO END ILLITERACY IN WESTERN STATES

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 27.—Educational campaigns intended to wipe out, if possible, illiteracy in the far west, will be considered here February 3 and 4 at a regional illiteracy conference to be held under the auspices of the National Illiteracy Commission of the National Education Association.

Approximately 250 delegates, including several governors and state, city and county school officials, are expected from the eleven western states of Washington, Oregon, California, Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, Idaho and Nevada.

More than 250,000 illiterates are in the eleven states covered by the conference, according to figures announced by Mr. Chamberlin.

When they cost \$10,000,000 we know why they call'em "capital ships."—Columbia Record.

Washington version: Discussion is the better part of valor.—Brooklyn Eagle.

RETAIL SALES ARE INCREASING

American People Living on Better Scale than in 1921

NEW YORK, Jan. 25.—Nowithstanding the general impression that the consuming public has been abstaining from buying, the January review of retail trade, now completed by the National Retail Dry Goods Association, demonstrates that, for months past, the American people have been buying more, at lower prices—have, in fact, been living much more generously—than they did in the latter part of 1921.

During November, 1921, retail trade fell off 13.7 per cent in gross value as compared with November, 1920, but prices declined to far greater extent, in typical dry goods staples more than one-third and in many instances as much as 40 per cent. The 13.7 per cent reduction in gross value of sales, taken in connection with the very much greater reduction in merchandise prices, represent almost double the volume of goods purchased by the consumer for November, 1921, as compared with November, 1920.

Value and Volume Increase
This very great increase in consumption progressed further during December, when retail stores in many large centers of population reported sales value as well as sales volume in excess of December, 1920, and few stores anywhere in the United States experienced a demand smaller than that of December 1920.

Figures of exceptional interest have been assembled in connection with the distribution of the gross value of retail trade for November 1921, as compared with that of November, 1919, when public extravagance in expenditure was at its height. The decline in gross value of sales for November, 1921, as compared with November, 1919, for 145 selected department stores throughout the United States was 4.5 per cent, while the four leading mail-order houses suffered a decrease of 63.8 per cent. In

crease are recorded for several other classes of retail enterprises, ten chains of grocery stores gaining 15.6 per cent; five drug stores gaining 19.1 per cent; four 5c and 10c cent chains, 22 per cent and three cigar store chains, 23.1 per cent.

Mail Orders Falling
The relatively slight decrease sustained by the department stores, attributed to their exceptional facilities for showing the goods, their courageous adherence to the policy of extensive advertising, and their very general response, even at the cost of large direct losses, to the popular demand for lowered prices, a policy which resulted in public confidence and very marked good will. The astounding decline in mail-order trade is attributed to inherent inability to show goods combined with restriction of purchasing power in rural districts. The increase in chain store sales has been due, in marked measure, to increase in the number of the extension of enterprises of this class.

The figures applying to department stores would be incredible, in view of the general impression that the public had been determinedly out of the retail market, especially where it was accustomed to deal with department stores, were it not for the announcement of the findings of the Bureau of Business Research of Harvard University, which analyzed the operating expenses of 395 typical department stores for the fiscal year of 1920. Harvard University's exhaustive investigation shows that the common figure for total expense in such enterprises for 1920 was 25.9 per cent of net sales, including an average net profit of 1.8 per cent on every sale.

The simple explanation of the extremely large volume of merchandise purchased by the American people, during the period when the outcry against high prices was loudest, appears to be that in practice the public fully realized the extent of price reductions and bought to the extent of its purchasing capacity.

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