

Says Bears Falsely Accused

YREKA, July 7.—J. W. Gregg of Gaselle, bear hunter, and student of Siskiyou county's wild animal life, recently directed the attention of The Siskiyou News to an article in the Pacific Woodman, written by Jay Bruce, state lion hunter, regarding the lion's experience in Siskiyou county and other parts of northern California.

It is Bruce's contention that false witness had been borne against bears, and his remarks are based on real experience as there are few men in America who have been in as close contact with the bear family as has Bruce. The article in full follows:

An effort is being made by the stockmen of California to repeal the law protecting the black bear (Ursus americanus). The complaint against the bear is based on the allegation that he is destructive to stock.

I have no doubt that most of these men sincerely believe that the bear does kill stock, but I am convinced by my own experience that these men are being misled by appearance and misinformation.

I have hunted since I was 10 years old and have traveled on foot more than 30,000 miles over the mountains of California, hunting and trailing different kinds of game. About 1500 miles of the distance has been covered while hunting mountain lions. For several years before I was employed to hunt lions for the California fish and game commission, I made a business of conducting deer hunting and fishing parties during the open season, and hunting bear, lion and bobcats during the fall and winter. At that time, I found the average bear to be worth about \$50, including meat, hide and the tallow, which was used by my family. The same bear, if killed during the summer, would not be worth anything for any purpose.

During my many years of sportsmanship I have bagged 42 bears, 155 mountain lions, and 200 bobcats. When I entered the employ of the fish and game commission on January 1, 1919, I immediately began breaking my dog from running bear, and specialized on hunting lions. Nearly all of my hunting was done when bears were from five to ten times as numerous as lions and on account of using thoroughly trained lion dogs I have had many unusually favorable opportunities to correctly check up on reports where bears were accused of killing stock. Every such report I have investigated. I have found the bear to be innocent of the killing. However, I can easily realize why the average stock man gains the impression that the bear kills his stock, for while hunting bear and lion, I have found hundreds of carcasses of deer and domestic stock that were killed by mountain lions and eaten by bears. The lion seeks out the bedding grounds of sheep during the night and slays several sheep in a few minutes, or he lies in the brush on the range and kills sheep during the day, in either case eating only the liver and part of the hams, and leaving the balance to decay. The bear, which is a natural scavenger, is attracted to the range by the odor of the decaying carcasses and stays there, living on the kills left by the lion. The sheep destroy the lion tracks on the range, so when, on account of the odor, the herder finds the sheep carcass, the bear has already been there and trampled on the ground around the kills. Then the bear is accused of making the kill.

One example of the kind was last October, while on my way into Big Squaw creek in Shasta county, when I met a sheep man from Dunsmuir, who was driving his sheep out of the mountains for the winter. When I asked this man if his sheep had been bothered by lions during the summer, he answered that they had not, but that he had lost about

a hundred sheep by bears. When I suggested that the sheep had probably been killed by lions, he very emphatically stated that they had not, as there had not been any lion, or lion signs on his range at any time during the summer, but that bear signs were numerous. He said, "I know it was bear's work, for I know the work of bears and could not be taken." On the strength of this information I immediately went onto this man's sheep range which he had just left, and bagged ten lions during nine days of hunting, and about the same time a man by the name of Morgan bagged five lions just off the western edge of the same range. Every one of these fifteen lions could have been living on sheep all summer and probably were doing so, at least part of the time.

Another example of this kind was the case of Charles Ralph, who was raising goats in Tuolumne county. Ralph had lost 300 goats one year, and he told me there were five lions and several bears killing goats. I bagged one large male lion on the first day, and found the lion's stomach contained goat meat. Saw signs of several bears on the range but found no more lion signs during five days of hunting. A year and a half later, Ralph wrote to me, stating that he had not lost any more goats nor seen any more lion signs. After lion was killed, the goats were not molested. This one lion had apparently destroyed 300 goats in one year and several bears had been living on the kills after they were abandoned by the lion. Naturally the bears were blamed for part of the damage.

While I was hunting lions in El Dorado county last August, in company with Frank Newbert, we were informed two lions had killed one hundred sheep within 25 days, at the head of Alder creek. Newbert and I arrived at this range about two days after the sheep had been moved out, but a cattle man by the name of Johnson took us where one lion had killed a sheep about three days before. We could plainly see by the tracks that the lion had killed the sheep and dragged it for about a half mile and hidden it in a thicket of fir saplings. We found the remains of several sheep near this thicket and all of them had been devoured by bears, only the hide and bones remaining. We trailed this lion, which was a very large male, for about a mile and then found the fresh tracks of a lioness, which we followed until 2 o'clock in the afternoon when we found where the carcass of a sheep had been dragged across a flat; we then followed drag for about 200 feet and found the kill in a thicket of fir trees. This sheep had apparently been killed about 9 o'clock the evening before and two bears had already found the carcass, devoured part of it and then bedded down near by, leaving only when they heard the hound haying on the lion trail. The bears had destroyed the lion tracks and scent around the carcass, and it was necessary to circle at a distance of a hundred feet to again find the lion tracks, which we followed unsuccessfully until dark. Early the next morning we returned to the kill in order to get her fresh tracks, if the lioness had returned to the kill. The lioness had not re-

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10 a. m. Bible Study for all. 8 p. m. Evening Worship.
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"WHERE SATAN'S SEAT IS," 8:00 P. M.
"EARTH'S GREATEST BROTHERHOOD"
Communion 11 o'clock.

School 10:00 A. M. Epworth League 7:00 P. M.
F. L. MOORE, Minister

Mr. C. W. Hager of Ostrander, Wn., will sing at Methodist Church tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock, accompanied by Miss Clara Perkins.

Modern Surgery in the Paris Zoo



This lion in the Paris Zoo is suffering from rheumatism due to the mists from the Seine and his condition. Here two surgeons and two helpers are treating him. Evidently they are preparing to extract an infected tooth.

turned, but two bears had been there and devoured the remains of the sheep. I called Newbert's attention to the fact that all the evidence around the kill had indicated that the bears had killed the sheep. We then backtracked the drag for about 300 feet to the place where the sheep was killed. Then we could plainly see the tracks made by the lioness when she rushed over and struck down the sheep, thus proving the lioness the slayer. This lioness had apparently killed this strong sheep about 9 o'clock in the evening, dragged it to cover, taken a feed, and then left the place with no intention of returning for another feed. For I tracked her for three days and killed her 25 miles from this place. During the next few days I tracked the male lion around his beat, which at one place was 25 miles from the sheep range. When I killed him he

had almost reached the sheep range again.

A lion travels a definite beat over about 100 square miles, usually making his rounds every four or five days; when the summer sheep range or run in its beat at any place, the lion may kill several sheep within few minutes some time during the night, take one feed and then continue on around his beat, make a kill or two at the other point and not return to the range for several days; in the meantime, the bear is attracted to the range where he stays, living on the sheep carcass left by the lion. Fresh bear signs are seen every day on the range and around the carcasses and it is not surprising that the bear is blamed for the damage done by the lion.

In every instance that I have personally investigated where bears have been accused of killing stock, I

have found the slayer to be a lion, except in a few cases where coyotes were responsible. In fact, I have never known a bear to kill any large animal, either wild or domestic.

The mountain lion is a strictly carnivorous animal and in his natural state demands meat freshly killed by himself. In the summer a carcass will quickly taint and in winter it will freeze. For these reasons the lion will make a fresh kill for his feed wherever possible. On the other hand the black bear is not by nature a killer for he does not need to

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at Klamath Falls, in the State of Oregon, at the close of Business on June 30, 1923.

RESOURCES	
1—Loans and discounts, including redcounts	\$1,369,976.02
Total loans	\$1,369,976.02
2—Overdrafts, unsecured	5,174.37
4—U. S. Government securities owned:	
a Deposited to secure circulation (U. S. bonds par value)	100,000.00
b All other United States Government securities	327,295.85
Total	427,295.85
5—Other bonds, stocks, securities, etc.	90,999.30
6—Furniture and fixtures	40,478.85
7—Real estate owned other than banking house	33,762.59
8—Lawful reserve with Federal Reserve Bank	134,852.28
9—Items with Federal Reserve Bank in process of collection	20.59
10—Cash in vault and amount due from national banks	332,594.34
11—Amount due from State banks, bankers, and trust companies in the United States (other than included in items 8, 9, and 10)	388.70
12—Checks on other banks in same city or town as reporting bank	9,149.75
Total of items 9, 10, 11, and 12	342,153.38
14—Checks and drafts on banks (including Federal Reserve Bank) located outside of city or town of reporting bank	10,630.53
b Miscellaneous cash items	10,630.53
15—Redemption fund with U. S. Treasurer and due from U. S. Treasurer	5,000.00
16—Other assets, if any	182.73
Total	\$2,460,485.90

LIABILITIES	
17—Capital stock paid in	\$ 200,000.00
18—Surplus fund	10,000.00
19—Undivided profits	6,072.92
20—Circulating notes outstanding	98,700.00
22—Amount due to national banks	1,768.02
24—Certified checks outstanding	27,128.18
25—Cashier's checks outstanding	15,555.15
Total of items 22, 24, and 25	44,451.35
Demand deposits (other than bank deposits) subject to Reserve, (deposits payable within 30 days):	
26—Individual deposits subject to checks	1,123,004.16
27—Certificates of deposit due in less than 30 days (other than for money borrowed)	20,195.27
28—State, county or other municipal deposits secured by pledge of assets of this bank or surety bond	486,083.92
Total of demand deposits (other than bank deposits) subject to Reserve, items 26, 27, 28	1,629,283.35
Time deposits subject to Reserve (payable after 30 days or subject to 30 days or more notice, and postal savings):	
32—Certificates of deposit (other than for money borrowed)	24,486.53
34—Other time deposits	363,882.29
35—Postal Savings deposits	12,416.13
Total of time deposits subject to Reserve, items 32, 34 and 35	470,784.95
36—United States deposits (other than postal savings), including War Loan deposits account and deposits of United States disbursing officers	2,193.33
Total	\$2,460,485.90

State of Oregon,
County of Klamath, ss.
I, Leslie Rogers, Cashier of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
LESLIE ROGERS, Cashier.

CORRECT—Attest:
O. D. BURKE,
B. M. VANNICE,
C. B. CRISLER, Directors.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of July, 1923.
IDA B. MOMYER, Notary Public.
(My Commission Expires September 17, 1924.)

depend on this method for a living. While he will travel a long way to eat putrid meat, still he can get plenty without it. His food list is a long one, consisting of acorns, fruit berries, mint, ants, yellow jackets, roots, grass and wild clover, all of which I have personally known wild bears to eat.

In my opinion the black bear is a splendid game animal, valuable for meat, lard and fur when killed in the fall or winter. I do not believe that he can be considered a menace to stock or game, but that he has been wrongly accused on general appearance for the damage done by mountain lions and coyotes, and that the complaints largely made by people who have no reliable method of investigating the circumstances, or had neglected to do so, assuming that bear signs around the carcasses of stock were conclusive evidence that the bears were responsible for loss of stock.

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