

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., March 9, 1928

MORE GAME, LESS VERMIN IN PENNSYLVANIA.

More game, less vermin was the password of all sportsmen while in the hunting camps. Hundreds of them took that slogan for what it meant and started a campaign against those animals in that class which we call vermin, such as weasel, red and grey fox, wild cat and stray domestic cats. The sportsmen realized that to have more game for future sport and recreation they must assist in controlling vermin. They realized that the weasel and fox with other destructive animals and agencies were daily taking a great toll of wild life, in fact, more than the legal hunter who had a right to a daily limit of legal game. The destructive animals do their hunting twenty-four hours daily, and 365 days per year, and there is no limit to their daily slaughter. Not only did the game birds and animals suffer from destructive modes of vermin, but the little song and insectivorous birds also lost a daily toll from their ranks, slaughtered to feed some hungry cat or to fill the bloody lust of a weasel. Those two are by far the most destructive of our vermin. We can not feel that way to the stray domestic cat when we take a fresh light snow and find where it had killed a Junco, we see where the little bird had been feeding in the tall grass and the cat had found the scent of this useful bird. We see where the feathers of this bird had been scattered to the four winds and find parts of its body that had been torn to shreds by the cat. Some distance away we find where a Snow Bunting has met the same fate as his friend the Junco. By this time we feel like wishing all cats in Hades. Finally we explode and lose all faith in our pet cat when we see where Tommy had entered a feeding shelter where you had been feeding quail for the past month. The evidence on the snow and scattered about that feeding place tells you that the quail were inside feeding upon the mixed grain that you placed therein on your last trip and Tommie in his sneaking disposition had quietly inch by inch found his way to the opening and landed in their midst. He probably killed a quail but from the evidence you feel that he killed every bird in the covey. Right there you swear that cats are a menace to wild life and from then on every stray domestic cat will not be safe around you.

The weasel like the cat sometimes kills only for the lust of killing and in following a weasel's trail it will take you for miles and every here and there you will find evidence of a bird being killed, then a rabbit, then again a grouse. We also find where Mr. Weasel had entered several dens but cannot see where he had killed anything, but by his former tactics we certainly believe he has. We examine the dead birds closely and find that everyone has a little hole eaten into the underside of the neck and the blood sucked out. Very rarely we find where after killing his prey he like the cat rends it apart and scatters the limbs and feathers to the four winds.

Foxes and several of our birds of prey, goshawks, cooper's hawk, sharp-shinned hawk and barred and great horned owls chiefly prey on grouse and rabbits and in many places you will find tall-tale evidence where some hawk or owl had landed upon a rabbit or a grouse and carried it away. You see some feathers or fur scattered about and you know that a grouse or cottontail had a scuffle, but you find no trails that prove that a cat or weasel or fox was the killer and you cannot believe that was the cause, but after a little thinking you finally decide that a bird of prey carried the body away. However many times we find where foxes kill grouse and cottontails and carry them to a large stump where it is eaten.

All these destructive animals were considered by the sportsmen and everywhere anyone was hunting and trapping, as vermin so the result was that during the month of December 1927 the Board of Game Commissioners through the Bureau of Vermin Control paid out \$23,319.00 in bounties for the destruction of predatory animals. Bounty claims to that Bureau showed that 64 wild cats, 1366 grey foxes, 1251 red foxes and 14,393 weasels were killed in this Commonwealth. Imagine the wild life these predatory animals had killed in their lifetime. Suppose they had not been hindered and had been left alone to breed and breed, the increase of the predatory animals would quickly clean out all useful wild life.

At the close of the fiscal year ending May 31, 1927 bounties were paid for the killing of 353 wild cats, 6,648 grey foxes, 4,437 red foxes and 37,868 weasels for one year. The bounties amounted to \$78,627.50. This is a great amount of money to be spent out of the game fund for this purpose and this deprives the Game Commission from using the money for game propagation. However, the law calls for the payment of bounties and I believe it is well spent. What would be the use of spending money for the restocking and game protection if we were to allow vermin to exist. We should all get together and put all shoulders behind this wheel of vermin control and clean out these predatory animals as soon as possible. It would, of course, cost some money for bounties but some would be saved every other year.

During the past many complaints were received from trappers that they are having their traps stolen and the furs taken out of these traps. This is one of the dirtiest tricks that a person can do. After a trapper has worked hard to put out his trap line intending to catch vermin and some dirty skunk comes along and steals the traps or furs it is almost heart-breaking to the trapper and he feels like "quitting". You cannot blame him

for feeling hurt, as traps cost money, and many hours of hard work is wasted in setting a line of traps. If he catches several weasels, a fox or two and by chance a wild cat, understand that this means a great deal to game protection. There is a law upon our statute books making the stealing of traps larceny and such persons responsible can be prosecuted by the owner and also can be prosecuted under the game laws for interfering with the trap line. Every person who has knowledge of anyone stealing traps or animals out of traps should report same to the game protector. This practice should be broken up when started and it will mean a great deal to trappers and game conservation.

WORTH KNOWING

New York City has seventeen women architects.

Man's vision, as well as his voice, has spanned the ocean. Trans-Atlantic television and telephony are established realities.

Two persons sat before an electric eye in a London laboratory Wednesday night and watched a group of people move in New York.

Secretary Hoover has announced that a passenger-carrying airplane will depart from London for New York within three months.

Colonel Charles A. Lindbergh was twenty-six years old February 4. He celebrated his birthday by flying from Porto Rico to the Dominican Republic.

Miss Mitchell, an English typist, won the international typewriting competition which was held in Paris, her speed being 12,000 letters in 20 minutes.

Two of 682 Belleville, New Jersey, boys who were asked who they would rather be than anyone else in the world said, "Dad," while 363 picked Lindbergh and 110 Coolidge.

There are more than 30,000 men and women in New York City employed from 9 to 5, who have enough grit and ambition to attend school from three to five nights a week.

Queen Elizabeth boasted 300 gowns in her wardrobe, embroidered by her own fingers. Her daughter-in-law, Mary Queen of Scots, brightened her dungieon by working fine embroideries in silken stuffs.

Although originally there were but two varieties of oranges, sweet and bitter, there are now eighty, ranging from the little tangerines to the big fruit from Java. Some of the latter are as large as melons.

Once a telephone in every room was a sign of modernity for a hotel. Now it is announced that in a chain of hotels throughout the country every guest-room will be supplied with means of radio entertainment.

A giant sequoia 308 feet high near Crannell, California, has been proclaimed monarch of the California forests by the State Department of Natural Resources. The tree contains enough lumber to build 32 average size houses.

The nation's candy bill for 1926 totaled \$258,251,526 of which New York State alone bought \$36,483,273, the Department of Commerce reports. The average per capita consumption of every man, woman and child was nine pounds of candy in 1926.

For the first time in history a digible has landed successfully on the flying deck of an aircraft carrier. The Los Angeles, 680 feet long, met the delicate test involved in coming to rest on a deck of the Saratoga which is only 200 feet longer than the Los Angeles itself.

Field Marshal Earl Haig, one of the outstanding military leaders of the World War, his heart weakened by war strain, died at his home in London, January 31. As commander-in-chief of the British Armies in France and Belgium his name is linked with that of Marshal Foch, of France, and General Pershing, of the United States, in the victory over Germany.

Real Estate Transfers.

Toner R. Robb, et ux, to Clyde J. Blackford, tract in Curtin twp.; \$3000.

W. J. Emerick et ux to Charles Saxton, tract in Bellefonte; \$1.

Bellefonte Cemetery Association to John F. Smith, tract in Bellefonte; \$50.

Benjamin F. Sheetz, Rec., to Toner Robb, et ux, tract in Howard twp.; \$5690.

John Lawrence et ux, to Andrew Uylak, tract in Rush twp.; \$1.

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William J. Bair, et ux, to Miffin R. Moyer, tract in Miles twp.; \$450.

Jacob Winkleblech, et ux, to Miffin R. Moyer, tract in Miles twp.; \$450.

John L. Holmes, et al, to Robert T. Hafer, tract in State College; \$500.

Charles J. Stover, et ux, to John H. Brindle, tract in Haines twp.; \$2,200.

Phillipsburg Milling and Lighting Co. to John A. Erb, tract in Phillipsburg; \$1.

Trustees Unionville M. E. church to Treasurer of Milesburg M. E. church, tract in Milesburg; \$1.

Samuel Kreamer, to William Milford Kreamer, et ux, tract in Haines twp.; \$4000.

Arthur K. Anderson, et ux, to O. W. Houtz, tract in State College; \$1.

Ether E. Sellers to Minnie M. Stine, tract in Patton Twp.; \$5200.

Marriage Licenses.

John J. Shedlock, of Ramey, and Elizabeth Andrews, of Ginter.

Mike Kachovik and Susie Almashie, both of Clarence.

George A. Holt and Vena E. Dickenson, both of Altoona.

Alexander Pietuswki and Kazimeza Pietuswki, both of Osceola Mills.

Chester E. Tressler and Ruth M. King, both of Bellefonte.

Chester Morris Lutz and Alice M. Mattern, both of Port Matilda.

FOR AND ABOUT WOMEN.

DAILY THOUGHT

No wise man ever wished to be younger.—Swift.

As you have doubtless discovered the well-dressed woman is not the one who spends the most money, but the one who has learned the secret of buying the right thing, which may at times be remarkably inexpensive.

So many women have a waist which is smaller in proportion than their hips. For these the dress which blouses slightly is excellent. Two-piece models which end at the hips, or those which are trimmed with pockets at this point, are bad for the large-hip, narrow-waist type. For the woman with a large bust, a surplice closing is excellent and a vestee breaks the line. If you are flat-breasted, jabots will be very becoming to you and they are shown in many of the newest spring models. As you grow older you must watch a tendency to stoop in the shoulders. Few figures are as erect after 40. By placing the shoulder seam a little farther back than usual this is hidden to a large extent. And any model which is cut a bit too high in the back, making the collar set above the fold, will accentuate this defect.

Practically everyone now wears collarless frocks, but the woman with a long angular neck never should. Her dress may be cut in a V at the front very attractively, but it should have a rolled collar across the back. Almost any face, unless the neck be short and fat, is the better for a collar rolled across the back. Over-prominent collar bones at the front may be smartly concealed by a crew neck sweater, a daytime frock with a modified or Peter Pan collar, a dressy afternoon model with a wired standing band away from the neck, about an inch and a half wide or an evening gown with a filmy scarf or tulle.

If you are short-waisted, never choose a waist and skirt of contrasting materials and always carry any trimming downward. Place the belt as low as possible, and, if you are tall as well as short-waisted, put the belt across the back only. Or, perhaps, you may look better with it across the front only.

It is not every girl who dares to look different. Here and there we encounter brave spirits, and admire them for their determination in launching out upon unusual and often rather startling styles. We have to admit that the clothes suit them.

Hats, too, should be carefully chosen. When buying a hat, it is advisable to inspect the full-length effect, for a hat which may suit one's face may not always suit one's figure. For instance, a tall girl may admire a very small hat which seems to be just "her" hat, and yet feel disappointed with the whole effect when she gets it home. She should avoid anything brimless, just as the small girl should avoid too large a brim, which will "dwarf" her.

The most accommodating of all the little bulbs for garden use are the squills orscillas, and of these the Siberian squill, *Scilla sibirica*, is the finest. They are permanent decorations once planted, as they self-sow and soon establish large colonies. They are the most intense blue in the garden, an intensity reproduced later in the year by the albanets or anchusas and their relative, the cyneglossum or Chinese forget-me-not. The entire garden may be carpeted with Siberian squills without interfering with other plants, as the bulbs are small and die down so early in the season that their foliage does not interfere with other plants, and being overgrown with other foliage does them no harm.

Large patches of these little scillas make vivid displays in late April and early May and they are being used more and more lavishly. There is a white variety, but it is rarely seen.

Other scillas of value are the "blue bells" of England, *Scilla nutans*, and the Spanish hyacinth, *Scilla campanulata*, the latter being the best known of stronger growth and later bloom, with spikes of miniature hyacinth bloom in blue, pink and white. It makes effective groups in shady corners, and is now being used with fine effect to naturalize in woods. It is a winter variety, but it is rarely seen.

Most gardeners like the blue form best, but the pink gives a fine effect in quantity. They are best planted in colonies of separate colors, as they do not appear to good advantage in mixed groups. They should be planted about three inches apart, with the little Siberians needs to go down only two inches. Tulip beds carpeted with Siberian squills give two seasons of vivid display as the sheet of blue is at the height of its beauty before the leaves of the tulips have expanded sufficiently to hide the lower growing bulbs.

Plans insuring an adequate supply and pleasing variety of fruit and vegetable foods for the winter months have been worked out by women in many States who have acted on the advice of home demonstration agents. These take the form of canning budgets which often include meats and poultry products and fruit and vegetables required during the winter months for well-balanced meals. By following such a budget a housewife has the satisfaction of a wisely stocked pantry, and she saves time, energy, and money. The budget used in Arkansas provides fruit and vegetables for a family of five for six months. Under this plan the housewife would can 72 quarts of tomatoes to be used three times a week; 12 quarts of carrots, 24 of beets, 48 of string beans, 24 of okra, and 24 each of sauerkraut, corn, English peas, and soup mixture. The fruit would be divided into 72 quarts each of peaches and blackberries, 48 of apples, 24 each of plums, pears, and fruit juices, and 12 quarts of huckleberries. An allowance of 1 pint of preserves and two glasses of jelly per week complete the canning budget.

—Subscribe for the "Watchman."

FARM NOTES.

The first step in pruning is the removal of all dead, injured or diseased canes.

Paint makes buildings last longer and give better service. Attractiveness of the farmstead also is enhanced by well-painted buildings.

The Premier strawberry is very much liked at the present time. Big Joe, Glen Mary, Stevens and Dunlap are also worth considering.

Pruning of currants and gooseberries before the first of April is recommended by the New Jersey State College of Agriculture, New Brunswick.

This is a good time to look over fences and buildings for repairs. Complete hauling out all manure and clean all buildings so that you may have clean storage for crops.

Early estimates indicate that over a half million chicks will be brooded this year in the clean chick project of the agricultural extension service of the Pennsylvania State College. Last year 101 farms in the State brooded 67,224 chicks by the healthy chick method.

Reports from 2228 eggs producers in Pennsylvania indicate eggs are sold to 15 different types of buyers. Net prices received by those selling direct to consumer are approximately ten cents a dozen higher than those sold to county stores receive, seven cents higher than those selling to New York wholesalers get, and six cents more than the hucksters pay.

In answer to the question, "Why is not poison used to combat the corn borer?" entomologists say that the insect spends nearly all of its life hidden within the corn stalks where it cannot be reached by poisons. The moths deposit their eggs over a period of three weeks, so that newly hatched corn borers are present throughout a similar period. Some of the borers can be killed by spraying or dusting at this time but the expense of several applications is too great to make the method practicable.

The acreage of barley in Pennsylvania is increasing steadily, especially in the northern section of the State where corn for grain is somewhat uncertain. In the grain feeding ration barley takes the place of corn, states county agent, R. C. Blaney, and many farmers prefer it. Yields varying from 40 to 60 bushels were obtained during the past year. Barley should not be sown on poor land or on soil that is very acid. Wherever clover will grow the soil is sweet enough for barley. On poor, sour land oats give better results than barley. While hardy barley is desirable from the standpoint of comfort and convenience, it is a very low yielder. It averages 10 to 20 bushels an acre below the bearded varieties. Barley is one of the best nurse crops for alfalfa, clover, and grass seeding. It does not shade the ground as much as oats and is harvested earlier.

Early vegetables may be started indoors on a very small scale for the home garden. County agent, R. C. Blaney, says you will need a warm room, not too cold at night nor too warm in the day; a sunny window, preferably south or east; a shallow wooden box, which has shallow holes in the bottom or cracks between the boards for drainage, and in the box about three inches of good garden soil, not too rich and not too stiff. Sow the seeds in rows about two inches apart, he states. The soil must be kept moist, but not too wet. A newspaper spread over the surface keeps the soil from drying out before the seeds begin to come up, but the paper must be removed promptly after the seedlings begin to break the soil. Tomato seeds should be planted eight or ten weeks before the plants are transplanted into the garden. Early cabbage plants require from six to eight weeks. Tomato plants should be thinned about two inches apart each way. Better plants, especially of tomatoes, may be grown by setting them singly into stover pots, berry boxes, paper boxes, or tin cans with drainage holes punched in the bottom.

Orchards may be pruned any time during winter or early spring, according to the State College of Agriculture at Ithaca, N. Y. Although in some winters the wounds may dry back, it is seldom serious.

In pruning apple trees, the aim should be to get rid of old, heavy cutting back as is sometimes practiced. Sufficient pruning to avoid rubbing limbs and weak crotches is desirable, however. A careful watch should be kept also for blighted branches and these should be removed.

Pear trees, particularly young pear trees, should be pruned lightly. Since an epidemic of blight may seriously damage a pear tree and shorten its life, as much fruit as possible should be obtained early in the life of the orchard. Experiments at the state college show that light pruning results in early development with quick commercial returns. Less blight is also encountered where the pruning is light. In view of this it seems best to give pear trees light pruning the first ten years, rather than heavy cutting back as is sometimes practiced. Sufficient pruning to avoid rubbing limbs and weak crotches is desirable, however. A careful watch should be kept also for blighted branches and these should be removed. After the trees are well in bearing, such varieties as Kieffer and Anjou are benefited by heavier pruning. Anjou, which frequently fails to set fruit, may often produce a crop in this way; the size of Kieffers may also be improved by heavier pruning. The trees should be kept reasonably low and moderately open by sufficient cutting back to laterals in the top and around the outer margin. Large main limbs should not ordinarily be cut out unless they are blighted.



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