

Democratic Watchman

Bellefonte, Pa., February 15, 1929.

HAS THE PENNSYLVANIA DEER HERD REACHED ITS LIMIT?

Has the Pennsylvania deer herd reached its limit?

Is nature now sending its two grim and ruthless destroyers, starvation and weakened breeding, into the forests to reduce the number of animals?

These two questions are being asked by well-informed sportsmen who have commented upon the scarcity of fawns during the hunting season.

With a known and verified record of more than 800 dead deer found in the spring season, and the most of these victims of starvation, it is being driven home that some drastic measures are required to meet a crisis that, if not already here, is close at hand.

John B. Burnham, of the American Game Protective Association, has just predicted that the Pennsylvania deer, by destroying natural browse faster than it will grow, will soon decrease in numbers.

He says that the whole deer problem is one that depends upon the same principle that farmers use in livestock raising. Other experts now point out that if 800 deer in Pennsylvania have starved to death, the fawns that are born of weakened does, suffering from lack of nutrition, must of necessity be frail creatures and unable to meet the battle of life.

The real deer hunters, men who know wild life, have not allowed themselves to be deceived by the fact that the doe deer, shot early in December, were plump and fat. Autumn, particularly one with such an abundance of food as the past, is not the time to study the feeding question.

It is in March when, following the cold and snows of winter, the spectre of starvation arises.

There are localities in Pennsylvania where the forest floor is cleaned off and where the browse is eaten to a height of six feet, the distance a deer can reach by standing on its hind legs. Deep snow not only covers the ground growth but prevents deer from traveling long distances.

These animals that are more hardy can endure and come through a hard winter. The weak ones and the fawns gnaw at the bark of trees and finally die.

Pennsylvania hunters killed about 25,000 doe deer during the past season. How many deer nature will destroy next spring and in subsequent years until she hits the balance that she demands no person can say. And the deer that nature will kill will not be by the merciful bullet but by hunger and disease and suffering. The venison will not supply fine meat for families but will become the food of the wildcats and the foxes and the crows and the worms.

There are many sections of Pennsylvania where the food problem is not serious; there is, however, no region where it will not become vital in time and there is no deer country in the State where there is not a heavy excess of female deer over bucks.

Following a wave of unreasonable and unstudied protest in several localities, there has come a reaction and the wisdom of the game commission in seeking, through the hunters themselves, a reduction of the excess doe deer is almost unanimously endorsed.

The protest came as a surprise for the reason that during a period of three years a majority of the deer hunters had urged the game commission to reverse the season and protect the bucks while killing off the does. And then when the game commission did the thing that they had been petitioned to do, a vociferous minority got up on top of the ridges and howled to the world that the crime of the universe was being perpetrated; that all of the doe deer in the State would be exterminated and that the slaughter would appall humanity.

Well, about 25,000 doe deer were killed less than half that many supposed. There were only 80,000 special licenses issued and the number of men in the field was small. There are, maybe, 600,000 doe deer still left and if there is a hard winter and plenty of deep snow, kindly, gentle mother nature will step in and she will in her compassionate fashion kill off many hundreds of deer by the hunger route.

The men who know most about deer are the chaps who live in the woods or the farmers who own lands adjoining the forests inhabited by the animals. They know that deer live on browse; succulent twigs and branches and buds; on acorns, beech and other nuts; on the green stuff that the farmer raises such as cabbage, turnips, apples, and so forth. They simply laugh when anybody suggests that the deer should eat grass. But a field of winter wheat is a different thing and the farmers know that also.

That's why the State pays half of the cost of a deer-proof fence.

The farmers have been insisting for years that the deer herd must be kept down. They have said that with the number of does reduced the deer would be stronger and the damage to crops lessened. They have stood by the game commission in the recent weeks.

As reflecting the changed sentiment that now sustains the commission and the farmers as well as the best informed sportsmen of the State, a recent editorial in the Brookville Republican is interesting. Among other things it says:

"If the game commission has not adequate legal authority to enforce its rulings, then the Legislature should enact such laws as will give that authority clearly beyond the reach of meddling busy-bodies whose fears run away with their judgment."

Failing this there will be no protection for the game and no known system for control based on known biological facts.

"It is doubtful if there are any large number of sportsmen who have thorough knowledge of feeding conditions in season and out of season, and certainly a considerably smaller group has any accurate knowledge of the fundamental biological laws governing breeding; laws which pertain to the entire animal kingdom in some degree."

"The game commission had these facts and they had a condition to contend with which could not be neglected. They are entitled to a fair trial of their plan."

American Cities In 1929 Race To Build Airports.

American cities will set a new record in 1929 in airport development spending twice as much for aviation fields as in any previous year, according to a survey made by Harold Crary, of the American Air Transport Association.

There are at present 352 municipal airports in the United States with a total of 190 additional now under construction or proposed. At the election, November 6, 1928, various cities voted a total of \$8,500,000 for airdromes.

Chief among airport activities reported to Crary is that of development in Detroit, where a \$5,000,000 bond issue for a municipal field has been voted. The new Detroit field will be three and one-half miles from the city's civic center and is closer to the center of population than Berlin's world-famed Tempelhof, which is regarded as one of the finest ports in the world.

The longest runway on the new Detroit field will be 7400 feet and the shortest about 440 feet. The area of the field is 447 acres.

Indianapolis, Crary reported, will erect an airport on a 100-acre tract seven miles west of the city.

St. Louis has started improvement of its 600-acre airdrome. The city has voted \$2,000,000 in improvement bonds for the work.

An immense hangar is to be constructed by private interests in Cleveland.

Designs for the new ship fields and buildings include many improvements, Crary said. Administration buildings, air weather observatories and bureaus, fire-proof hangars and paved runways are a few of the new features which will be seen in airports.

112 Schools of Pennsylvania Offer Continuation Study.

There are approximately 112 school districts maintaining continuation schools in Pennsylvania, according to statistics compiled by the department of public instruction. Ninety-seven of these schools are located in the eastern one-third of the State and only 15 are in the western two-thirds of Pennsylvania. The amount of juvenile employment available very largely determines the location and number of schools organized.

During any one week there are approximately 25,000 boys and girls between the ages of 14 and 16 who are employed and attend school for eight hours a week. Last year there were 45,000 boys and girls who came in contact with this type of school throughout the State.

The average wage earned by these minors is \$8.56 a week. For the entire group of students attending the continuation schools in Pennsylvania the wages earned amounts to more than \$11,000,000 a year.

In some cases this school helps the young folks in their present employment, while in other cases it is designed to help them to prepare for the position just ahead. There was time, officials said, when this school was considered a continuation of elementary school. Today it is considered the beginning of adults education. Where this school problem is approached from this new angle, the schools are successful, the department's records show.

New German Engine Will Burn Pulverized Coal.

A new internal-combustion engine has been developed in Germany which operates upon pulverized coal and oil. It has been also run satisfactorily on fuels made of dust of peat, rice husks and meal. The motor can be switched from coal to oil without stopping operation. For coal operation the pulverized dust is drawn into a chamber adjacent to the firing cylinder, compressed by air and then forced into the explosion chamber. The engine starts without other fuel than its powdered coal.

Question of Age Goes Out of Date.

Women voters—and for that matter men too—who are a bit reticent about giving their ages when registering to vote need have no further worries if the bill sponsored by Frazier of Philadelphia, is approved.

The Frazier measure is in the form of a proposed amendment to the act of 1919 which defines qualifications and the manner for registration of voters. Under it a statement that a voter is "21 years of age or upward" would be sufficient.

The bill is now before the Senate elections committee.

Low Licenses Will Lose Charm—Maybe.

Low automobile license numbers will lose much of their charm under the plans which will be used in 1930. Twenty letters of the alphabet will be used to denote thousand series and the highest number issued will be 99,999.

Department officials estimate that the new plan, which will permit reduction in the size of the plates, will result in annual savings of at least \$70,000.

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MUST AID AGENTS OR LOSE DAMAGES.

No person who violates or interferes in any way with the enforcement of the Pennsylvania Dog Law can recover damages caused by dogs to his or her livestock or poultry, according to a recent opinion of far-reaching significance given by the Department of Agriculture.

After explaining that the "owner" of a dog is a person who harbors a dog, has it in his care or permits it to remain on or about any premises occupied by him, the opinion points that any person who keeps an unlicensed dog, permits a dog to run at large, or does not have his dog properly tagged, is violating the law and cannot recover damages when his live stock or poultry is killed or injured by dogs.

It was stated further that if the person making the damage claim, withholds or suppresses testimony to obstruct the dog law enforcement agents in their efforts to locate the dog responsible for the damage, he will be deprived of his right to recover.

The spirit, purpose and intent of the law is that the person making the claim for damages shall assist, not obstruct, the agent in finding the dog doing the damage, the opinion said.

The opinion also makes clear that when the person who presents a claim for damages, knows the owner of the dog but tells the appraisers and agent that the owner is unknown, and it can subsequently be proven that he does know, then he should be indicted and convicted of perjury.

The secretary of agriculture is also advised that when a person making a claim for damages refuses to permit members of his family to testify when called as witnesses, the claim should be denied.

In line with this opinion, the bureau of animal industry will make careful investigations in all cases where the faintest shadow of suspicion exists of collusion of or want to openness and fairness in giving information regarding damage caused by dogs.

"The time is definitely past when any person in Pennsylvania can violate or interfere with the full enforcement of the dog law and yet recover damages caused by dogs to his or her property," bureau officials said. "Those who expect to recover compensation for such losses should be in the front ranks of the dog law observers."

Cancer Research Center to Be Set Up At Chicago.

Establishment of a cancer research center in Chicago with a view to perfecting a national organization for the study of the disease, has been decided on by Dr. Charles Mayo, of Rochester, Minn., Dr. Herman N. Bundesen, Cook county coroner, and Anton J. Cermak, president of the county board.

Dr. Mayo will head the board, which will take over a section of the county hospital. Other members will include professors in medicine from the University of Chicago, Northwestern University, University of Illinois and Loyola University.

Cermak announces that the same board plans to create a national organization "in order to co-ordinate the resources of the many surgeons who have made extensive research into the problem of fighting cancer, but who have never had a medium through which to give the benefits of their work to the world."

The need of a concerted fight on cancer was pointed out by Dr. Mayo, who said 38,000 persons died of cancer in this country last year. The number of deaths has grown, he said, from eighty-three in every 100,000 several years ago to 127 in every 100,000 in recent years.

ESTIMATE 420,000 NEGROES IN PENNSYLVANIA.

Figures compiled today by the State Health Department's bureau of vital statistics show that the colored population of Pennsylvania at the present time is between 420,000 and 440,000. While the exact figures will not be available until the 1930 Federal census has been completed the bureau bases its approximation on the normal increase between the years 1920 and 1929, and in addition, to the heavy northward migration of Negroes into Pennsylvania, which has been one of the unforeseen results of the Federal immigration restriction laws.

There also has been an unusual increase in the registration of colored births and deaths. There were 9436 Negro births registered in 1927, as compared to 6478 in 1920 and 4349 in 1915. Similarly there were 7589 Negro deaths in 1927, as compared with 6102 in 1920 and 4688 in 1915.

State College Sets Enrollment Figure.

A maximum enrollment of 1170 freshman students has been set for college year 1929-1930 at the Pennsylvania State College by college officers. The figure, which is equal to that for the present year, is based on present limitations of the college plant and faculty. One thousand of the number will be limited to men applicants and 170 to women applicants.

Special consideration will be given to Pennsylvania boys and girls graduated from the high school or preparatory school in the upper two-fifths of the class. Applicants for these two groups will be admitted subject to the quota during the month of July as rapidly as their applications are received, provided that the entrance requirements to the curriculum in which they desire to be enrolled are met in full.

Many cities in Florida have put a ban on solid rubber tires. It is said that this rule was made effective as solid rubber tires caused ruts in roads during wet weather. Few streets or highways in that State are constructed with rock or concreted base.

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GAME ASSOCIATION INCREASES ACTIVITY.

The American Game Protective Association has outlined the most important and constructive program for 1929 in the 17 years of its history. Taking the recommendations of the National Game Conference held in December as the basis of its program, important undertakings already under way are being continued and others have been begun, many of which are in co-operation with other national and local conservation organizations which participated in the recent National Conference and officially sanctioned the program outlined.

For the first time, an attempt will be made to outline a national policy for wild life conservation and restoration. Such a policy on which all interested organizations and individuals may unite and cooperate, is essential to coordination of their work and accomplishment of the desired results for which all are striving. Co-operation will be given to the American Forestry Association in its educational work in the Southern States to rouse the public to an understanding of the folly of annual burning of forest lands.

The association is officially identified with the National Committee on Wild Life legislation and is carrying its share of the work and responsibility of promoting legislation for federal refuges for wild fowl and other laws which are needed and asked of the present and next Congress. The association has officially approved of the establishment of wilderness recreation areas in National Forests and other places and will seek their permanent establishment.

Research into the diseases and other factors which tend to interfere with the increase of wild life will be continued, including the special investigation of the status and diseases of the ruffed grouse. Co-operation is now being furnished to various state commissioners and others, where desired, to promote improved state wild life legislation.

The co-operation of sportsmen and landowners, the control of predatory species, prevention and elimination of pollution of public waters, game breeding and game surveys are all being encouraged, and promoted. The establishment of courses of study for technical training in game management, game breeding and wild life research are being encouraged.

Big Landing Lights for Safe Night Flying.

Air field landing lights of 3,000-000 candle power designed to flood a broad field with a strong beam free glare is one of the latest safety aids to flying, reports the American Air Transport Association.

Direct light rays have been practically eliminated without reduction in illuminating power. The new device concentrates the light, thrown out across the field, to within four feet of the ground. The landing aid is not confused by any upward glare before the wheels of his machine touch the earth.

Paris Profits by Fawed Automobiles.

A pawnshop with a garage that will contain 600 automobiles—such is the ambition of the Credit Municipal of Paris, the governmental "Aunty" that looks after the Frenchman who wants a small loan.

Moreover, according to plans being drawn following approval of the project by the Municipal Council, the ambition is going to be realized at a cost of something less than \$400,000. It is estimated that the city will profit \$60,000 a year from loans made on automobiles.

NATIVE FOOD PRODUCTS.

In the American vegetable garden eight principal food products had their origin in the Indian crops existing here before the advent of the white man. These include beans, corn, peppers, pumpkins, squash, tomato, potato and sweet potato. Vegetables of old-world origin are far more numerous. The United States department of agriculture lists twenty-four of importance, cucumber, eggplant, muskmelons, watermelons, okra, asparagus, beets, Brussels sprouts, cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, celery, kale and collard, kohlrabi, leek, lettuce, onion, parsley, parsnips, peas, radish, salsify, spinach and turnip. But the value of the crop of the eight native vegetables is considerably greater than the twenty-four of foreign origin. Since the discovery of America the white man has not "tamed" any native plant which the Indians had not already brought from warmer parts of America, but notable improvements have been made in the quality and yields of most of these vegetables.

Take Fingerprints of Rich Indians.

Foreseeing days of possible discord and strife when the fabulous riches of the Navajo Indians are divided, the Interior Department has begun tagging and finger-printing each tribesman to provide definite proof of his identity.

The Navajos, a remote and isolated people, have no birth certificates. Sheep raising nomads, they break into small groups and scatter widely, it was explained. These facts made it necessary for the Indian Commissioner to devise some scheme of keeping tab on them.

So each Indian is being fingerprinted, after which his names—both American and Indian—are placed on the tribal rolls. He is then issued a metal disk, such as American soldiers wore during the World War.

This enrollment serves also, the Interior Department said, in taking an Indian census. For these people, in remote parts of Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico, are hard to reach. The Department believes the census will reveal a Navajo population of around 38,000.

The Indians, realizing the financial value of tribal membership, have been anxious to be enrolled by the Government employees and other Indians who take the census.

From now on each Indian baby will be fingerprinted and assigned a disk when it is born. The disk must be worn until death, when it is returned to the Government.

The Interior Department is planning to conduct similar censuses among the other outlying Indian tribes it was said.

Barbers to Develop Haircut for the Americans.

A distinctively American style of haircuts for both men and women will be developed at the convention of the Journeymen Barber's International Union, to open at Indianapolis, Indiana, on Sept. 11, according to the committee in charge.

"It will be an epoch-making event in the annals of the barbering professions in America," Leon Worthall, convention committee chairman, denounced the European influence upon American haircutting.

"The borrowing of styles from Europe to me is an admission that we Americans are of inferior creative mind," said Worthall. "American barbers and hair dressers are second to none of Europe's best. All that is required is a dose of 'superiority complex.'"

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