

CONSERVATION PLEDGE

Mrs. O.L. Wolters,
Tolland, Alta.

In the last issue of the BLUE JAY I mentioned the American Conservation Pledge and our adopting it. Perhaps you have already noticed in the July issue of "Outdoor Life" that Canadians have a similar pledge in both English and French with maple leaves and a beaver instead of stars and an eagle. Now I hope they make badges and seals, etc., for our coat lapels and stationery. Perhaps they have done so already. I want some as soon as I find out.

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W.A. Brownlee, Regina.

The little article on a conservation pledge (Mrs. Wolters) in the last issue of the BLUE JAY brings to mind that we have such a pledge in Saskatchewan, but so far few people know about it.

This pledge has been printed on the back of special muskrat licenses since 1947. The particular work I have been looking after in the Department of Natural Resources is the supervision of the trapping program in southern Saskatchewan. It is my hope that these pledges will be printed and distributed to all schools. The pledge is as follows:

I pledge myself as a citizen of Saskatchewan to protect and conserve the Natural Resources of my Province -- its soil and minerals, its forests, waters, and wildlife.

WE ARE BECOMING CONSERVATION MINDED

C. Stuart Francis

At last I really believe that Saskatchewan folk are becoming conservation minded. Wherever one goes he is beginning to meet people who are seriously realizing the value of conserving our forests, our waters, soils and wildlife. I believe that the awakening is due mostly to the perseverance of our public-spirited men who have, over the radio and through the newspapers, tried very hard to show the necessity of preventing the colossal waste that has been going on all over our great western country. They have endeavored to show people the pleasure and satisfaction to be enjoyed in having a Saskatchewan that is beautiful, prosperous and healthy in natural resources.

My hope is that the newspapers, radio stations, forestry officials, game officials, Fish and Game Leagues and private individuals will keep up the good work. We have only just begun to awaken to the richness and wealth of our country and of the short time left to undo the damage done by carelessness and exploitation in the past.

THE TRAIL OF EXTERMINATION - Wildlife Division, Dept.
of Resources, Winnipeg.

Until very recently the persistent idea that we have unlimited trees, animals and birds was so firmly fixed in the minds of Canadians that the man who suggested caution was looked upon as abnormal. Now more and more people have become aware that wildlife is an important part of our total resources, and that it cannot be treated as a separate item. Wildlife Management has thus begun to assume its rightful place as an integral part of land use. With the technically-trained staffs that are now employed by the Dominion and various provinces we are learning how these resources must

be handled, and we are applying the necessary controls for their preservation. Let us all be ever on the watch, lest some of the remainder of the wild animals and birds follow the trail of extermination, which the buffalo so narrowly escaped.

WANTON KILLING

K. M. Buceuk, Kamsack.

The Sunday after the local Fish and Game League had a write-up in our paper regarding crows, etc., a group of young boys spent much of the afternoon on the road allowance within half a mile of our house. We presumed that they were trying to shoot crows, but later, when I had occasion to go that way, I saw what had occupied their time. After much effort they had succeeded in killing a Flying Squirrel, of whose existence I had not even been aware.

It seems that more time might be profitably spent in educating people which animals should be conserved rather than emphasizing destruction.

CONSERVATION DEPENDS ON ONE'S POINT OF VIEW Arthur Ward

True conservation has many adherents in the province as we have observed from comments which have appeared in past issues of the BLUE JAY. Of this we must justly be proud.

I believe that acts of various predators must be condoned to that extent to which nature has devised. Man, considered by many as number one predator, considers that he has justifiable reasons in protecting ducks and other game birds from all other sources of destruction, in order that he, in turn may dispose of them. It would seem that some species that prey on other birds are immune from attacks by others. There are so many angles following along the lines of conservation, that one can hardly refrain from trespassing beyond the bounds of the cause and condoning the results we see in others.

Seated in a garden in California, I saw a Cooper's Hawk carrying a small bird in its talons, settle on a dove cote. It regarded me with baneful eyes, as I moved nearer to get a better view of the victim, who soon flew away, carrying the bird. This was repeated on another occasion. And still once again in the same garden, one of these hawks swooped towards a bush where all the small birds had scurried, causing their hurried exit. The hawk, following, seized one of the birds on the wing within twelve feet from the bush and took off with it.

On reporting this incident to the members of the Whittier Audubon Society, the only remark of the ardent conservationists was, "Yes, they do eat small birds."

CONSERVATION IS A STATE
OF MIND

- Conservation Volunteer

Today is an era of challenge, a challenge to sportsmen to unite behind a unified program of conservation, a challenge to recognize that conservation is much more than hunting and fishing, a challenge to support a program of conservation education as the basis of a long-range conservation program, and a challenge to realize that conservation is fundamental to the economic prosperity of our state and nation.

In the years gone by we have talked a great deal about conservation education. We have been impatient of results. We realize that the teaching of conservation is not achieved by legislation alone; that conservation is a state of mind; that it is an attitude.

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MUSEUM REGISTERS VITALITY

By William Rowan

(Mr. Rowan is professor of zoology and head of that department at the University of Alberta).

A few days ago I stopped over in Regina and for the first time had the pleasure of visting your provincial museum.

Having spent many professional hours in some of the famous museums of this continent and Europe, may I take the liberty of complimenting you on yours. It seems to be the fate of most local museums to start life in a basement and it was no shock to find yours in one, but I marvelled at the maturity yours had reached without bursting its walls and coming up into the open. Every cubby-hole and corridor appeared to be in use for the display of something: it seemed to me that the museum had already qualified for some fresh air and promotion!

I liked your museum on several counts. A modern museum should achieve various objectives: to provide entertainment for visitors of all kinds is perhaps the first. It does this in a manner difficult to analyse but attendance is the final arbiter as to whether a museum is dead or alive. The registered attendance at yours strikes me as remarkable, especially in view of its subterranean premises, for a city the size of Regina. It has definitely demonstrated its vitality.

Another function of a museum is to fire the imagination and inspire an interest in its exhibits, an invitation to visitors to obey the ancient behest--"Go thou and do likewise." In this way museums have been constant incentives for the development of hobbies. In our present age, when it seems to be expected of our youth that it should squander its spare hours on the fictitious glories of Hollywood, or lapping up the imported gangsterism (and today, propaganda) of the funnies, or listening by the hour to the swing, jazz and crooning (also imported rubbish) which flows incessantly from our radios, or reading the lowest forms of cheap escape literature (also mostly imported), a museum seems to belong to another world, a clean world of the great open spaces which are still our heritage.

The museum invites us to spend our time in personal effort, mental and physical, to cultivate our intellects under our own steam. It is not only great naturalists who have been born of museums, but geniuses in other fields have in the museum atmosphere discovered themselves too. From the simple inspiration of plants and animals, dinosaurs or Indians or geological formations, they have finally become critical students of the world they live in, prompted in the first place by the simple revelations of an effectively organized museum.

In Canada, where we can still hunt at a nominal cost, and there is yet something left to hunt, a museum, with its graphic displays of game animals and birds, can instil the basic principles of conservation more readily and soundly than many hours of lecturing. It can convert mere hunters into true sportsmen. There is also the art of photography which for many