

unrestricted advice of the administrators. The position would be longer and better than it is today. But there is, ultimately, no real protection for parks except in the length of public feeling. So long as public turns and bows three times the direction of the nearest stock change at every mention of "progress" or "industrial development", provincial legislatures can be depended upon to make bad decisions

about parks, and even the federal government will bear watching. There will be hope of a comprehensive and secure parks system in Canada the first time a labor union votes to down tools because a project threatens a park, or the first time an aroused citizenry mans a picket line in defence of a park. Sooner or later both these things will happen. But in the meantime the parks are disappearing.



*Sask. Govt. Photo by Ralph Vawter*

Sloughs and swamps in farming areas provide a rich harvest for the hunter. Here "recreation is the subsidiary but important use of the land."

## Ernest Thompson Seton

By E. H. M. KNOWLES, Regina

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** The author of this sketch knew Ernest Thompson Seton very well. In fact, Seton's homestead was not far from Mr. Knowles' first home in Saskatchewan.

Ernest Thompson Seton, author, artist and naturalist, was born in South Shields in the North of England near the Scottish border in the year 1860, and came to Canada at an early age with his large family. They settled in the vicinity of Toronto and from an early age it was apparent that young Seton had an aptitude for sketching, was very observant and was very fond of nature.

He was not a robust child but gained strength in the "outdoors" and with it a self reliance which came with experience. Early in life, on the advice from a friend he commenced keeping a diary from which many notes were readily available for his books.

One would say that he was restless

and that his eyes were always in focus for distant things. His manner and voice were gentle and quiet. He was extremely courteous, wiry, well set up and tall. His movements were rapid yet deliberate, and in walking he set his foot straight in the manner of a bushman.

Seton spent much of his time in and around Carberry, Manitoba from whence he made his excursions into what became Saskatchewan. He came into this area for the purpose of filing on a homestead. Names such as Fort Ellice, the Assiniboine River, the Shell River, the Bog, Little Boggy and Big Boggy, Pelly and the Duck Mountains occur often in his notes. He located his homestead, built a shanty and filed on the land. The shanty was well known as Seton's Shanty for many years afterwards.

During this time he was busy writing and his stories began to ap-



pear in periodicals and in book form. His *Life Histories of Manitoba Mammals* was published by him as Naturalist for the Province. The writings were well received and he was able to purchase a nice estate near Greenwich, Conn., U.S.A. where he set up his collections of sketches, paintings, skins and photographs. From here he ranged over the continent, his travels including a long trip to Aylmer Lake north of the Peace River country. He also made another visit to Saskatchewan with respect to the conservation of the antelope and of wild life in general.

As a raconteur he was unexcelled and his lectures were always well attended. Perhaps one remembered most the personal anecdotes which

he used to illustrate some natural law that he had learned or some gem of information which he had collected in his travels.

Some of his contemporaries endeavoured to say that he was merely a writer of nursery stories but the publication of his *Life Histories* silenced his critics and brought him great acclaim.

Seton always called himself an artist naturalist. As an artist he received his training in England and France, as a naturalist his basic training in Canada. He never failed to mention how kind the west had been to him in material.

He died at Seton Village near Santa Fe, on the last ramparts of the Rockies where the Buffalo wind was always blowing.

## An Interesting and Beautiful Native Plant

By W. C. McCALLA, Calgary

On August 10th 1923 I was botanizing in the Lethbridge area, and in tramping up and down the steep slopes I saw a plant new to me. The large white flower buds, 2 inches long, caught the eye first, then, in strong contrast, the harsh foliage very rough to the touch and clinging to one's clothes quite readily. Several times during the day I came across this same species but saw no open flowers.

After an early dinner I went back and saw to my delight that the splendid flowers were beginning to open showing the numerous yellow stamens. As I watched, the flowers continued to expand until some of them were  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches across. The light was failing and I wanted a close-up photograph of the flowers, one that would record in proper tone the yellow stamens, and in those days that meant using a filter thus lengthening the exposure—and the wind was blowing!

I selected and cut off a good flowering stem, put it into my collecting case and hurried to my hotel room. The flowers came out of the case in perfect condition. I placed the stem near the window with a grey card as a background, consulted the

light meter, and gave an exposure of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  minutes, F16, Isos 2 filter Com. Ortho film. Such a long exposure might make the eyebrows of some of my readers go up now to fast panchromatic film and flash bulbs are common place. The accompanying illustration is reproduced from the photograph taken that evening.

I am writing of course of *Menzelina decapetala* (Pursh) Urban & Gilg. Of its common names Evening Star is most appropriate as the flowers open only in the evening. From my limited experience I cannot give exact times but they seem to start open about 6 p.m. and to close at 7 p.m. or earlier.

As I have found them the petals are almost white with only a faint suggestion of cream colour. In spite of careful handling mine turned brown in the press.

A good description of this plant is given in A. C. Budd's *Flora of the Canadian Prairies*.

Gray's Manual, 8th edition, gives its range as "N. W. Ia. to Sask. Alta., to Okla., Tex. and Nev." In Canada it is found across the southern part of the prairies but it is not common.