

GREAT LAKE FISH PRODUCTION IN STEADY DECLINE

The \$2,324,284 harvest by commercial fishermen in Michigan waters of the Great Lakes in 1939 marks a continuance of the slight but steady decline of Great Lakes fish production in recent years. The records of the fish division of the department of conservation indicate that the value of the 1935 catch was \$2,822,000, while in 1936 it was \$2,559,000; in 1937, \$2,115,000, and in 1938, \$2,339,000. Greatest decline of the 1939 season was in the whitefish haul, which at \$111,859 was worth \$128,357 less than in 1938, and the take of chubs which at \$129,610 was worth \$71,816 less than in the previous year.

Lake trout continue to be by far the most valuable commercial species in Michigan's Great Lakes waters, supplying more than \$1 million pounds worth \$111,742 in 1939, \$21,665 more than in 1938. Lake herring also showed a \$22,888 gain for the year, with a 1939 catch of 2,562,555 pounds and a value of \$232,688. Yellow perch (walleyes) taken in 1939 had a value of \$291,271, nearly \$85,000 above the 1938 figure.

Saghuway bay waters proved most productive, with a yield of 8,654,033 pounds, more than a million pounds above the 1938 production. The rest of Lake Huron yielded 5,356,650 pounds, an increase of 778,352 pounds; Lake Superior yielded 5,322,740 pounds, an increase of 221,148 pounds; and Lake Erie yielded 1,265,574 pounds, an increase of 46,401 pounds, over the previous year.

These gains were more than offset by the 2,569,159 pound drop in Lake Michigan production, which was 7,569,159 pounds in 1939. Total 1939 production of 23,178,145 pounds was 504,266 pounds under the 1938 total.

Among the less valuable species taken by commercial fishermen, an increase in 1939 in the worth of the total catch is recorded for pilot fish or menominee, sauger, catfish, bullheads, and grass pike. The total catch of white suckers and mullet, carp, perch, smelt, red suckers, sheepshead, white bass and rock bass was worth less than in the year before.

The specter of hunger stalks throughout northern waters as winter loosens its grip. And man is less, terrifying than the shadow cast by the specter.

In some swamps, deer are summoned by the third of the 12. The animals, ordinarily frightened by man's movements, approach to feed on cedar browse which is placed within their reach when trees are felled to obtain fence posts.

Conservation department workers report instances of deer feeding on top branches of felled trees, while wood cutters are looting limbs further down the trunk.

This month is a critical time. While the present winter has been comparatively open and the movement of deer has been less impeded by heavy snows, the deer in overpopulated areas are not in good condition. Available browse has been largely exhausted in other winters and severe cold or above normal snowfall during the remainder of the month may cause heavy toll in some areas among weakened animals.

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Island of Helgoland Is German 'Sentinel'

Helgoland is Germany's North Sea sentinel. Lying 23 miles off shore, it is a defensive outpost for the vital German ports of Hamburg, Bremen, and Cuxhaven. This small chunk of red sandstone has an area of less than one square mile; yet there are Britons who regret that England in 1890 gave it to Germany for all the thousand square miles of the Zanzibar protectorate in Africa, according to the National Geographic society.

Helgoland was a German base in the World War and was one of the chief North sea threats to the British navy. When British ships sailed into Helgoland Bight in August, 1914, their clash with the Germans was the first serious sea battle of the war.

Residents of the island are peaceful red-faced sea-going folk, chiefly fishermen. Their small island rock was once headquarters for the North sea herring fisheries, but mysterious eddies of herring migrations swept the fish away; now the fishermen trap lobsters. Their wives until recently had a summer business of entertaining tourists, for Helgoland had been a popular resort for vacationists from northern Germany.

The town is huddled on one corner of the triangular island, with overflow at the base of the little rock's famous cliffs; the town's two parts are joined by steps and a elevator instead of stairs. A thin stretch of sandy beach projecting into the sea is popular for surf and sun-bathing. Assaults of high winds and crashing waves, however, preserve Helgoland's atmosphere of sternness, which made early Norsemen think of it as the stronghold of their stern god of justice, and for that reason a Helgo (Holy) Land.

Claire Trevor and John Wayne, who, as a romantic outdoor team, won a legion of new followers after their signal performances in "Stagecoach," repeat their sensational success in "Allegany Un- rising," RKO Radio's story of America's pre-Revolutionary period.

Miss Trevor, a versatile actress, has achieved recognition on the screen through a wide variety of characterizations, but it was not until her portrayal of a pioneer girl in "Stagecoach" that she really found her forte. Wayne, on the other hand, has appeared in innumerable western films with modest success. His performance in "Stagecoach," however, catapulted him into the top ranks of outdoor stars.

In their current vehicle, "Allegany Un- rising," the young players have their finest opportunity to date. Wayne is cast as James Smith, grim leader of the Pennsylvania settlers who, in the 1760's, took up arms against the British Crown because of the blockade of trade to the west.

Claire Trevor plays the daughter of a colonist, a fiery-tempered girl desperately in love with the "rebel" chief. Her efforts to win his

First Steam Locomotives Were Real 'Iron Horses'

The "iron horse" followed the covered wagon across the continent. Because of its much greater power and speed, it rapidly became the common means of transporting passengers and goods. It revolutionized travel. It broke down barriers of time and distance, and united widely separated territories into a close-knit nation and a common market.

The "iron horse," as the steam locomotive was known in its early days, was originally built of iron. Today it is largely constructed of steel. And today, also, it exists in a variety of types.

In addition to steam locomotives there are electric locomotives driven by current transmitted from central power stations through trolley wires of third rails. There are diesel-electric locomotives, which carry their own power stations—internal combustion engines which generate the current used for propulsion. There are steam-electric locomotives in which steam turbines drive generators which supply current to the driving motors. And there are combination locomotives, called "rail motor cars." Some of these are driven directly by internal combustion engines like automobiles. Others are driven by electricity generated by internal combustion engines, or by current supplied by storage battery, third rail or trolley.

Romantic Southern Town

So beautifully romantic were the builders of Columbus, Miss., that permission to build a railroad through Columbus was refused for years on the grounds that it was unsightly, unnecessary, and would bring the menace of undesirable persons. Not until 1881 did the planters cease to ship on the navigable Tombigbee river, and when the railroad was allowed a few die-hards continued to plant their cotton between the rails. Today the beautiful homes of Columbus vie with the old campus of Mississippi State College for Women and the site of the first free public school in the state for interest in the annual garden pilgrimage, which in 1940 is scheduled for April 14 to 16.

Mask Wearing Customs

Each family of Tamil in the Hoo guif, New Guinea, has the right to use one or more masks of a type known as tago. Each tago has a special name and is distinguished by certain definite characteristics. The masks represent spirits supposed to visit the village at the time the masked figures appear. The man wearing the mask is completely covered by a sage like dress and under no circumstances may he be seen or recognized by any woman, child or uninitiated person. Should this happen by accident the observer is killed. Examples of tago are on exhibition in Joseph N. Field hall at the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago.

Yesterday's Strange Baths

In the days before good soaps were manufactured many strange preparations were used by beauty seekers in the hopes of improving the complexion. Baths filled with milk and the juices of strange herbs were not unusual.

According to legend, some fastidious Roman gentlemen used to anoint themselves with crushed strawberries while the wild and 100 eggs were in the bath tub of an early English monarch. Now good soaps do the job, and the beauty doctors recommend soap and water cleanliness.

AT THE REDFORD THEATER



Examinations Announced By Conservation Dept.

Assembled examinations for the positions of fish culture aide, park ranger and game farm aide are announced by the personnel office, department of conservation. Applications for these examinations may be obtained from district and regional offices of the field administration division, or from the Lansing personnel office and must be postmarked on or before March 15. Candidates to be

accepted must be not under 18 years of age on the date of examination and shall have completed the eighth grade. In addition to these requirements, one year of farm experience is required for the position of game farm aide. Examinations for all three positions are to be held at Lansing, Houghton, and Marquette between the dates of March 25 and April 5.

Seats will be reserved until 7:45 for those attending their first Christian Science Lecture; no card required, simply ask for Chief Usher.

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BEAMER ADVISES CHECK OF POTATO BRANDING

Declaring that potato sales methods of some retail outlets are proving detrimental to the industry, and especially unfair to Michigan producers, Agricultural Commissioner Elmer A. Beamer advised inspectors of the importance of thorough check of the branding as to grade of all potatoes being offered at retail. The department head pointed out that state trade names and trademarks did not constitute indication of grade, and that all potatoes must be clearly marked as to grade regardless of their origin.

"Sales methods," wrote Beamer, "are not only proving a detriment to Michigan potato producers, but to those of Maine and Idaho as well. It is important that the grades be marked on potatoes for the protection of the entire industry."

"Inspectors report that Michigan potatoes, sold in bags, are generally declared as to grade, the majority being sold over the bag as to grade as 'Michigan U. S. Commercial' Grade. In another store section, Maine and Idaho potatoes are being offered in bulk of no better quality in many instances than Michigan potatoes but the inference is conveyed through the state trade-mark that these potatoes are of No. 1 quality. These bulk potatoes should be marked as to grade, and state trade-mark is to be checked closely, because we have found these potatoes below grade in quite a number of places."

"In other instances, we have reason to believe that Michigan potatoes are being sold under Maine trade-mark. Please check this closely. We know that this is of no benefit to the growers of either Michigan or Maine, and it has a detrimental effect upon the markets of both states. If Michigan U. S. No. 1 potatoes are to bring a premium, it should go to Michigan growers, and we feel certain that Maine does not care to have store keepers cashing in on its advertising."

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