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WOODSTOCK

OF DOMESTIC FOWL

Wild Turkey in Ontario Extinct-Barnyard Fowl Came From Mexico Via England

Sixty or seventy years ago, in the Niagara Peninsula and all up along Lake Erie's shore, wild turkeys were very plentiful. What happened to them? Shot out-trapped out-decimated; taking his size and rare flavor into consideration-once the King of Canadian game birds! For those magnificent creatures were often three and a half feet long and five feet in wing spread, and weighing over twenty pounds-almost the counterpart in appearance of our highest valued barnyard fowls.

When the young wild turkeys were hatched, beside some close-hidden log or in the seclusion of the deepest thickets, ten-sometimes fifteenwent to the brood. The mother bird made them the objects of her most constant solicitude and care, the little ones following close as she crept stealthily about among the densest available growth, where the grasses, plants and fruits that they fed on most abounded. Seeds and buds, too, they loved, and could never resist such delicacies as beetles, tadpoles, and small lizardrs. The only audible sign of the advance would be the mother's low, tender piping. Any danger ahead, and-at her instant change of tone-every toddler of them disappeared, only to emerge at the cautious parent's soft cluck.

They were very rarely caught sight of on the ground, but a dog could always flush them into the lower branches of the nearest trees, which was where the gons could flame their deadly work. . Oftener, however, "trapping" was resorted to, for the wild turkey was swift in addition to its wariness, and like as not ended its flight in the tallest tree instead.

The early settlers of Ontario, when they emigrated, were thoroughly well acquainted with the domestic turkey, for it was introduced into England, in 1541 and popularly given its present name from the idea that sailors trading back and forth with the land of the crescent moon had brought it hence, and, when the English farmer emigrated to Canada, naturally, he brought the bird-among other handy small live stock-with him. It is easy to picture his amazement when, roaming the woods of his section, he came across wild turkeys-and the wonderment with which he realized that he had been "carrying coals to Newcastle."

But the domestic turkey of England had not come from Canada. Away back when Cortez effected the Spanish conquest of Mexico-and history records it-than the store of gold then found in possession of the highly civilized natives nothing struck the imagination of the Spaniards more than the extensive, most complete menageries of the Mexican emperor -especial mention being made of the fact that turkeys were largely fed to the beasts of prey. The Mexicans, in fact, had domesticated the wild turkey, and habitually reared it for the table. In 1526 it had been transported in a domestic state to the West Indies and the Spanish Main, which furnishes the clue to its arrival in England fifteen years laternot from Turkey-but originally from the wild stock of Mexico.

The barnyard beauty of to-dayhis every feather proves it-is the lineal descendant of the Mexican turkey, and not of its cousin, the bird that was trapped and shot to destruction in earlier Ontario days—the magnificent creature which at a pinch could fly a mile-wide river. Sometimes a well-bred specimen of the Mexican stock has been known to attain the weight of forty-five pounds.

Hole in Bottom of Sea

It is said that a hole nearly a mile deep was formed in the bottom of the sea off the coast of Panama by Central America earthquakes: As a result of these earthquakes, a submarine cable was besten, and a cable ship was sent out to make repairs. The ends of the cable were found to be buried under enormous masses of material, and, where the Government charts published in 1904 showed a depth of 1,000 feet, soundings made from the cable ship found a depth of 5,000 feet. This remarkable depression is low ten on Los Santos Province from the mainland. and is about half a mile wide.

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Had Heaviest Snow Storm In Years

Fredericton, Jan. 22.-Fredericton had one of its heaviest snow storms in years yesterday, ten inches cf snow having fallen according to the official measurements made at the Dominion Meteorological Station at the University of New Brunswick.

The total snow fall here this winter to date is upwards of 26 inches, and the report: received today indicate that yesterday's storm was general throughout the pro-

Lumbermen, who had been complaining of there not being enough snow, are now fearful that the snow-fall may be so heavy as to interfere with their operations.

Safeguarding Lives Of Travellers By Sea

New York, Jan. 22.—Speaking of the conclusions reached by the International Conference on Safety at Sea, Paul Gottheil, chairman of the steamship companies committee to-day said that every known safeguard for life at sea, had ben provided for. The representative of the United States having signed the articles of the convention, he expressed the hope that this county would act promptly to carry the decisions of the con-

ference into eff ct. "All of us are very much relieved by the outcome of the conference," he said. "Under the international agreement bet ween the maritime nations a common practise will be established in the use of the best means known that human thought and ingenunity have

"We must wait, of course, to see the whole of the agreement in its final state, but the summary of what has been accomplished suffices to assure us that the convention has, so far as isit humanly pos sbl, provided for every known safeguard to protect life at sea."

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