

## FISH TALKS

BY GEORGE KENNAN

Secretary of the Victoria Fisheries Protective Association

III.

## FISH PROTECTION.

Inasmuch as fish and game are the property of the public—that is, of everybody—and as everybody suffers if they are completely exterminated, one might naturally suppose that everybody would be interested in taking care of them. But such is not the case. The prudent man takes care of the property that he owns individually, but when it comes to public property, that is, property of which he is only a joint owner, he regards the theft or destruction of it with indifference. In this respect the educated, civilized man shows much less forethought than does the barbarian or the savage. Among the Koraks and Chukchees of North-eastern Siberia, the reindeer are not owned by individuals, they are owned by the community, but the community, as a whole, sees that they are not wastefully or unnecessarily destroyed. Everybody is interested in preserving them, and they increase and multiply to an almost incredible extent. I have often seen six or eight thousand of these animals in a single herd. The same is true of the fish. The salmon do not belong to individuals in Siberia, any more than they do here, but as every man is interested in preventing the wasteful destruction of them, they increase and multiply until the Kamchatkan rivers are fairly choked with them.

The reasons for this difference in the management of fish and game are many, but the principal one is that the Siberian natives have always been wholly dependent upon reindeer and salmon for food, because they could not get anything else. Their climate was too severe for grain, vegetables, cattle or sheep, and if they did not take care of their fish and game, they themselves starved. With us, in Canada and the United States, conditions were different. We could get along without caribou, moose and salmon, because there were many other things to eat, so we paid little attention to the care and conservation of them. We let netters, pot-hunters and commercial exploiters take them in any way they liked, and to almost any extent that they liked, without regard to the rate of increase or the maintenance of the stock. No civilized community, in the United States or Canada, had wisdom and prudence enough to conserve its supplies of fish and game, and consequently they steadily decreased.

This finally led our governments to intervene in our behalf. Finding that certain kinds of wild life were rapidly disappearing, and that the people were heedless or indifferent, our federal, state, or provincial legislatures proceeded to do for us what we would not do for ourselves. This was the origin of our fish and game laws. Our governments had to compel us to look after our own property—or at least after the animals and fish in which we all had a common interest. And even then, some of us were so selfish as to rob the rest of us by disobeying the laws enacted for the protection of our interests, that is, by killing fish and game in defiance of the regulations. Did the rest of us take any steps to prevent these violations of law, or to discourage the men who were illegally shooting our game or netting our fish? Seldom, if ever. We looked on with indifference, and some of us even sympathized with the law-breakers, as if they were the victims of an unwarranted interference with their liberties. Others of us were simply afraid, and said to ourselves: "If we interfere with the pot-hunters who kill caribou out of season, or the poachers who net salmon at midnight, they may revenge themselves on us by burning our barns or killing our cattle."

Then, too, some of us had the mistaken idea that although we might know the persons who violated law it would be dishonorable to report them—it would be like "telling on" one's neighbor. But this idea will not stand a moment's examination. If you were one of a hundred stockholders in a corporation which owned a thousand acres of timber land, and if you knew persons who were wrongfully cutting valuable trees on that land and selling them for lumber, you would not hesitate to give information to the authorities and stop the depredations, even although you were only one stockholder out of a hundred. We are all stockholders in the public stock of fish and game, and it is not only the right, but the duty, of every one of us to furnish information that will tend to prevent the illegal destruction of it. It belongs to us, not to the pot-hunters and poachers, and we have a right to take care of it.

If our trout and salmon are decreasing in many of our rivers, and our caribou on all of our barrens, it is only because we pay no attention to them and allow more to be killed than are annually reproduced. Eternal vigilance is said to be the price of liberty. It is also the price of an adequate food supply in the shape of fish and game. If you don't "watch out," illegal fishermen, thoughtless sportsmen and commercial exploiters will get all there is left.

In order to help us look after our trout and salmon, our government has appointed wardens and established hatcheries, and in my next talk I shall review and consider the working of these agencies.

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## MADE THINGS PLEASANT FOR HER COMPANY

Caroline Convinced Dad That it was Utterly Impossible to Save Anything from Her Allowance.

(Chicago News)

"It's the end of the month," announced the father of the family aggressively.

"Oh!" murmured Caroline after a blank moment, "Is it?"

"It is," repeated her father. "Have you your accounts made out? I am interested in seeing how the plan of putting you on an allowance works."

"Oh!" said Caroline again. She looked annoyed. "Why—why, I didn't know I had to keep accounts! You said I'd have to plan my own expenditures—and—things like that."

"How much," inquired the father of the family suavely, "have you left of your \$25?"

"Left!" echoed his child indignantly. "Why there isn't any left, of course! How can there be anything left from an allowance? It's to spend, isn't it? You said \$25 was an awful lot, but it isn't! Why you'd be surprised if you knew how little \$25 is! Why, when the man said those kodak prints came to \$3.85 I was so surprised I thought he was cheating me. Of course when I had to spend all that for films, when I didn't expect to, I knew you wouldn't want me to pay for those schoolbooks so I just charged them. Oh, I don't know—one was 60 cents and another \$1.50, and I didn't ask about the rest. I think they've gone up awfully since I've had to pay for everything. Why, when you let me go to the club and charge my lunch when I was downtown I know I never paid 50 cents for a sandwich. And as for lobster—"

"Lobster!" shouted her father.

"Wh—what—where—"

"Why," said his child, "Harriet took me to the matinee and of course, I asked her to go to lunch beforehand, and when you ask a person to lunch you have to give them something nice to eat, don't you? I always have when I've taken her to your club and charged it—so we had lobster and caviare and coups St. Jacques and a lot of things—and the waiter gave me a check for \$4.75! Did you ever hear of such robbery? Why, I am sure things are lots cheaper at your club! Of I shouldn't have ordered so many things if I hadn't had company."

"And then I had to invite Harriet back, so I took her to the matinee the next week, and I forgot to get the tickets till the day before, and they were all gone. You can't take company up in the balcony, and she was all invited, so there wasn't anything to do but get box seats. And I got a box of candy and the boy handed me out a five pound one instead of the one pound I'd asked for—and, of course, I couldn't make a fuss before Harriet so I had to take it."

"She had her new spring hat on and it was raining when we came out, and I had forgotten to bring my umbrella and Harriet knew I had a pocket book full of my allowance right with me, so, of course, I had to get a taxi—and when we were in the taxi it was so much easier to come right home in it than go over to the station and fuss around taking a train—and you've always said when I have company to make things just as pleasant for them as I could."

"I paid Louise \$2 I owed her, though I really shouldn't, because it was money I'd borrowed before I had an allowance. Yes, I know you said I wasn't to borrow—but they were collecting at school for the war fund, and how could I get home and ask for \$2 when I was in school?"

"And then there was that darling Georgette waist—no, I expect I didn't need it, as I got three on my birthday, but it was an awful bargain and you said you wanted me to be economical. What? Why, I've just been telling you how tiny a sum \$25 is—"

"Of course I didn't save out \$10 toward my summer clothes! I know mother explained how I would have

## INTERESTING LEGAL POINT

Poughkeepsie, July 5—Insisting that he was within his legal rights when he appeared at the home of Justice of the Peace Joseph Van Vleet at Harrisville, at two o'clock in the morning on June 29 because his summons cited him to appear at "two a.m." and that Justice Van Vleet was wrong in entering judgment when he did not appear at two o'clock in the afternoon Wilfred Cronk is preparing to take an appeal from the judgment which was entered against him in favor of Emos Terpening. Cronk appeared at the time specified in the summons and routed the Justice out of bed. The Court explained that the summons was returnable in the afternoon, not in the morning, but Cronk insisted that it was no fault of his that the Court made the mistake and he refused to accept the oral summons to come again in the afternoon. The judgment was for a small amount growing out of a farm transaction, but Cronk is willing to spend some money to have a fine point at law decided.

to do that each month, so I'd have the money when I needed it, but how could I? I should think you could figure that out yourself! Besides, when the dressmaker's here, mother always pays her—and I can charge my goods at the stores this time, can't I? And—"

"Beginning to-morrow," remarked the father of the family, "we will return to the old system of giving you money when you explain first what you want it for—and postpone an allowance for another year!"

"Why, I think you are just as mean as anything!" cried his child in anted indignation. "When I kept track of what I spent—and everything!"

## CONSTIPATED CHILDREN

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## AUCTION!

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