

THE DAILY MAIL

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THE VANISHING GROUSE

Sportsmen and others who take an interest in the preservation of game birds will continually approve of the proposal of the Minister of Lands and Mines to inaugurate a close season for ruffed grouse or partridge in New Brunswick. The partridge is no doubt the noblest of all game birds, and it is an undeniable fact that it is nothing like as plentiful now as it was a few years ago. The hunting of partridges for the market was prohibited by statute some years ago, but the law has never been stringently enforced, and the thinning out process has gone steadily on. The time has certainly arrived when more drastic action is necessary, otherwise this popular game bird will soon go the way of the wild pigeon.

The partridge—unlike the woodcock and snipe—is not a migratory bird, but becomes a permanent resident of the locality where it selects its home. Its range is over the Eastern and Middle States and southern part of Canada. The birds feed on crickets, grasshoppers and the larvae of various insects to be found in shady recesses of the forest. They are also fond of wintergreen, snowberries, acorns, beech-nuts, blueberries, cranberries and raspberries. When need of a change of diet, they often take to cultivated fields, where they feed on grain dropped in the harvest.

When the hatching season comes around, the female bird wanders off by herself and builds her nests, usually choosing a depression near an old stump or beneath some underbrush. She lays from twelve to fourteen light buff-colored eggs, which incubate in about three weeks. As soon as they are hatched, the young birds can dodge about and hide when necessary and at the end of a week or two they are able to fly. While there is only one brood in a season, one would think that from so large a number of eggs there would be plenty of grown birds at the end of the summer, but such is not the case. They have many enemies to contend with, including the fox, the owl, the weasel, the bobcat and the hawk, and it is necessary for the mother bird when her brood is young, to be constantly on the alert. Wet weather also annually causes the death of many young birds, and those that reach maturity have to take long chances against the man or boy with the gun.

The partridge possesses some characteristics which distinguish it from all other birds which inhabit the forest. When alarmed by the approach of an enemy it will spring rocket-like into the air, with a loud whirring noise that can be heard for a considerable distance. The male bird, when on the lookout for a mate in the spring of the year, will strut about in the most pompous manner. Eventually he will mount an old log or deadfall and begin a loud rattling with his wings which resembles the beating of a muffled drum. The sound is caused by the rapid beating of the air with his wings and while it announces his presence to the more modest mountain partridge, it is also an intimation that he is ready for a scrap with any other male bird that happens to be prowling about in the neighborhood. It is said that the male partridge will return to the same trysting place year after year. Although well protected with feathers, the partridge suffers considerably from the cold during the winter season. Often the birds die head foremost from the limbs of a tree into a snowbank and remain there for the night. It is a lamentable fact that often when an icy crust forms during the night over the snow, the partridge, unable to free itself, dies a miserable death.

It would be a crying shame of such a splendid game bird as the partridge should be permitted to become extinct in this province. If a close season for a period of three years should be inaugurated, surely every sportsman and every lover of nature can be counted upon to co-operate heartily with the authorities in its enforcement.

Fredericton had one of its oldest and most esteemed citizens in the death of Mr. John Hodge, who passed away

at his home on Northumberland street last evening. Mr. Hodge was not a native of Fredericton, but the greater part of his long and useful life was spent here. In pre-Confederation days he served as a member of the city council and had the distinction of being the oldest ex-alderman. A man of sterling character and high intelligence, he ever manifested a warm interest in the affairs of the city, and always enjoyed the confidence and esteem of his fellow-citizens.

Halifax Chronicle: Mr. William Smith, M.P., Conservative Unionist member for South Ontario, says that sixteen fine horses presented to the Canadian forces for use in France, never reached their destination, but were retained here, and replaced by equines of a less valuable breed. We thought we had seen the last of "war horse deals" when Premier Borden "banged, barred and bolted" the prison doors, that is to say, figuratively and rhetorically, behind his famous operators in Kings county. But, alas, we fear it was only a delusion and a snare.

Meriden Journal: Now if they will stop speaking of corn flour as "corn-meal" and put it up in yellow boxes with a picture of a pretty girl outside, how the sale of it will jump, even at a higher price.

Through Our Sieve

So far as memory goes, the color of coal is black.

J. Frost always brings his nerva with him.

We would like to give up zero weather during lent.

One advantage of the open-faced pie is its candor in revealing its contents.

"Kultur" will be on the world's index expurgatorius when all is said and done.

A merchant can get along without advertising, and so can a wagon without grease—but it goes hard.

After a young man has blown in all his money on a girl she often shows her gratitude by marrying some other fellow.

The man who can say "yes" and "no" at the right time has a sufficient command of language.

You will be surprised to find out how much good there is in the world if you will sit up and take notice.

A woman declares that she has the best husband on earth, but that is no sign that she expects to meet him in heaven.

A woman who is satisfied with her neighbor is never satisfied with herself—but who ever saw a woman satisfied with her neighbor?

While the prospects for loot are good the German people will stand firm for Hohenzollernism.

Persons who say they never believe what they see in the newspapers are apt to be the ones who lie to reporters.

N.S. HOUSE OPENED TODAY

Halifax, Feb. 21.—The 1918 session of the Provincial Legislature opened at three o'clock this afternoon with the usual ceremonies. A military guard of honor was present and there was a large attendance of officers of both services and representative citizens.

Premier Murray was unable to leave Ottawa in time to be here today and there were eight other vacancies in the House of Assembly when the Legislature opened. Major Ralston, Cumberland, is now in France; J. O. Lory, Guysboro, is in Montreal; Dr. J. F. Ellis, former Speaker, is on military service. The other five vacancies are due in one case to death, and the other members resigned their seats to go to the Federal House.

MANY GUNS CAPTURED

(Canadian Press direct wire.) London, Feb. 21.—The British captures in the past year included 168 heavy howitzers, 63 heavy guns, 437 field guns, 1,055 trench mortars and 2,514 machine guns. This statement was made by James MacPherson, parliamentary under-secretary for war, in introducing the army estimates in the House of Commons today.

Hon. A. S. White of Sussex, is at the Barker House.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE—Sauer Kraut, Frankfurters, Pork Sausage, Pig's Feet, Fresh Herring and Halibut, Salt Herring, Salt Shad, Cooking and Eating Apples. CURRIE BROS. 3 ins

BRITAIN WILL NOT RECOGNIZE ILLEGAL PEACE

(Canadian Press direct wire.) London, Feb. 20.—The British government has instructed its agent at Kiev to make the declaration that Great Britain will not recognize any peace in the east which involves Poland, without a previous consultation with Poland.

Berlin Excited. The news that Leon Trozky, the Bolshevik foreign minister, sent a wireless message to the German imperial chancellor, Count Von Hertling accepting the peace terms of the Central Powers has caused great excitement in Berlin, according to an Exchange Telegraph despatch from Amsterdam.

Chancellor Von Hertling is expected to make a statement in the reichstag tomorrow bearing on Germany's reply.

Apparently there is to be no cessation in the eastward march of the enemy until the Bolshevik government entirely slakes the thirst of the Teutons for a peace "which corresponds with our interests" as expressed by the German foreign minister.

Southern Esthonia has been entered by troops from German warships in the Gulf of Riga or from Moon or Oesel Islands lying off the shore, and a base established from which operations may be carried on against Ural, an important port on the Gulf of Finland; northeast and east of Dvinsk the penetration of the enemy along the railroad lines leading to Petrograd and Smolensk at last accounts had reached more than twelve miles and thence southward to Volhynia the invasion was in progress over wide areas, with the Germans taking prisoners and guns, rolling stock and other booty in large quantities. The line over which the Germans are operating, from southern Esthonia to Lutsk, is more than five hundred miles in length.

LOCAL NEWS

Still Alarm This Morning. There was a still alarm this morning at 9.30 for an overheated pipe at the home of Mr. Herbert Leslie, York street. There was no damage.

Measles, Not Smallpox. The Mail by error yesterday stated that there was smallpox in the Central Ontario Regiment Draft quartered here. The disease is measles, three new cases being discovered.

Successful Operation. Mrs. J. A. Morrison has returned from Montreal, where she accompanied Mr. Morrison, who was operated upon, having a growth removed from his face. He has recovered and has returned to the scene of his lumbering operations on the headwaters of the St. John river.

Death of Aged Lady. Mrs. Lydia Lozier, widow of John Lozier, died very suddenly this morning from heart failure. She had suffered with the disease for some time. She was aged eighty-six years. One son John, and one daughter Mary, survive. The funeral will take place Friday afternoon from the residence of Mr. R. G. Lee. The service will be conducted by Rev. J. S. Sutherland at three o'clock.

Funeral of Late J. F. Payne. The funeral of the John F. Payne took place yesterday afternoon and was very largely attended despite the inclement weather. The service was conducted by Very Rev. Dean Neales and interment was made at the Rural cemetery. The mourners were James W. Biggs, Robert Biggs, W. A. Adams, Norman Edgecombe, R. B. Phillips, G. W. Hodge, F. L. Cooper, Thomas Feeney, J. T. Jennings, N. Sutherland, J. K. Pinder, M.P.P., Dr. W. C. Crockett, M.P.P., William Vranburg and William Mackey.

Vicious Rats in St. John. St. John Globe: Mr. F. A. King, teamster, had a nasty encounter with rats in his barn, Britain street, a few nights ago. He saw a couple of the big rodents, and when he made to chase them they ran up a light wire. He struck at them with a blacking brush and, seeing that one intended to jump, turned his back. It lit on his coat and running up under his vest, bit him. Backing against the wall, he succeeded in killing the rodent. The other had hidden behind a barrel and when Mr. King turned to find it he was again attacked, the rat running up one trouser leg and biting him so savagely in three places that he was confined to the house for a day. He succeeded in killing it but says he will let rats alone in future.

PERSONAL.

Hon. J. P. Byrne of Bathurst, attorney general, is a guest at the Queen.

Mr. Thomas Cuzzolino of Sydney, N. S., is at the Queen. He arrived last night.

Auditor General Loudoun who has been laid up by an attack of la grippe is again able to be out.

Hon. E. A. Smith of Shediac, Minister of Lands and Mines, arrived in the city this morning.

Hon. W. C. H. Grimmer of St. John, is a guest at the Queen.

Hon. P. J. Veniot of Bathurst, Minister of Public Works, is a guest at the Queen.

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Notice of Legislation.

Public Notice is hereby given that application will be made at the next session of the Legislative Assembly of the Province of New Brunswick, for the passage of an Act authorizing and empowering the City Council of the City of Fredericton to grant further exemptions in respect of Free Water, Free Sewerage and Free Taxation on the site, plant, equipment, stock in trade and property generally of The Hartt Boot & Shoe Company, Limited. Dated at Fredericton, N. B. this 6th day of February, A. D. 1918.

MOSES MITCHELL, Mayor. G. R. PERKINS, City Clerk.

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