

## Old Times Recalled

The following interesting paper on Old Clocks was read on October 16 before the York and Sunbury Historical Society by Major F. A. Good, M.A. of the Provincial Normal School. It contains reference to many old clocks in the possession of Fredericton families. This paper will be published in installments from day to day.

### OLD CLOCKS

(By F. A. Good)  
(Continued)

In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries many celebrated clocks were made and installed in great Cathedrals, and public buildings. Some exist to the present day. In 1500 a Clock-makers' Union was formed in England under Royal Charter. But clockmakers and clockcase makers were two separate guilds.

In the seventeenth hundreds, Chippendale and Sheraton and other celebrated cabinet makers, were turning out beautiful "long cases" for clocks, or "Grandfather's Clocks" as we term them now.

But it might be well to pause and consider some important problems that had to be worked out before the clock was a reliable instrument for telling time.

### The Pendulum

Galileo discovered the principle of the pendulum about 1600, and though he wrote about clocks he did not apparently think of using the principle his own mind had given to the world. The clocks were already weight driven, but they had very crude devices to control the weights. The Dutchman, Huygens, made use of the pendulum, and Dr. Hooke, the Englishman, invented the anchor escapement for clocks; the pendulum was improved by thinning the upper end to a ribbon of steel, and the clock was off to a good start on its journey of development.

The early house clocks were all square, almost cubical, and were called "Birds' Cage" clocks, or "Lantern clocks." The last survivors of these clocks are gathered in to museums or private collections. Later, the long case clock, or grandfathers clock, came in, and was the prime favorite with those who could afford one.

The "Bird Cage" had but one hand—the hour hand—and the pendulum was short and swung back and forth in front of the dial. The grandfather clock from the first became the most highly decorated clock that could be bought. For many years they were only made for the rich. Very few of these fine clocks ever came from England to New Brunswick. They probably got as good as they could afford, but they are not to be compared with those, with marvels of decoration lavished upon them. In fact, English clocks have always come here in very limited numbers as compared with those from the United States.

It is the intention of the writer to confine himself very largely to the American clocks that flooded the country beginning about 1800 and lasting down to the present time. It was a common practice ending about a hundred years ago, in America, for a clock-maker to build (by hand, of course,) a number of movements and then set out on horseback with some of these attached to the saddle, and peddle these in the country from door to door. The purchaser could set these

up just as they were, attached to the wall or place them on a shelf or mantel, with holes cut in to let the pendulum through. When the new owner got sufficiently in funds he would set the village carpenter or cabinet-maker to work to make a suitable case.

### Clocks in America

One of the earliest (possibly the very first) to make clocks in America was Benj. Bagnall, an Englishman who came to Boston in 1712. He was commissioned to make a Town Clock for Boston. He made and set this up in 1722, so he writes on the inside of the case, which is still in existence. It was of the pendulum type, as all the clocks were then. His son Samuel made some fine clocks some years later. Enos Doolittle left a few very fine clocks to his credit. Quite a number of makers working on a small scale left some clocks of good workmanship. The truth about this, in all probability, is that the poor ones were scrapped and the better ones were the survivors.

Among the many clock-makers that follow there stand out two names, both great names, in the history of American clock-making, but the greater of these was Willard. There were three brothers of this family. Benjamin was the eldest, born 1743. Simon next, 1753, and Aaron last, 1757. Simon became the most famous, and all three called their output "timepieces." Benjamin made musical clocks. Played a tune a day and a Psalm tune on Sunday. These bring a big price when found, for Benjamin did not make many, and consequently they are rare. Aaron made tall clocks that would strike. In one he made, he wrote inside, "The first short time-piece made in America."

(To be Continued)

## CIRCUMSTANCES FAVOR ITALY

Sir Samuel Hoare, British Secretary for Foreign Affairs, has replied to the French questionnaire seeking to learn the British attitude toward enforcement of the League Covenant in case of violation by a "non-member state in Europe." The French note "diplomatically" spoke of Germany and her Austrian ambitions. Sir Samuel diplomatically replied that to interpret his Geneva speech as being "peculiar to the Italo-Ethiopian conflict would be complete misunderstanding."

In reassurance he said: "I pointed out and I re-emphasize that the League stands with it, for collective maintenance of the Covenant in its entirety, and, particularly for steady and collective resistance to all acts of unprovoked aggression." In doing so Sir Samuel did not retreat a fraction from the firm attitude at Geneva, but at the same time his statement does little beyond making more clear that any action Britain may take is dependent on the collective action of Geneva. "If risks for peace are to be run," he said, "they must be run by all. So long as the League preserves itself by its own example this Government and this nation will live up to its full principles."

Nothing could be stronger, nothing could be more reasonable, yet it is of little help to French fears, no solution for Premier Pierre Laval's problems and no aid to the Abyssinian impasse. The French question gives support to what observers have long pointed out. The issue now is not the peace and independence of Ethiopia, but the security of France and peace in Europe. All that has been made clear in the past week of questions and answers is how completely the whole crisis is a consequence of the mistaken diplomacy and miscalculations of the three principals, Great Britain, Italy and France.

Anna O'Hara McCormick, Rome correspondent of the New York Times, in a week-end despatch summarizes the position in two crisp sentences when she says: "London never counted on Rome's power of resistance; Paris never reckoned on London's uncompromising pressure for sanctions. Rome's policy was based on complete faith in France's active or passive support."

Each of the three, confident of the others' ultimate retreat, talked itself into the present deadlock. How it shall conclude, who shall give in, depends on what ultimate decision they reach regarding the future of Europe and the results of any actions they may take upon it. For that reason, if for no other, the logical deduction is that Italy will have her way. Apart from the fact that there is nothing to assure collective action at Geneva on rigid, effective sanctions, France and Britain must face together the problem of irreparably dividing the European front.

Great Britain will not, cannot lose sight of the words of Mr. Winston Churchill, when he said: "To any one with a sense of proportion, the rearmament of Nazi Germany must appear as the greatest and grimmest fact in the world today." If sanctions against Italy can possibly mean her reunion with Germany there can be no sanctions.

## WILL SAVE AMERICA ITS DUCKS AND WATERFOWL

Hunters Guns are Thinning Ranks of Game Birds—Those Who Would Protect Birds Have to Contend Against Hidden Interests, Says Christian Science Monitor.

### Homes of The Canvasback

This duck nests chiefly in Canada west of Lake Winnipeg, in the shaded areas, but increased settlement and drought are forcing him out of the black portion. The bird winters chiefly in the Atlantic and Gulf coast regions, from New Jersey to Texas, and in the Pacific Coast region from British Columbia to Southern California. The greatest winter concentration is in Chesapeake Bay, Maryland and southward to North Carolina. The bird is subject to shooting over half its breeding range, over all its migratory range, and in all its wintering area on both coasts.

Out of 44,000,000 ducks said to constitute the wild duck population of North America at the close of the 1934 breeding season, only 27,000,000 survived the rigors of the hunting season and returned to the north to rear new families this year. In other words, 17,000,000 ducks, or nearly four out of every ten fell victims of legal or illegal shooting or natural enemies. How long can the duck population stand this decimation without the extinction of several species, at least, if not of this whole important wild-fowl group?

We do not know, of course, just how many ducks came south this fall from the nesting grounds, but we do have the positive warning statement of the United States Biological Survey that for the last thirty-five years more ducks have been killed than were raised. The figures quoted above are estimates from the careful researches and extensive travels of trained observers for the survey.

North America's waterfowl include more than twenty species of ducks and seven or eight of geese, besides occasional visitors from Eurasia. There are also two swans, the larger of which, the Trumpeter, was almost gone before the United States stopped its shooting.

Since the announcement of new and "rigid" hunting regulations this fall, it is claimed that the birds will be made sufficiently safe. The elimination of baiting and live decoys and of shooting from boats or sink-boxes will help a lot, and so will the lowering of the bag limit to ten birds a day. But the virtues claimed for the thirty-day season, with its two zones of complementary dates, are not so impressive. The shooting season begins October 21 in the north, and the southern season begins at the close of the northern one.

This may mean only thirty days' hunting for the shooter who has to stay near home, but it means sixty days of exposure to gunfire for the duck that flies southward through the two zones. Moreover, many gunners are also able to migrate, and many thousands of them will shoot for two months this fall.

Last year about 600,000 hunters brought duck stamps, the federal requirement for legal shooting of waterfowl. With a legal limit of ten birds a day and an open season of thirty to sixty days, you can figure how long the duck supply is likely to last if shooting is not stopped.

The earliest pioneers of New England were astonished at the tremendous numbers of waterfowl that came in the autumn from the vast country to the northward. Similar accounts have come down to us from other sections. Waterfowl and other game birds long constituted a very substantial part of the food of the settlers.

Within the last sixty or seventy years we find such records as the following: About 1870, as many as 1,500 ducks (principally canvasbacks and redheads) were frequently killed on Chesapeake Bay in a single day; one man killed 187 canvasbacks in a day and 7000 in a season. Somewhere 118 ducks were killed at one shot, and two men killed 1500 in one day. Four men killed 400 teal in one day. One discharge of a Mexican armada (several barrels united and shot together) yielded nearly 4,700 ducks at one discharge.

Such excessive kills are no longer possible, but the will to destroy is still dominant. Is it any wonder that our waterfowl face extinction?

Ducks and geese are northern breeders and the shape of North America, a huge triangle with its base to the north and its apex to the south is such as to produce myriads of these birds and also to provide the greatest facilities for their destruction. In the immense northern wastes, with thousands of ponds and marshes abounding in food, the waterfowl are nurtured. Soon, under the spur of the cold, they must hurry south and crowd themselves into the relatively small, densely settled areas that there await them.

Before the coming of the Europeans, the waterfowl population was beyond calculation. But even in Audubon's day the birds had begun to diminish. As settlement and agriculture moved westward the destruction increased. With the coming of the railroads the game enriched the merchant and carrier who moved it to

distant cities. Shooting for sport and market increased, encouraged by a dozen lines of commercialization—the sale of guns, ammunition, sporting clothes, boats, dogs, live decoys, bait and the hire of helpers all along the line. There were of course, restrictions in seasons, bags and to some extent, in methods, but ever the birds grew scarcer.

Still there was little alarm, for only a few farsighted individuals opposed the armies whose selfish interest urged a continuance of killing. All this time, men plowed and drained, and built cities, made more deadly guns and eventually introduced motorcars that take hunters to the country. Restrictive laws came, and finally a treaty between the country that produced the birds and the one that destroyed them, and the refugees. All these served only to slow up, but not to stem a decline that proved to be steady and relentless.

Then came a series of years of drought, the most severe of a cycle that had long been known to the Indian. Those who profited by the waterfowl "industry" cited this as the principal cause of a temporary scarcity that would be cured by the return of rains. Others argued that this drought was a valuable warning that marked the culmination of a dangerous decline in waterfowl, and so it proved.

It has become law that resident game is considered the property of the state, but migratory game is under the control of the nation. The United States statute giving effect to the migratory bird treaty with Canada.

But to these deterrent factors men have brought their own presence. They have, it is true, reduced the numbers of so-called natural enemies, but they have added their own destructive selves, and of all the predatory animals ever known men are the most rapacious, because of the nature of their weapons and because of the habit of hunting not only for subsistence but also for sport.

About thirty years ago, in the course of field investigations under Biological Survey auspices, I traversed by canoe nearly 10,000 miles of the waterways of northern Canada between Hudson Bay and the Pacific. From these and later journeys, supplemented by studies of the published reports of other explorers, I am familiar with the capabilities of upward of a million square miles of country that is occupied by breeding waterfowl.

Its eastern half was formerly the nursery of waterfowl hordes probably never surpassed by those of any similar area in the world. Their numbers will never be known even approximately, for the early explorers took the immense flocks as a matter of course, and had no measure of comparison to hand down to us. But the traveler of only a generation ago found the birds in numbers that seem tremendous when compared with the pitiful remnant that now breed there.

It cannot be too emphatically stated that in northern Canada and Alaska, north of the region of dense settlement, agriculture and drought, the favorable conditions for waterfowl breeding that formerly prevailed remain today unimpaired. Conditions there cannot be blamed as an explanation for the diminution of supply. Millions of ponds and marshes, filled with the food plants, snails, insects, amphibians and fishes that formerly nourished the vast hordes of breeding waterfowl still abound. Without doubt ten times the number of birds that now survive the millions of guns besetting them in their winter homes could now find cover and food to raise their broods.

It is plain, therefore, that it is our duty to spare a sufficient breeding stock to go back north, and gradually to build up a supply in this vast unpopulated nursery. Our failure to conserve the supply by other methods indicates that this can be accomplished only by stopping for a time—a year or more—all shooting whatever. With the need so great, it must be plain to any unprejudiced observer that our waterfowl cannot be restored by half-way measures.

Following the passage of the Migratory Bird Treaty Act some refuges were established, spring shooting was abolished, seasons shortened and bag limits lowered, and for a time it appeared the waterfowl were safe. Many influential gunners seemed to think they were too safe, for in 1922 there was inaugurated what turned out to be a series of campaigns to establish a great chain of refuges, to be financed by a federal hunting license, this to cost \$1. The joker in this enterprise was that each refuge was to become in part a public hunting ground on which the birds attracted by the "refuge" were to be shot.

This proposal was defeated for the time and instead the excellent Norbeck-Anderson bill became law in 1929. It contemplated a chain of waterfowl sanctuaries without hunting

## ENGLISH ALPHABET BASED ON OLD ARAMAIC TONGUE

Centuries-old Mystery Cleared Up by Noted Ethnologist; Origin of Modern Letters Traced to Ancient Pictorial ABC.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Oct. 18 — Dr. George Lamsa, internationally known ethnologist associated in research with Smithsonian institution scientists yesterday announced the solution of a centuries-old mystery—the discovery of the origin of the English alphabet.

The discovery involved a search of ancient Greek manuscripts, the revelation that the Greeks themselves had no idea where the alphabet came from, and finally the ultimate discovery of the first alphabet as used among the nebulous civilizations of the ancient Near East.

Aramaic, a language which spread through the Euphrates Valley about 900 B. C., and a later form of which was spoken by Jesus, provided the key. The ancients of the Near East, Dr. Lamsa said, developed the alphabet, almost as it is known today, from observing the pictures of objects at every hand.

### Once Pictures

Almost every letter of the modern alphabet was once a picture with a definite meaning of its own — from "A," which meant God, to "Y," which meant the human hand. Dr. Lamsa said it was significant that the first three letters, A, B, and C, meant respectively God, House and Camel, or the Deity, home and transportation.

With a little imagination nearly all the letters in the present-day alphabet may be identified as the pictures modified through the centuries, of the objects they originally represented.

Dr. Lamsa's picture alphabet, including most of the 22 Aramaic symbols with a brief description of each, follows:

A. Alep, or Alpo, meaning ox, the most powerful animal in Assyria, and hence worshipped as a god.

B. Bet, house. The shape of the letter still resembles the floor plan of an ancient Semitic house.

C. Camla, camel. The camel's hump still remains as the top of the letter.

D. Dalet, delta, the triangular-shaped piece of land in the mouth of a river, especially marked in the Greek letter Delta.

I. Aena, the human eye.

### Clenched First

K. Kap, clenched fist. The letter still bears some slight resemblance to the fist, held sideways.

L. Lama, jawbone.

M. Maya, water. The waves may have been seen in the top loops of the letter.

N. Nargo, axe, or the pick-axes combined, one right side up; the other upside down.

O. Wazna, container for oil or precious perfumes, a sealed jar.

P. Pey or poma, the human mouth, including the chin, which still remains in the tail of the "P".

R. Resha, the human head, including the neck.

S. Sahra, the moon.

T. Tara, door, as of a tent.

TH.Tera, bird.

Y. The human hand, held upwards with fingers spread apart.

Dr. Lamsa is associated with Dr. J. P. Herrington, language expert of the Smithsonian Institution in further research into the characteristics of the original Aramaic. He has com-

pleted only recently the first translation of the Old Testament from Aramaic in 2,000 years.

Dr. Lamsa, who is deeply sun-burned from many years in the baking heat of the Near East, said the first alphabet contained only consonants.

"Vowel sounds were invented many centuries later for purposes of easier reading", he explained. "The Greeks overcame the difficulty by inventing additional letters to make their speech easier. English took over these extra letters, while the Armenians and Russians added still others to express their ideas more clearly in writing."

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## MANY PRESENT CHORAL SERVICE, CROSS UNVEILING

Choral Festival at Christ church Cathedral with Combined Choirs Present—Hymnal Service on Seasons of Christian Year, With Lessons Read—Unveiling of Canterbury Cross, Gift to Church, by Rev. W. J. Bate.

Christchurch Cathedral conducted a choral festival last evening, a choir composed of two hundred and fifty voices from the combined choirs of the Fredericton Rural Deanery being present, including seventy boy choristers. Rev. Dean J. H. A. Holmes was in charge of the service.

Besides the choral service which consisted in a hymnal recital of the story of the Christian year in seasons, the final part of the service featuring the unveiling of the Canterbury Cross which has recently been presented to the Cathedral as a gift from the Archbishop of Canterbury, set in stones from the Canterbury Cathedral. The cross, a small replica of the Canterbury one, was unveiled by Rev. W. J. Bate, following which Very Rev. Dean Holmes read the transcription on it, as well as the words of the Archbishop who made the gift. Dean Holmes pointed out that it was not necessary to dedicate the cross for it had been blessed by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The choral service lasted for about an hour and a half commencing at 8 o'clock. During the service Very Rev. Dean Holmes observed that "the choral union was for the purpose of encouraging singing of good music and for familiarizing the choir with the music of the church." He explained that it was a unique service, being a departure from the old tradition and is the type of hymnal service which is being carried out at the present time in the Old Country.

Dean Holmes almost noted for the sake of the audience that it was the first occasion for the presence of the boys in a choral service of the church. He hoped it would encourage other choirs of the deanery to use boys in the choir and cultivate their vocal possibilities.

### Special Prayer

As each season of the Christian year was eulogized in the hymn the altar cloths were changed to depict the season of the year, and between the singing lessons were read by members of the church ranging from the choir boys up to Venerable Archdeacon A. F. Bate, who read the concluding lesson. The seasons included special hymns for Advent, Easter, Ascension and Trinity. Special prayers were said by Very Rev. Dean Holmes, one being for the missionary workers of the church.

During the singing of the hymn of the Crucifixion the altar was bared, although during the other seasons the altar boys placed appropriate colors symbolizing the special season.

The meeting was closed with the pronouncement of the Benediction by Very Rev. Dean Holmes.

The names of those who read the messages were as follows: choir boy, Frederick Murray; Normal School student, Michael Saunders; choir man, Gordon Cummings; U. N. B. student, W. A. Gibson; Sunday School Superintendent, Roy H. Colwell; Professor, R. E. Cattle; Lay reader, Ernest Doherty; Church army captain, Capt. A. E. Doering; Deacon, Rev. Frank Colman; Priest, Rev. J. R. Bel-yea; Archdeacon, Ven. Archdeacon A. F. Bate.

It pays to advertise in The Daily Mail.

## Now Science Explains Why So Many People Past 40

Feel That They're Slipping Losing Their "Grip" on Things



Many people 'round 40 think they're "growing old." They feel tired a lot . . . "weak." Have headaches, dizziness, stomach upsets.

Well, scientists say the cause of all this, in a great many cases, is simply an acid condition of the stomach. Nothing more.

All you have to do is to neutralize the excess stomach acidity.

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