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## PRESERVATION OF RABBITS IS OBJECT OF U. S. SURVEY

(By Frederic J. Haskin)  
WASHINGTON, August 2—The American rabbit, of all the wild creatures found in the United States, seems to be the most preyed upon not only by other animals but by men. This mild little creature is found in every part of the country and is familiar to every one living in rural or even in suburban regions. Because of the prevalence of rabbits they have not received close scientific attention in the past, but now under the new policy of wildlife protection the United States biological survey and the American Wildlife Institute have undertaken close study.

Ernest Thompson Seton, the naturalist and prolific writer of both fact and fiction about animals, has estimated that the food value to man of the wild rabbit crop is not less than \$25,000,000 a year. This seems a high figure, but, in addition to the tons of rabbits sold in cities every year, an even larger portion is used for food by country people who hunt and trap chiefly in the autumn season, to augment their larders.

terrain under study was made to find nests. Within a given area 42 rabbit nests were found. These were kept constantly under sly observation, and it was found that 28 were destroyed before the first litters were produced. Not yet have the observers been able to discover the cause of this destruction. It is known of course, that ferrets, weasels, foxes and dogs are natural enemies, but which creatures cause the most destruction has not yet been learned. In one nest, three little bunnies which had not yet opened their eyes were found dead with throats cut. This was probably the work of a ferret or a weasel.

A man hunter will spare the young but an animal hunter makes no such discrimination. While still young they are subject to death by violence. The survival rate is relatively low, and it is only because of the large numbers born each year that the rabbit population is sustained.

It probably is not usually realized, especially by the urbanite, that the rabbit is a creature of nocturnal habits. The rabbit's day begins about 6.30 in the evening and continues through the night until about 6.30 in the morning. During these night hours food is sought and devoured. The female rabbit remains fairly close to the nest, seeking food in a restricted area, but the bold male will range over as many as 10 acres. When broad day comes, both seek the shelter of undergrowth, where they lie still and close. The daytime hunter who flushes a rabbit has stumbled upon a shelter. Trappers take their rabbits at night when the creatures are ranging abroad. The rabbit is safe from traps in the day because it is lying hidden.

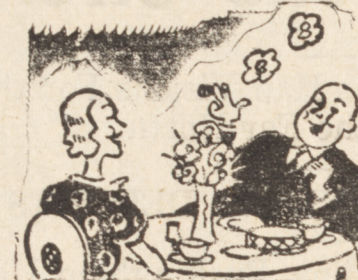
Observation, aided by use of instruments, has shown that the day shelters or rabbits are places where 50 per cent. or less of full sunlight penetrates.

### Food Habits of Rabbits

Rabbits are hunted by man for food and, occasionally, only for sport but, in addition, many farmers systematically hunt them because they

(Continued on Page Seven)

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## FRESH IMPRESSIONS ARE NEEDED, SAYS SIR HERBERT AMES

Britain Does Not Intend To Let the League of Nations Drop

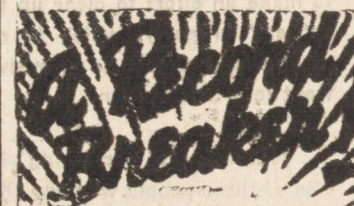
MONTREAL, July 30—"Britain does not intend to let the League of Nations drop out of sight" declared Sir Herbert Ames, of Boston, former financial director of the League Secretariat in a shipboard interview prior to sailing for Europe on the Canadian Pacific Liner Duchess of Bedford this morning.

The League, Sir Herbert thought, was "in a state of suspended animation" awaiting a reviving move from England. When the "Old Country" gets onto its feet the League will be saved.

Definite confirmation of this belief was expected by the League expert when he reached London. He was travelling he said to Germany, Czechoslovakia and Austria there to employ his close connections with government officials in studying international relations. This topic and that of European conditions have formed the basis for lectures Sir Herbert has delivered in all four of the States south of the border, since his retirement from active league activity in 1926.

His Bedford sailing this morning was to be the fifth crossing to Europe for condition study in the past ten years.

"Fresh impressions" were needed one from the very first. At the he said. Sir Herbert will be returning to Ohio project, a careful search of the thing in about two months.



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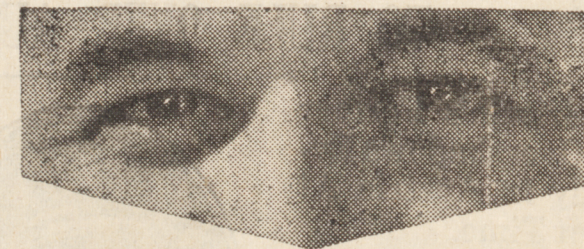
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