

IN THE LIMELIGHT

TARDIEU NEXT FRENCH PREMIER?



The report comes from Brest, France, that Andre Tardieu will be the next French premier. In that stronghold of socialism the men who make politics what it is in that end of France predict the resignation of Premier Clemenceau before long.

Political gossip has it "The Tiger" will retire with colors flying, taking no chances of asking the chamber of deputies to vote its confidence in the government. Much of this talk comes from circles in which are the supporters of Deputy Goude of Brest, member of the extreme left, who has led the fights against Clemenceau.

This speculation is coincident with the arrival here from the Black sea of the French warship Justice. Now, it was aboard the Justice that the sailors mutinied in Sebastopol and in whose behalf Deputy Goude demanded amnesty, lining up 137 votes in support of the motion, 100 members ab-

staining from voting on the question. Those whose chatter in a political strain predict that Clemenceau will address the chamber and point out that he has brought France to a just peace that his work is done, and that he will resign.

CARSON'S MESSAGE TO AMERICA

The Irish question is always interesting. While President De Valera of the "Irish republic" is here to raise money and is greeted by enthusiastic crowds, Sir Edward Carson, the Irish unionist leader, is telling the United States to mind its own business. In a speech at Belfast he said:

"Heaven knows I want good feeling between America and this country. I believe the whole future of the world probably depends upon the relations between the United States of America and ourselves, but I am not going to submit to this kind of a campaign, whether for friendship or any other purpose.

"I seriously say to America today, you attend to your own affairs; we will attend to ours. You look after your own questions at home; we will look after ours. We will brook no interference in our own affairs by any country, however powerful. It is not for that we waged the great war of independence which has just been concluded. What right had an American mission to come to this country—come here in a breach of hospitality of one nation toward another—to attempt to stir up strife in matters in which they were not concerned?

"The encouragement those men gave the Sinn Fein party has created for the British government far more difficulties than ever before."



WOULD KEEP PRESIDENTS AT HOME



The president of the United States would not be permitted, during his term of office, to leave the country or to perform the duties of his office except at Washington, under a bill introduced by Representative Campbell of Kansas, chairman of the house rules committee. The bill's text follows:

"Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, section 1, that from and after the passage of this act it shall be unlawful for the president of the United States, during the term of his office, to absent himself from the territorial jurisdiction of the United States or to perform the duties of his office at any other place than at the seat of government established by the act for establishment of the temporary and permanent seat of government of the United States, approved July 16, 1790, to which this act is an amendment."

Representative Campbell had prepared a lengthy address on his bill in which he sharply criticized President Wilson for going to Europe for the peace conference, but unanimous consent for its immediate delivery was refused by Representative Blanton, Democrat, Texas.

LADY BEATTY'S RICHES COSTLY

An income of \$200,000 a year is supposed to insure one from fear of the wolf at the door. But not if one lives in England and owns property in the United States. Here is what happens in the case of Lady Ethel Beatty, wife of Admiral Sir David Beatty of the British navy, and daughter of the late Marshall Field.

The British government takes 50 per cent of her income on the ground that she is a British subject, being married to a Briton. And the United States government takes 60 per cent because her property is in America. Her income is known to be between \$200,000 and \$300,000 a year, because it is only on incomes of that amount that 60 per cent is levied.

Say, then, that Lady Beatty draws \$200,000 a year from her property. The British government takes \$100,000, the American government takes \$120,000, and her income is \$20,000 less than nothing at all. If her income amounts to \$280,000 the British government takes \$140,000, the American government takes \$168,000, and Lady Beatty pays \$28,000 more than she gets.

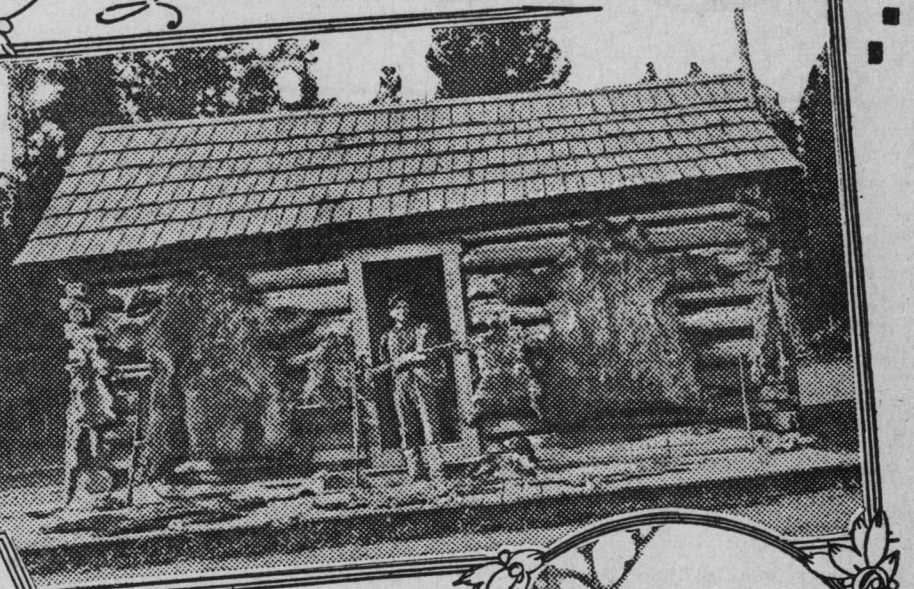


Killing Off Predatory Wild Animals

By John D. Sherman



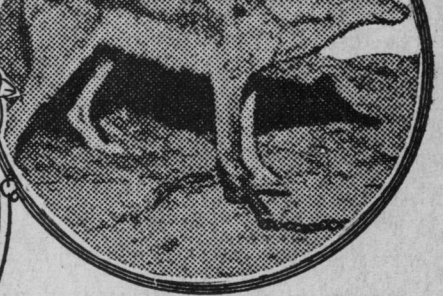
A "PROTECTED" CHIPMUNK



TROPHIES OF THE WARFARE



ONE OF MILLIONS



COYOTE IN A TRAP

WHILE the appropriations for the department of agriculture were under consideration in the house the following memorial from New Mexico was read:

"Whereas, we believe that the work of exterminating predatory wild animals and range-destroying rodents carried on under the direction of the biological survey during the past few years has been very successful, and that under the thorough organization and efficient plans of that bureau this evil will be largely minimized, if not entirely removed, provided the different states will heartily co-operate with the federal government in its plan of work; and

"Whereas at the present time the funds appropriated by congress for this purpose are wholly inadequate to meet the real requirements of the biological survey in carrying on this work, and on that account the results obtained are not satisfactory in most sections of the West; and

"Whereas it is our belief that the present laws of the states should be repealed, and in lieu thereof the various states should, through their several legislatures, enact laws appropriating sufficient money to equal the amounts to be expended by the federal government in the different states, and that such state appropriations should be expended under the direction of the biological survey, to be handled in conjunction with the funds appropriated by congress; therefore be it

"Resolved by the New Mexican Cattle and Horse Growers' association, in convention assembled at Albuquerque, N. M., March 25, 26 and 27, 1919, that we urge congress to appropriate the additional sum of \$300,000 for immediate use in the extermination of predatory wild animals and range-destroying rodents, and that we petition the various states to make appropriations at least equal to the amounts expended by the federal government in the various states, said money, both federal and state, to be expended under the direction of the biological survey."

This question of predatory wild animals and rodents—which are also predatory animals in the true sense of the word, inasmuch as they raid and pillage the crops—is a serious one in many parts of the West. The case of New Mexico is typical; so the remarks of Representative Hernandez of New Mexico concerning the situation are of interest. He said in part:

"One of the serious problems confronting those engaged in promoting increased production of food crops and meat animals was the tremendous damage to growing crops and to range grasses caused by prairie dogs and other rodents, and the loss of cattle, sheep, and poultry from wild animals. Investigations by the United States biological survey show that the annual losses in the United States from predatory wild animals amounted to several hundred million dollars, and the loss from rodents is probably greater. The annual loss in New Mexico was variously estimated at from fifteen to twenty-five million dollars. The method used by the biological survey has been perfected by years of investigation and experimenting and is very successful. The "kill" of prairie dogs is generally from 85 to 95 per cent by the use of poisoned oats. They followed up the work by using poisoned rolled barley and later by using fumigants, such as bisulphide of carbon, with which, if carefully and thoroughly used, a good start has been made.

"The biological survey had co-operative arrangements in several states for

exterminating rodents and predatory wild animals, and in every case the results are much more satisfactory and less expensive than under the bounty system. I have before me now a partial report made by the men in charge of this work in the southwestern part of the country through the council of defense of the state of New Mexico.

"In the spring of 1918 the governor of the state authorized the use of \$25,000 from the fund known in our state as the war fund, and under an agreement covering the plan for the co-operative work as executed. Under this agreement \$10,000 of this amount, in conjunction with an equal amount by the department of agriculture, was set aside and applied in reducing losses in live stock due to predatory wild animals, an increased force of hunters was placed in the field, trapping was resorted to by this experiment; the results have been very satisfactory.

"State hunters have a total of 1,972 days, at a cost of \$5,741.44. They have taken 642 coyotes, 124 bob cats, 14 gray wolves, 5 predatory bears, including 3 grizzlies. The average cost of animals in June was \$88.87; in July, \$8.53; August, \$5.93. The government operations in the state during the same periods cost \$9,225.70, and resulted in the killing of 417 coyotes, 77 bob cats, 41 gray wolves, 13 mountain lions, 2 bears. No reasonable estimate of damage inflicted by predatory animals that has been advanced can show anything other than the return on this investment of a very high rate of interest. The estimate generally accepted—and it is conservative, indeed, in view of the present high value of live stock—is that each gray wolf destroys annually \$1,000 worth of live stock; each mountain lion, \$500; each coyote and bob cat, \$50 worth; predatory bears may be rated in the same class with wolves. On this basis the saving represented in this co-operative work is nearly nine times the amount of expenditure. Thus you will observe that the estimated saving to the people of the nation, you might state, is \$131,500, at a cost of about \$20,000."

While the facts presented by the New Mexican representative are not clearly arranged, they afford a glimpse of the situation that prevails pretty much all over the far West, and the whole nation is interested, too, as Mr. Fernandez said in closing:

"We are all interested in that industry. We send our wool—20,000,000 or 25,000,000 pounds—to the cities of Philadelphia and Boston, so that those merchants can have that product, which will increase the employment of their people. We send our meat to the packing houses. All the American people are interested in that. There was a time when the people did not

care how many animals were destroyed by predatory beasts, because meat was plentiful. But since meat has become all the way from \$10 to \$15, instead of from \$1.50 to \$2.50, we urge that the department give us experts in co-operation with our own activities for the extermination of these pests."

It is true that predatory wild animals, like the mountain lion and wolf, are expensive. The biological survey is emphatic in its statement that the average gray wolf kills \$1,000 worth of live stock a year, and a mountain lion \$500 worth. The coyote, which is the smaller prairie wolf, rivals his big cousin in destruction. The biological survey claims to have reduced the wolf population of New Mexico by 260 individuals in three years.

Incidentally, naturalists and sportsmen will be interested in the statement by the biological survey that in the Pecos mountain region bears have been very destructive. The survey uses these words:

"During the recent grazing season bears killed approximately 125 head of valuable cattle in the Pecos region. Similar damage in the Black range and in the Mogollon mountain makes it evident that a total of at least 250 head of cattle as well as a large number of sheep were killed by bears. These facts are worthy of consideration, in view of the general and concerted efforts now under way on the part of sportsmen to enact legislation that will prevent trapping of bears or hunting them with the aid of dogs."

Naturalists and big game hunters hold that bears seldom kill big game or stock, and that when individual bears get the stock-killing habit it is an acquired taste. Big-game hunters holding these views have been active in promoting state legislation for the protection of grizzly and black bears, which otherwise are doomed to speedy extermination except in the national parks, which are wild life sanctuaries.

The warfare against prairie dogs, chipmunks and other rodents is less exciting, but there is much more money at stake. In New Mexico in four summer months co-operative work in exterminating prairie dogs was conducted over 652,000 acres of infested land, 3,403 landowners assisting in the work. An average of over 90 per cent of the prairie dogs was killed. On the untreated land the total loss of the crop, or at least a 50 per cent loss, often occurred as a result of prairie-dog infestation. It is estimated that the crop saving effected by prairie-dog control amounts to approximately \$500,000.

Multiply this by a dozen or more—the number of states doing the same kind of work—and the size of the job is apparent.

A new angle to the situation is the recent public announcement that prairie dogs are good eating and that various towns in the infested areas are going to put them on the bill of fare.