

Caribou Can't Offset Shortage in Meat

Millions of Barren Ground Caribou Roam the Northwestern Regions of Canada

To offset the present serious shortage of meat supplies, the Advisory Board on Wild Life Protection has had under consideration the possibility of utilizing the countless herds of Barren Ground Caribou in the northern regions of Canada. From time to time travellers and others have stated that these herds could be utilized to relieve the meat shortage. They have been estimated to number from 110,000,000 to 30,000,000 animals; but, naturally, such estimates can be little more than guess-work. Nevertheless, we know that these animals may be numbered by millions. Once a year, during the winter months, they reach, in their southward migration, the northern limit of tree growth, extending from Churchill on Hudson bay in the east, to the neighbourhood of lake Athabaska in the west.

At present, labour and adequate means of transportation and storage present unsurmountable difficulties. Reaching the herds during their winter sojourn also presents peculiar difficulties because there is no certainty that they will be found on their usual wintering grounds nor that they will follow their usual route when travelling southward.

Should any method of making use of such a natural meat supply be found feasible, it would be necessary to put it into effect under government administration. Naturally, the control which it is possible to exercise under the Northwest Game Act would prevent any exploitation of this valuable natural resource by private interests.

It is desirable to direct attention to the fact that the barren ground caribou have been seriously reduced in numbers in Alaska and practically exterminated in certain regions, such as the Arctic coast of Alaska. The result is that domestic reindeer of Siberian origin are now, to some extent, taking their place. However, we have still in Northern Canada, immense herds of caribou to supply food and clothing to the native population. At the same time, it should be realized that the caribou in Canadian territory have been killed off to such an extent in the Mackenzie Delta region that, according to the statement of Dr. R. M. Anderson, the Eskimo there are importing skins of domestic reindeer from

BIG FOREST REVENUE

Since 1867, the date of Confederation, the Government of the Province of Quebec has derived a total revenue from its forests of more than \$42,000,000. During the year ended June 30, 1917, the revenue from this source was \$1,568,157, of which \$347,505 was from ground rent and \$1,115,892 from stumpage dues. The greatest total forest revenue was during 1914-1915, when the amount collected was \$1,736,605. These revenues form an important item in the support of the civil government.—C.L.

Help yourself and your country by buying War Savings Certificates.

HOW TO MAKE POTATO BUTTER

Potato butter is recommended by the British Ministry of Food as a cheap substitute for butter, being made in England at a cost of less than 10 cents per pound, as follows: Peel the potatoes and boil until they fall to pieces and become floury. Then rub through a fine sieve into a warmed basin 14 ounces of potatoes and add 2 ounces of butter or margarine and 1 teaspoonful of salt. Stir until smooth and then mold into rolls and keep in a cool place. To make the appearance approachable use butter colouring, and if intended to keep beyond a few days, a butter preservative should be added.

Factors in Production

6. Harrowing Corn Kills Weeds

Eternal Vigilance Is the Price of Good Corn

The spike-tooth or smoothing harrow is an excellent weed killer if used at the right time. Weeds are most easily killed when they are very small or just coming through the ground. Harrowing at this time is much more efficient in destroying them than deeper cultivation later in the season.

In a normal season, the cultivation of corn should begin by harrowing lightly before the corn comes up, and this should be followed by another harrowing just after the corn is nicely through the ground. If the planting has been followed by rain, the first harrowing will break the crust and help the corn to come up. These early harrowings will also help to conserve moisture by stirring the top layer of soil and forming a mulch, which is exceedingly important in a dry season.

The ordinary spike-tooth harrow is well adapted for this purpose, but, if the tilting harrow can be used with the teeth tilted back, it will give much better results.

Weeds are enemies. They steal plant food and moisture, and often choke the very life out of the young cultivated plants. In their own way, they are as bad as the Huns and should be fought as determinedly. As the machine gun is trained against the enemy by the soldier, so should the farmer train his machinery against weed enemies and maintain eternal vigilance in his fight against them.

—F. C. N.

SUBSTITUTES IN SEA FOOD

The following substitute fish are suggested by the New England Fish Exchange for saving money as well as meat: Instead of haddock, blue fish, or smelts at 30 cents a pound, use whiting at 8 cents. Instead of halibut, cod steak, or swordfish at 20 to 50 cents, try shark at 10 cents a pound. Instead of scallops, try squid at 8 cents a pound. Instead of mackerel, salmon, and other fancy fishes, use ray at 8 or 10 cents. These substitutes fish are all considered delicacies abroad and bring high prices there. They are on sale at the fish stores in foreign sections of our cities, and reported in good supply, with no indication of an immediate increase in prices.

—U. S. Food Administration.

HAS NOT RELAXED GAME LAWS

According to a statement by Hon. O. F. Daniels, Attorney-General of Nova Scotia, that province has not relaxed its game laws in any particular. He reports an encouraging increase in game.



WEEDS GIVE COMFORT TO THE ENEMY—SMOTHER THEM

Col No. 87

Alaska for clothing, a fact that indicates the difficulties of the problem of utilizing caribou to augment the meat supply of Canada.

Good Food Fishes Wasted

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Small quantities of this fish have been sold on the Toronto market within the past year, where it was disposed of as flounder and sole. During the summer and on parts of the coast with deficient shipping facilities for the fresh fish trade, the curing by drying or smoking should be considered.

The work of the "soldiers of the soil" will doubtless result in the production of large quantities of additional food. Why not assist our farmers of the fisheries to husband and market the great stores of food fish that are thrown away every year merely because the public does not appreciate their food value?—A.D.

Use honey, maple syrup, molasses and brown sugar instead of granulated sugar. The first three of these cannot be shipped to our Allies in Europe as they require too much shipping space. Brown sugar cannot be shipped as it ferments. Use these commodities at home so that granulated sugar can be shipped abroad.

Save bacon until Berlin is taken.

Smothering Weeds by Sowing Buckwheat

By a smother crop is meant a crop sown for the purpose of smothering out noxious weeds. Couch grass often becomes very troublesome, but can be controlled by the use of a smother crop. Buckwheat is very commonly used for this purpose. It is sown thickly on well prepared land. It comes up quickly and grows rapidly, and thus gives the weeds very little opportunity to develop. The land on which it is intended to sow the buckwheat should be well tilled and every effort should be made to weaken or kill the weeds before sowing the crop. This will help the smother crop to grow more rapidly and to more perfectly perform its function.

Splendid results were obtained in 1917 on two of the farms where illustration work was being done by the Commission of Conservation in Dundas county. The buckwheat was sown at the rate of one bushel per acre. It completely smothered out the weeds and, at the same time, gave a good crop of grain when cut and threshed in the autumn. One thing must always be borne in mind in sowing a smother crop and that is, it must be sown thick enough to smother the weeds.—From "Handbook for Farmers," published by the Commission of Conservation.