

When the demand for more men for the battle-front comes at the same time as a demand for more food from agriculture and the other food-producing industries, it is essential to keep food from being wasted. Museum work can here be of great help. To save wheat from being destroyed by insects or rodents saves the planting of the necessary amount of land to make good that loss and releases just that many more men for the firing line. Killing birds that eat insects and weed seeds helps the enemy. Museum exhibits can be made to teach such things. The annual food loss in the United States from the ravages of insects on crops, according to the United States Department of Agriculture, exceeds a billion dollars. No doubt the loss in Canada is proportionate. Every careless person who kills a bird that is less injurious than it is valuable as an eater of weed seeds and insects is helping the enemy by killing our bird allies and is giving security and comfort to the weeds and insects that reduce our food supply. Most of our birds are of this beneficial class and are really our allies. Robbing their nests is also an aid to the enemy. One can hardly go into the country without seeing boys and even men killing birds. Doubtless many of these persons would be surprised to know that they were practically traitors and, if they realized it, would gladly stop aiding the enemy. For many years museum exhibits have been teaching such facts about birds and how to conserve the beneficial varieties. Surely these efforts should not be relaxed in war time but rather increased.

In conserving our food supply, so essential during the war, the depredations of rodents should not be overlooked. Plagues of these animals have troubled us from time to time since pre-historic days. In 1907 and 1908 meadow mice overran 80 per cent. of the cultivated area of the lower Humboldt valley, California, necessitating the replanting of much of the alfalfa needed to produce meat food. Over \$6,000,000 worth of grain, and that, too, at the former cheap pre-war prices, are destroyed annually by ground squirrels in North Dakota alone. Every year rodents destroy 15 per cent. of the crop in Wyoming. Something like \$12,000,000 worth of food, at pre-war prices, is destroyed by rodents annually in Kansas and a greater amount in Montana. It is estimated that over \$100,000,000 loss of food is due to rodents in the Pacific states alone. The losses in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba are probably in somewhat similar proportion to those of North Dakota and Montana. At present prices the losses to the allies would be much greater. Rodents set at naught the labor of regiments of farm hands.