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WILD GESE AT HOME

Hamilton M. Laing, writing in the Toronto Globe a short time ago, gave the following interesting description of the wild goose:

"Cypress Lake, in southwestern Saskatchewan, lies in a narrow valley in the open, bald plains and is one of the many Canadian plainland lakes where the waterfowl abound during the summer. The lake is nine miles long and averages about two miles wide, has a large island in the centre and terminates in a marsh at both ends, the one at the eastern end being of very considerable extent. It was a reservoir of aquatic life, the ducks, grebes and coots being especially abundant, and here also some wild geese were found at home.

The Canada goose, the largest of the geese, once nested commonly over a good deal of southern Canada and throughout the northern States as well, but civilization has driven the bird constantly back until now he nests only in the most unfrequented localities and in the North, Cypress Lake, lying lonely in the plains, seemed to meet the conditions dear to the goose heart, and to our knowledge half a dozen families were raised here. In fact, it is probable that there were several more families that we did not meet, as the Canada goose is a wise guardian and very clever at concealment.

GUARD HONKS ANXIOUSLY

This bird seldom builds the nest in the marsh or on the water as some of the ducks and the grebes do, but rather builds on dry ground near water and, though we were too late actually to find the nests it is probably that they had been located in the sagebrush clumps back a short distance from the shore. By the first of June the tiny yellow downlings were following the parents on the water. At one point of the shore where several times passed by boat, a big lone bird, presumably a gander, was always standing on guard. He honked anxiously as though in warning, but though we watched closely for the mate to appear, she always managed to outwit us.

There were coyotes here, and how the geese managed to protect herself from such a marauder during her month of incubation seemed a mystery. The vigilance of the valiant old gander might serve by day, but one would think that at night the grey prowler could steal up and pounce upon the nesting bird. That geese manage so well to outwit such a foe speaks well for their sagacity. No small marauder, of course, could molest the birds, as the geese is a courageous and able fighter, using the "knuckles" of his wings with telling effect; a compelling argument that no small foe could withstand.

THE MOULTING PLACE

The island in mid-lake, with its little lagoon in one corner, was an admirable spot for these birds. Here the ducks congregated to sit about in the sun and moult their spring plumage—these companies were composed for the most part of idle drakes—and here the old goose pair could come ashore without fear of land foes and walk about while the tiny yellow peepers gobbled up the tender green herbage that constituted their food. Here they had only foes of the air to guard against, and it is likely that such were not numerous. We at least saw no enemy attempt to molest them.

The wild geese and ducks, of course do not feed the young. The latter come from the egg with complete instinctive knowledge in regard to what they must eat, just as they know instinctively how to peep or run or swim or dive. The parents are merely guardians and guides, leading the young into the safest and greenest pastures. And how the peepers improve their time! Every day marks an advance in their size and strength. A week is a whole chapter of their adventurous young lives. They have nothing to do but grow. In about ten weeks they must do the impossible: develop from downlings to fully-fledged, fully-winged birds, able to go off on the wing with their parents.

A PERFECT TYPE OF PARENT

The wild goose is one of the most perfect types of parent seen in the wild; he is full of devotion, sagacity and courage. In an endeavor to photograph these families we several times ran them down by boat. Though very strong swimmers, they had no means of escape from the powerful little outboard motor. Their first

impulse in the face of danger from the man foe was to retreat toward midlake. They had a way of cleverly escaping observation by swimming low and only by the unfair aid of our field glasses could we pick up these family parties. The parent birds not only swam with the body low in the water, appearing about duck size, but they thrust the head down and extended the neck along the water as though they knew that their long, black necks must be the tell-tell mark to their identity.

Usually the big gander led the family and they swam in single file. First came the gander, then two or three peepers and then the goose followed by the remaining young. The young plainly swim more easily in this way, it is the way of all the waterfowl while conveying young. When approaching closely the old birds honked in alarm, protestingly, but would not desert the young until forced to do so. Usually the gander broke away first, flapped off for fifty yards and alighted to call and call and attempt to divide the family. The mother goose would stick to her young until almost run down.

YOUNG SHOW STAMINA

When cornered near shore the birds would take to the prairie. They seemed to have a vague sort of certainty that the boat could not follow there, but at the first sign of a landing they were ready to take to the water again. When overtaken on the water it finally became a case of every one for himself and the family scattered, the young diving expertly and swimming far under water before reappearing. The stamina of these little fellows was remarkable; they had some of the under-water prowess of the grebes; and it was wonderful how quickly the family would reassemble after such a scattering.

The devotion of these parents was truly touching. Every goose knows all too well his man foe, almost his only foe, and knows that close approach means death. At no other time of the year could these birds have been approached in the open to within even rifle shot. Yet here they cheerfully faced death in the cause of their young with a fearless ardor that had in it something grand and pathetic.

But in closing it must be told that not all the geese that summered here were so wrapped up in family affairs. There were twenty-five or thirty that we saw almost daily that apparently had no ties of kin. They were a mere bachelor and spinster club, non-breeding birds that swam on the water or sunned on the shore, picked gravel and prairie grass and idled away the hot summer days, awaiting no doubt, the call of the wheat-fields in September.

OBITUARY

MISS RUTH M. HUTCHINSON

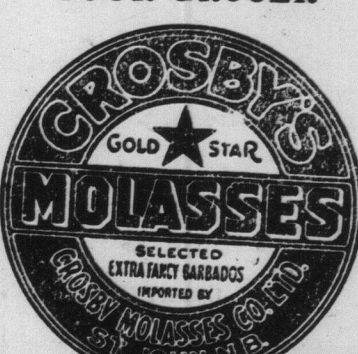
At the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Hutchinson, Deep Brook, Wednesday afternoon, May 3rd, as quietly as a tired child goes to slumber, Ruth Myrtle Hutchinson entered into the rest that remains for the people of God. Physically frail for years and acutely ill the past year, she has indeed fought the good fight, and is released from suffering. Endowed by nature with rare intellectual gifts, early in life she chose the path of service to her Lord and has adorned her Christian profession as Secretary of the Women's Missionary Aid Society and as a teacher in the Sunday School, she gave most efficient and valued service and will be greatly missed in these departments of Christian work.

Miss Hutchinson was an only child and was born in Malden, Mass., 26 years ago. She has made her home in Deep Brook for ten years, and to her devoted and sorrowing parents, and to all who mourn her early passing, deep and tender sympathy is felt by the entire community.

A largely attended funeral service, conducted by Pastor McIntosh and Rev. A. W. L. Smith, was held in the Baptist Church on Friday afternoon, 5th. "Face to Face" was sung by Mr. G. L. Benson, "Crossing the Bar" by Mrs. O. Morgan and Miss Austin, of Smith's Cove, and "My Jesus is Thou Will" by the choir. Beautiful floral tributes brightened the service. Burial at Mount Hope Cemetery, Bear River.

Revelation 21:4—"In the clear morning of that other country, in Paradise, with the dear face we loved and cherished; she shall arise. Let us be patient, we who mourn, with weeping. The vanished face, the Lord has taken but to add more beauty and diviner grace."

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OLD LANDMARK DESTROYED

A very interesting landmark was destroyed by fire, the old residence on what is known as the "Bayard Estate", situated about three miles from Middleton. It is one of the oldest and most interesting estates in this vicinity. About 150 years ago a grant of land was given to Colonel Bayard, an officer in the Imperial Army—a beautiful home was erected, among the magnificent pines, for which the place is famous. About 100 years ago the original home was destroyed by fire. Another one was immediately erected, and the direct descendants continued to dwell there for more than fifty years. For many years after Colonel Bayard took the place there was no thoroughfare, nothing but a trail over which the soldiers passed on their military expeditions. Generations later a regular road was opened up and the approach to the home was guarded by a wonderful avenue of pine trees. About forty years ago the estate came into the possession of Captain Spain; an officer in the British navy, whose wife was a direct descendant of Col. Bayard.

In the last decade the place has changed hands several times, and the "former glory has departed." It stands today a heap of ruins, with only its traditions to link it to the past. One of the most interesting of these traditions is that the original owner, who was laid to rest in the family burial grounds situated on the estate, was buried in full military uniform, with sword and jewels. Another deals with buried treasure and flitting ghostly lights.

The fire was caused by the upsetting of a lamp, so it is said, and destroyed not only the house but the barn nearby. The dwelling was occupied at the time by George Van Buskirk and wife—Chronicle.

A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN

When the Blood is Out of Order the Nerves are Starved

The nerve system is the governing system of the whole body, controlling the heart, lungs, digestion and brain; so it is not surprising that nervous disturbances cause acute distress. The first stages of nervous debility are noted by irritability and restlessness, in which the victims seem to be oppressed by their nerves. The matter requires immediate attention, for nothing but suitable treatment will prevent a breakdown. The victim, however, need not despair, for even severe nervous disorders may be relieved by improving the condition of the blood. It is because Dr. Williams' Pink Pills enrich the blood that this medicine has proved beneficial in nervous disorders. The nerves thrive on the better blood made by these pills; the appetite improves, indigestion is better, sleeplessness no longer troubles the nerve-shattered victim, and life generally takes on a cheerful aspect. The value of these pills in cases of this kind is shown by the experience of Mrs. John W. MacDonald, Cardigan, P.E.I., who says: "I have much cause to be grateful to Dr. Williams' Pink Pills. I was suffering from nervous breakdown, and my condition gave alarm to both my friends and myself. I suffered almost continuously from nervous headaches, my appetite was poor, I hardly got any sleep, and in every way I was badly run down. A friend advised me to try Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and after I had taken them for a while there was a noticeable improvement in my condition. I continued using the pills until I had taken twelve boxes, when every symptom of the trouble was gone, and I have since enjoyed the best of health."

You can get Dr. Williams' Pink Pills through any dealer in medicine or by mail at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50, from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

AT THE VENDOR'S

A doctor told us the other day that he had prescribed a small quantity of whiskey, as a stimulant, to an aged lady. The amount required was only a few ounces. On going to the vendor he found that the smallest amount that could be secured was twelve ounces. His patient did not require that amount and did not feel able to pay for it, and so did without. The ostensible reason for the establishment of a vendorship is to have liquor available for medicinal purposes. The ostensible reason should be justified by making liquor available in small as well as in large quantities.—Pictou Advocate.



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Beets, per lb.	.01
Carrots, per lb.	.03
Parsnips, per lb.	.03
Fowl, per lb.	.18 to .22c.
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Fresh Eggs, per dozen	.28 to .30c.
Dairy Butter, per lb.	.25 to .30c.
Hay, per ton	25.00 to 30.00
Straw, per ton	15.00 to 16.50
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Pelts, each	.20 to .30c.
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No. 3's	2.00 to 3.00

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