

# Conservation

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## A Prophecy Fulfilled

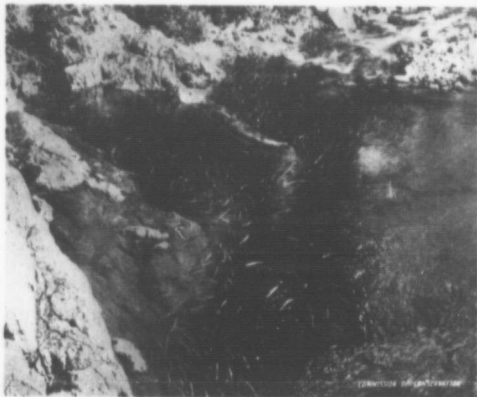
Fraser River Salmon Threatened with  
Extinction—A Fateful Rock-  
slide—American  
Inactivity

Although reports from British Columbia indicate that the salmon catch last year was the largest on record, it must not be inferred therefrom that the salmon industry is still as flourishing as ever. The facts are, as reported by J. P. Babcock, Asst. Commissioner of Fisheries for the province, that the large pack is due entirely to the increase from, and the utilization of, the "pinks" and "chums," varieties of the salmon, for which there was no sale until the sockeye came scarce. The run to the Fraser during 1918, was "very much the smallest ever known." The river may be said to be fished out of sockeye, and the run of pink salmon, which was not used previous to the war, is fast "disappearing." The sockeye commands a higher price than any other Pacific salmon and it is the salmon that made the Fraser River fisheries famous. The destruction of this valuable fish is exactly in line with a prediction made by J. P. Babcock before the Commission of Conservation in 1917.

In the year 1913, a big rockslide, incident to railway construction work, occurred in Hellgate cañon on the Fraser river. This slide was a thing short of a calamity to the sockeye salmon-fishing industry in British Columbia. All familiar with the conditions there know that the phenomenon known as the "big run" takes place every four years. Runs occurred in 1905, 1909 and again in 1913, the fateful year of the big slide. In each of these years the run of sockeye was very much larger than in the intervening years. The phenomenon of the "big year" is due to the fact that the sockeye takes four years to mature. Thus, the fish of 1913 are abundant because of the abundant spawning in the year 1909.

The slide above-mentioned unfortunately occurred during a "big year." It so narrowed the river (see illustration on page 30) that for even the sockeye to overtake and they were unable to reach their spawning beds. The illustration on page 27 gives a

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SPAWNING SALMON FORCED INTO MOUTH OF SPUZZUM CREEK  
Courtesy Mr. John P. Babcock

## UNITED STATES WILL PROTECT THE BIRDS

Constitutionality of U. S. Migratory  
Birds Treaty Act Affirmed in  
Recent Decision

Federal Judge Trieber, of the Eastern District of Arkansas, has recently handed down a decision upholding the constitutionality of the United States Migratory Bird Treaty Act. He held that, while the Migratory Bird Act of 1913 was unconstitutional, the new law is constitutional, inasmuch as it is based upon a treaty. This decision is based upon the Constitution of the United States which provides, in effect, that, unless the provisions of the treaty contravene the principles of the Constitution, the treaty becomes a part of the supreme law of the United States.

All who have at heart the best interests of game, insectivorous and other migratory birds, will rejoice that the laws of the United States will protect the wild life that Canada and the Republic share in common.—J.W.

When you hear a motor horn, make up your mind immediately what to do. Either stop or proceed, but do not hesitate. The chauffeur reads your intentions by the first move you make. If you then change your mind, an accident is very liable to result.

## HELP PREVENT FIRES— FOLLOW THESE RULES

1. *Matches*—Be sure your match is out. Pinch it before you throw it away.
2. *Tobacco*—Throw pipe ashes and cigar or cigarette stumps in the dust of the road and stamp or pinch out the fire before leaving them. Don't throw them into brush, leaves, or needles.
3. *Making Camp*—Build a small campfire. Build it in the open, not against a tree or log or near brush. Scrape away the trash from all around it.
4. *Leaving Camp*—Never leave a campfire, even for a short time, without quenching it with water and then covering it with earth.
5. *Bonfires*—Never build bonfires in windy weather or where there is the slightest danger of their escaping from control. Don't make them larger than you need.
6. *Fighting Fires*—If you find a fire, try to put it out. If you can't, get word of it to the nearest forest ranger at once.

The above rules for the prevention of fires, prepared by the United States Forest Service, are equally applicable to Canada. Their observance would go far towards lessening the tremendous toll taken each year by the forest fire fiend.

## Super-Power Plants in Great Britain

Project has Only Limited Application  
to Canada—Proposed Central-  
ization in Saskatchewan

The recent decision to proceed with the super-power station scheme for electric supply in Great Britain calls to our notice what should be done along these lines on a more modest scale in certain portions of Canada.

The British plan to improve the supply of electricity throughout Britain contemplates the replacement of the numerous small stations now in operation, by fewer but much larger stations supplying extensive districts through high tension transmission networks. There will be a gain both in economy and fuel conservation and, in many cases, the quality of service will be much improved. This national electric supply operates under the supervision of five commissioners appointed by the Board of Trade; these, in turn, appoint District Boards which include representatives of electric undertakings, of large consumers and of labour.

Lanashire is to be one of the first areas dealt with, the country being divided into three districts. Some of the smaller stations will probably be shut down immediately, the energy transmitted from larger existing stations being substituted. Following the building of the new super-power plants, the Commissioners will eliminate the remaining small stations and, also, the moderate-sized plants.

A similar situation, however, does not occur in Canada, as by far the larger portion of the capacity of our hydro-electric stations is to be found in what may be called "super-power" stations; many of them are also interconnected to allow more efficient operation.

There is, however, a portion of Canada where the absence of water power makes it necessary to supply power from steam or other fuel agencies. This area, which comprises southern Saskatchewan and adjacent portions of Manitoba and Alberta, is becoming of much importance through its rapid agricultural expansion and its future needs should be anticipated so far as possible.

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