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FRIDAY, MAY 2, 1941

GREAT DESTRUCTION HAS BEEN WROUGHT TO WILDLIFE AND FORESTS

Wildlife and forest have been destroyed in a great many sections of Maryland within the past few weeks.

Serious forest fires raged in Allegany and Garrett counties and on Sunday, April 20, a number of counties, especially Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Prince George's Wicomico and St. Mary's, were visited by very destructive forest fires. In Anne Arundel County several dwelling houses were burned thereby destroying the homes, furniture and clothing of families and villages were seriously threatened with fires which were swept by high winds. Thousands of persons gathered at the scenes of roaring fires trying to assist in preventing the spread of the fire but because of high winds it was impossible to stop it before great damage had been done. Shore-front communities in Anne Arundel County were very seriously threatened but a shift of the wind probably saved a great many homes.

It is estimated that about 3,000 acres in Anne Arundel County, 3,800 acres in Wicomico County, 1,200 acres in Garrett and Allegany counties, 1,000 acres in St. Mary's County, 300 acres in Prince George's County and 100 acres in Baltimore County, or an area of about 10,000 acres have been burned over within the last week.

This is a serious matter not only to wildlife and forests but to land-owners as well, and the majority of these fires could have been easily prevented.

In Anne Arundel County it is claimed the majority of fires were started by owners of shore-front property visiting there on Sunday, burning trash or grass on fields adjoining their properties, and we dare say that 90 per cent of the fires were started by persons either burning brush or burning fields and through carelessness allowed the fires to get beyond control.

We fully believe that the farmer who desires to burn off a grass or sage brush field would gain a great deal more if he would plow the grass under instead of burning it, but if he must burn it then he should be required by law to plow at least twenty to twenty-five yards around the outskirts of the area which he desires to burn before being allowed to set a match to the field. In burning off these fields, a great many times the farmer does not till it that year and has destroy-be very valuable wildlife cover, Ground-nesting birds and animals must have a place to build their homes and, of course, the song and insectivorous birds must have trees in which to build their homes, and the burning of the cover from the fields and the destruction of timber has caused countless thousands of species of wildlife to be destroyed. This is particularly true in Maryland during the month of April where we have had very serious forest fires.

Now that the home building season for wildlife has arrived we appeal to the general public that if they must set a fire to get rid of rubbish, trash or grass on fields, to please be careful and control it to the area they desire to burn.

For years this Department has been trying to maintain a supply of wildlife and, if possible, to increase it. Our efforts apply not only to birds and game animals but to song and insectivorous birds as well, which are so necessary in assisting the farmer to control obnoxious weeds and insects, not only on his arable land but on his timber-land as well. Again we repeat, the majority of these fires are caused by carelessness and there should be some law to punish those who set a fire and allow it to get out of control and damage the property of others.

We believe the fires which have occurred on fields and in forests in Maryland during the month of April this year have caused more damage to wildlife than we can possibly rebuild in the next two or three years. It is not only the wildlife that has been destroyed but persons' homes and properties as well, and it does not seem fair that persons through carelessness, should destroy the property of an innocent person, especially dwelling houses and outbuildings, and destroy wildlife and their natural habitat.

A large quantity of denatured alcohol is used in the U. S. to manufacture hair and scalp preparations . . . two gallons per minute.

FLOWERS AND VEGETABLES

J. E. Jones

Washington, April 28--The flowers that bloom in the Spring have drawn the biggest crowds in history to see the Japanese cherry blossoms in the National Capital. The travelers and tourists have also wended their way to the magnificent gardens of Charlestown, S. C., to see the flowers. Apple blossom festivals all the way from the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia to the Wenatchee Valley in Washington are Spring attractions, and so are the triumphant blooms of fruit and nut trees in California.

There is a serious side this Spring in the vegetable kingdom, due to the fact that the United States has received from 35% to 40% of its seeds from abroad, and about the same volume of cabbage, radish, beet, onion, turnip and rutabaga seeds from European sources of supply. In the whirlpool of foreign wars the United States must supply its own vegetable seeds, and prepare to prorduce surplus supplies of food for starving victims of bitter wars. This is a problem that is not being over-looked by government officials, and by public spirited and generous citizens, one of whom is Frank G. Cuthbertson, a principal executive of the Ferry-Morse seed company. "While it is true that some vegetable seed items are in short supply", says Mr. Cuthbertson, he assures the public that "American producers will rise to the emergency and grow sufficient seed, providing, of course, they have no serious crop failures and the yield is good". He discounts all claims that foreign seeds are of better quality than American seeds and observes: "The principal reason for large imports of certain vegetable seeds which have reached our markets in past years was entirely due to the lower prices quoted by European seed growers".

Evidently there is somewhat of a jam in prosaic onion seeds due to the fact that American growers drew large suppliees from Bermuda, Lisbon, and other parts of the world. American seed firms confidently declare that they can produce sufficient quantities of onion seeds from the 1941 crops.

There is no joke to be found in the fact that this glorious old United States is short on spinach-seed because we have been drawing 90% of all our spinach seed from foreign countries. Mr. Cuthbertson recognizes the situation as a challenge to the seed industry, and he is stepping out for "national defense of spinach", and states this week that the acreage plan for 1941 in our country "will overcome any serious shortage, although higher prices will prevail for seeds." So much for the bad practice of the past in depending upon foreign spinach seeds. Naturally, it's time to "grow our own".

"If the publicity encourages inexperienced farmers or individuals to attempt the production of seed crops of unknown strains, varieties, or qualities", warns the Ferry-Morse firm, "such items probably would be very difficult if not impossible to market."

* * * *

FBI Won't Tell

J. Edgar Hoover, big G-Man, shocked the House Military Affairs Committee by refusing to appear btfore it and give testimony about subversive activities in matters relating to National Defense. But when Members of Congress were given Mr. Hoover's reasons for refusing to disclose the secrets of FBI, they admitted that his position was correct and that the disclosures he would have to make would "be fatal to the future usefulness" of the Bureau. The Congress and the press agreed that it would only muddy the water if Hoover told what he knew. Cops can't tell!

* * * *

The Next Four Months

Seven hundred and eighty four new factories for national defense are more than 60% completed according to a statement by William S. Knudsen, Director General of OPM. In supplementing his statement that he is sometimes "afraid that we haven't quite realized the seriousness of the battle against time," Mr. Knudsen added: "The next four months might be crucial in the whole history of the world and if we can only save part of a month in each four, it might mean everything in our future and the future of our children"

1941	MAY					1941
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

FARMERS FACING LABOR SHORTAGE

Demands Of Defense Work Bring Serious Problem To Marylanders

Recent demands for labor for constructing military camps and by industry to fill unprecedented orders have resulted in a serious labor problem to the Maryland farmer.

A subcommittee of the State Land Use Planning Committee, composed of twelve members headed by P. C. Turner, Maryland Farm Bureau president, as chairman, and Dr. S. H. DeVault, professor of agricultural economics at the University of Maryland, as secretary, surveyed the farm labor situation and reported that "joint action by farmers and State agencies is necessary" to cope with the problem.

"Indications are that this problem is most serious in the Eastern industrial areas and near military reservations", the report said.

"In Maryland, the higher wages on construction works at Fort Meade, Aberdeen Proving Grounds, Edgewood Arsenal and at the Indian Head naval powder factory have resulted in the migration of thousands of workers, many of whom were from Maryland farms.

"How long this work will last is difficult to estimate, but it is not likely that any appreciable number of workers will return to farms this year".

"Business activity is the primary factor affecting the supply of and demand for farm labor.

"When factories are operating and construction work is active, the migration is from farms and rural areas to the city; conversely, as business activity is on the decline, the movement is from the industrial centers to the farm or rural areas".

To alleviate the present situation, the State Employment Service act the committee recommended that as a clearing agency in receiving orders for farm labor and in recruiting labor through its files or other sources.

Suggested as possible sources were city boys below draft age, CCC enrollees, high school and college students during the summer, migratory workers while the supply lasts, and relief rolls.

Also recommended was the use of prison-labor on roads to release men for farm work and the appointment of county farm labor coordinating committees.

Greater use of labor-saving machinery such as combines, tractors equipped with lights for night operation and milking machines, exchange of farm labor during rush seasons, planting of crops requiring less labor, such as barley in place of corn, and a rotation plan to eliminate competition for labor were among suggestions made to farmers.

FARM LABOR AND WAGE

Maryland farmers on April 1 were paying the highest wages for labor since the same time in 1931. The supply of farm labor was only 70 per cent of normal while demand was 95 per cent of normal. With supply short and demand high the ratio of supply to demand was the lowest for any quarter in the past 15 years of record. In practically all sections of the Mountain region and the lower Eastern Shore conditions were not as bad as in other parts of the State. The supply of labor was the shortest, according to reporters, in the 15 years of record.

onditions in Delaware were even worse than in Maryland. The supply of farm labor was only 70 per cent of normal while the demand was 97 per cent of normal, resulting in a supply-demand ratio of 72, which is a record low. Conditions were about the same in all sections of the State, with the smallest supply of labor being in New Castle County adjacent to industrial activities. Delaware farmerrs on April 1 were paying the highest wages since 1931.

Maryland red clover seed growers sold more of their surplus to farmers than to seed dealers last year, according to F. S. Holmes, Chief of the Maryland Seed Inspection Laboratory.

Current shipments to England from Canada of canned and frozen fish are double the previous records, totaling $25 each minute.

Farm Relief

Another block of Illinois farms has been taken over for an ammonia oxidation plant, thus outdoing the motif of turning farms into golf courses, incidentally, as relief to tired farmers. Several thousand acres have been covered by a 48 million dollar Government defense project capable of producing a great many tons of explosives a day--with planty of thoughts about using it on the Hitler armies.

OFFER ENDS MAY 10!

Hurry! BUY NOW AND SAVE *as much as* $25 *each on a*

BRAND NEW 1941

ELECTRIC RANGE

OR

ELECTRIC WATER HEATER

installed under standard conditions

Here's a last warning to those of you who haven't already taken advantage of our two big offers! They end Saturday, May 10. So don't delay another day. Inspect our 1941 improved Electric Ranges and Electric Water Heaters. Then make your own choice. But BUY NOW AND SAVE as much as $25 on each. Actually, this soon-to-end limited time offer makes it possible for you to have a 1941 Electric Range installed in your home, under standard conditions, for as little as $99.95 cash and your old range; and an Electric Water Heater, installed under standard conditions, for as little as $87 cash and your old water heater.

Prices subject to change without notice and slightly more on budget plan

CONOWINGO POWER COMPANY

Live Electrically and Save

BILL LIBERALIZING LAWS FOR WORKERS SIGNED

The cause of labor in Maryland took a long step forward, when various Administration-sponsored measures were approved and signed by Governor Herbert R. O'Conor, thus becoming law. These labor measures headed a list of nearly 200 bills signed by the Governor in the presence of Senate and House officials.

One of the most important of these labor measures is Chapter 385, House Bill No. 296, an Administration measure that liberalizes generally and generously the Maryland Unemployment Compensation Act. Among the more liberal features of this measure are the following: Reducing the waiting period from two weeks to one week, and lessening the eligibility requirement, from earnings of 30 times the weekly benefit amount in the base year, to earnings of $150.00 in the base year.

It raises the minimum weekly benefit amount from $5.00 to $7.00, and the maximum benefit amount from $15.00 to $17.00, at the same time increasing the maximum amount of benefit payments in the benefit year from 16 times the weekly benefit amount to 20 times the weekly benefit amount.

Under these new provisions, Maryland workers now may draw a maximum of $340 in a benefit year, an amount larger than is available for the same purpose in any of the other seven Atlantic Coast states from North Carolina to New York.

Maryland Law Generous

New York, Pennsylvania and Delaware, for example, limit such benifits to $195.00 in a single benefit year, and Virginia, West Virginia and North Carolina set $240.00 as the maximum. Only New Jersey, with an allowance of $324.00, comes anywhere near the Maryland maximum.

With regard to individuals entering the military service after April 1st, 1940, it freezes their benefit credits, which will be available later when the individuals are discharged from the service. A number of other changes are made, all of which offer increased protection to the workmen.

Of equal general importance to everyone engaged in industry is Chapter 626, House Bill No. 53, which provides greatly increased benefits as compensation for the loss of, or loss of use of an eye, a hand, an arm or a leg. Depending upon the workman's average wages, the increase provided for the loss of, or loss of use of an eye, would range from $480. to $1,080.00.

In detail, the Bill increases the number of weeks of compensation for loss of an eye from 100 to 160 weeks; for the loss of a leg from 175 to 212 weeks. These are changes which have been warmly advocated by labor representatives.

Maryland provisions under this law for the loss of a leg are more liberal than those in effect in 38 of the 47 states that have Workmen's Compensation Acts. Of the 9 states which pay compensation for a longer period of weeks than does Maryland, there is no additional allowance for the healing period in 4 of these states. In the overall provisions, therefore, Maryland rates sixth in the list of 47 states in this respect. For the loss of an eye, Maryland will now pay compensation for a longer period than 43 of the 47 states.

ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY

The Enoch Pratt Library of Baltimore has gathered in its Maryland Room just as complete a file as possible of all Maryland newspapers, including those published in Cecil County. Such newspaper files are of basic importance to students of history and to many Marylanders who frequently have occasion to look up happenings in various towns and communities. As records of the life of the community, they have no equal in importance.

Unfortunately, our files of Cecil County papers are incomplete. We trust that among your subscribers there may be some who have kept copies of the following newspapers, and would be intrested in helping us round out this important collection.

I might add that through the delay on the part of the owner of a file of western Maryland newspapers, we read with deep regret, the entire file was destroyed by fire. It was the only file in existence. Such a result can be avoided by placing valuable files here in this fire-proof building.

We need files of the following Cecil County newspapers: Midland Journal, Cecil Democrat, Rising Sun Journal, North East Star, Port Deposit Rock.

Anyone owning copies of these, or any other Maryland newspapers published before 1933, will greatly assist the Pratt Library and the people of Maryland, by writing us about them.

Our files of old Annapolis papers and of Baltimore papers before 1900 also have gaps in them. We are interested, too, in old photographs maps and pamphlets on Maryland subjects.

Joseph L. Wheeler,
Librarian

Maryland farmers and commercial poultrymen are urged to produce more eggs and chickens in the program of national defense, according to information just released by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Great Britian's normal consumption of cocoa has been 400 lbs. a minute . . . all imported.

Another Administration-sponsored measure, Chapter 504, Senate Bill 298, effects a separation of the State Accident Fund from the State Industrial Accident Commission. This is a distinct advantage to workmen in that the thousands now employed by approximately 3,000 employers who carry the compensation insurance in the State Accident Fund, no longer will have their claims passed upon by the quasi-judicial Commission, which theoretically, if not actually, has a stake in the outcome. Up to now the State Accident Fund has been, in a sense, a ward of the State Industrial Accident Commission. I consider that this separation is a distinct step forward.

Among the other liberalizing features of the new laws is that imposed by Chapter 773, House Bill No. 92, providing that frost-bite and sun-stroke, resulting from weather conditions, shall be regarded as diseases of infections naturally resulting from accidental personal injuries and therefore compensable. Initiated by organizd labor groups, this Bill was an Administration-sponsored measure, which it gives me much satisfaction to approve.

MAKE AMERICA STRONG BY MAKING AMERICANS STRONGER

Both to help to make America strong by making Americans stronger and to assist America's dairy farmers to dispose of a substantial expected seasonal milk surplus, June this year, will bring to the nation one of the most intensive, coast-to-coast, month-long milk promotional efforts in the history of this country's dairying industry on which 1 out of every 15 American families depends for a livelihood.

Complying with the request of the National Cooperative Milk Producers Federation, nearly 15,500 units of 123 well-known, non-grocery chain-store companies served by Institute of Distribution, Inc., for example, will extend the utmost possible promotional cooperation according to Ward Melville, President of the Melville Shoe Corporation and Chairman of the Board of the Institute, National association serving chain stores in various fields except food and grocery.

Confronted by the possibility that the dairy farmer's earning and spending power will be menaced this Spring and early Summer by long supply and comparatively short demand, it has become evident to the dairying industry that, in public interest, especially under our nation's present defense circumstances, the nation's milk and dairy product market must be made to expand in June through the use of those promotional devices which stimulate demand. Hence, National Dairy Month.

The project is spearheaded not only by the National Cooperative Milk Producers Federation and the National Dairy Council but is sponsored, too, by nearly all of the associations representing the nation's milk, butter, ice cream and cheese producers, processors and distributors.

Throughout Dairy Month, a multitude of enthusiastic allies, including the 15,500 units of the 123 non-grocery chains served by Institute of Distribution, Inc., will advertise milk, display it, fly banners, pennants, posters glorifying it. They will shout milk over the air, participate in milk celebrations and festivals sponsored by local civic and service organizations, all in behalf of milk. What is more relevant, they hope to sell milk. They hope to sell milk in substantial quantities--to benefit America and to help the American dairy farmer. The campaign is purely promotional. It has nothing whatever to do with the pricing or with the marketing of milk.

The 123 companies of the Institute group alone, employ over a half million employees. Approximately 20,000,000 customers, or nearly three times the population of New York City trade in their stores, daily, in nearly 2,500 municipalities.

TROUBLES OF A GLAMOUR GIRL HEADED FOR THE MOVIES

Adela Rogers St. Johns, noted Hollywood commentator, explains difficult of introducing socialite refinement in the movies. One of many features in the May 11th issue of

THE AMERICAN WEEKLY
the big magazine distributed with the BALTIMORE SUNDAY AMERICAN

Five pounds of citron . . . a minute . . . are imported in the U. S.