The Naturalist's Corner

Wild Life Conservation All Over the World

By Dr. William T. Hornaday, Director New York Zoological Society

Success with the Calico Bass.—The New Jersey Fish and Game Commission reports in its *Monthly Bulletin* that it has achieved what must be regarded as noteworthy success in breeding and rearing the calico or strawberry bass. Fifteen years ago the American Museum of Natural History pointed out the value of this northern fish for propagation in clean lakes and ponds, and urged that it should receive more attention from fish culturists. It is a fine fish for the young angler, and excellent for the table. The average size of the calico bass as it takes the hook is about one pound or less, and heretofore two pounds was regarded as its maximum limit. Now the New Jersey State Hatchery announces it has turned out specimens weighing up to five pounds. This new extreme weight gives the cultivation of this species a wholly novel aspect, and should stimulate the calico bass industry. As it is taken from the water this is a handsome fish. Its bright silver cast is beautifully mottled with olive-green blotches so regularly splashed as to suggest the pattern of a piece of calico. The species is sometimes called the grass bass.

Bolshevists Destroy a Big Preserve.—At Pilawin, in southeastern Russia, Count Potocki established and maintained a fine private game preserve of 7,000 acres. It was richly stocked with European bison, American bison, Asiatic and American

all these stocks have been disposed of. Now, however, the remnants of paradise and gaura that are still on the market are getting on the nerves both of the bird lovers and the millinery importers. The former are beginning to complain about it, and very recently the Millinery Chamber of Commerce of the United States has issued to the whole millinery trade of America a strongly worded circular calling for the quick retirement of all remaining stocks of forbidden plumage, and the clearing out of these objectionable goods. Naturally this strong move will be cordially endorsed by all bird lovers.

A Living Okapi.—On August 10th, the first living captive okapi arrived in Europe, from the great rain forest of the Upper Congo. By a special dispensation of poetic justice it came to the Antwerp Zoological Gardens—the one most cruelly used by the war, and most in need of a great zoological prize. The animal is a female a year and a half old; it is in excellent health and feeding well. This is the same specimen reported in the *Zoological Society Bulletin* of last July by Herbert Lang, the famous zoological explorer of the Congo region, and collector of many fine okapi skins for the American Museum of National History. It was reared at Buta, in the Uele. It was so tame that it became thoroughly domesti-

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A FIELD of legitimate scientific interest which the SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN has rather allowed to go by default is that represented by the above caption. We believe that an effort to tell our readers the news of the world's flora and fauna, both wild and captive, will meet support. Accordingly we have arranged to secure the material from Dr. Hornaday and others of equal prominence in other branches; and we plan to set it forth under the present head as occasion offers.—THE EDITOR.

wapiti, deer of many species, and choice game birds such as pheasants, grouse, black-cock and partridge. As a private game preserve it was so admirable that after having visited it, just previous to the war outbreak of 1914, Mr. Richard Lydekker wrote a book about it in order to describe it adequately. But war changes everything, and last year a section of the Trotzky Red Army reached Pilawin. The count reported in Paris a short time ago that as a result of this visitation all the wild animals of his preserve were killed, and his estate completely destroyed. There is very slight chance that even one breeding pair of European bison will be left alive anywhere in southeastern Russia, or in the forests of the Caucasus Mountains.

Exit Forbidden Plumage.—In 1913, after a hard fight with the millinery trade over a clause in the Wilson Tariff Bill to exclude from the United States all importations of wild-bird plumage for millinery purposes, the bird protectors won a complete victory. The clause for which they contended became a law, and forthwith all the reputable importers of bird plumage set out to obey the letter and the spirit of the law. They have steadfastly maintained that attitude and have resolutely frowned upon the attempts at smuggling and the irregularities in imports which a few dealers have attempted. Of course all the stocks of forbidden foreign plumage, such as bird of paradise, gaura or crown pigeon plumes, and numidia or eared pheasant that were in the United States when the law went into effect have been legally salable, and nearly

cated, and wandered freely and fearlessly about the post. It was planned in Buta, before the animal started for Europe, that it should be taken to Antwerp by Mr. Lebrun, an official of the Belgian Government and himself a great lover of animals. No doubt that plan was put into effect.

Loss of a Famous Wild Life Protector.—The State of Pennsylvania has lost its most active and forceful protector of wild life. On August 10th Dr. Joseph Kalbfus, for many years the fighting secretary of the State Game Commission, was killed in an automobile by a railroad train near Tiona. Dr. Kalbfus entered at the beginning, and lived through, literally with armor on and sword in hand, the stormy days of Pennsylvania's creative game-protection days. In the educating of the people into right thinking, and into the support of right laws for the protection and increase of wild life, he was a gallant and forceful propagandist and an active fighter against any opposition. It was he more than any other one man who secured the enactment of the law prohibiting aliens from owning guns—a law which the alien elements fought through all the courts until the Federal Supreme Court finally and forever affirmed its constitutionality. That law was rendered necessary by the great number of state game wardens murdered by foreign-born pot-hunters. Dr. Kalbfus was prominently active in every one of the movements and campaigns that resulted in placing Pennsylvania in the foremost ranks of the States

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distinguished for their wise and far-reaching laws in protection and increase of wild life. His place in the history of wild-life protection in America is a high one, and one forever secure.

Saving the Yellowstone Elk.—The fate of the Yellowstone Park elk herds, now by some persons said to be seriously diminishing, has developed into a serious problem, with about as many points of view as a polyscope. After many months of study and investigation on the ground in the Jackson Hole Country, the United States Forest Service has evolved a plan and submitted it to the public in print. It calls for rather large expenditures on the part of the Federal Government, in purchasing additional lands to serve as winter feeding grounds for the elk herds that spend the summer in the park, and which at the approach of winter march southward through the snow to the only spot where they ever found food available in the cold season. But in the Jackson Valley the best elk feeding grounds are occupied by ranches. For several years the Government has been buying hay from ranchmen, and hauling in hay from outside, to feed the hungry elk herds. But this method of elk salvage is temporary and inadequate and something else must be done. Mr. Emerson Hough in a bitter article has attacked the Government's facts and plans. The cattle men, or at least some of them, are bitter and unconvinced. They are opposing the proposed Mondell extension to the Yellowstone Park, and assert that it would not be of any value whatever in saving the elk situation. Many conservators of wild life are in a state of watchful waiting, not knowing just at present what to think.

Gift of Wild Animals to Belgium.—While the Huns were still in Belgium, the New York Zoological Society, by a roundabout means, informed the Royal Zoological Society of Antwerp that just as soon as the soil of Belgium had been freed of the invader it would make to the Antwerp zoo a large gift of animals as a contribution to its renaissance. On account of the heavy losses suffered the Antwerp Society has not been able to accept the gift before the present time. Now, however, the city of Antwerp has made a large contribution toward the restoration of the half-ruined cages and buildings, and the gift can be received immediately. For three weeks Director Hornady and the curators at the Zoological Park have been preparing for shipment a really huge assemblage of live mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. All these specimens are either duplicates born and reared in the park, or else are specimens specially purchased by the Zoological Society for the gift to Belgium. While complete lists are not yet available, it is known that the lot will contain bison, yak, Barbary mountain sheep, tapir, deer, elk, zebra, wild horse, bear, kangaroo, wolves, foxes, sea lions, and many smaller mammals. The bird collection will comprise representatives of 104 species, in about 350 specimens, including such large forms as the ostrich and emu. This great gift will be transported by the Lloyd Royal Belgium Line, and will leave New York about October 1st, in charge of three very competent Zoological Park keepers.

Deer Hunting in the Adirondacks.—Unless by proclamation of Governor Smith all fall hunting is forbidden on account of the great danger of destructive forest fires, the coming six weeks' deer-hunting season will see in the Adirondacks a new procedure. Goaded by the lawless elements of that region into signing a doe-killing bill, to determine by one experimental season how the plan clamored for by the doe-killers will work out, the Governor has given the killers of fe-

male deer a chance to shoot mother deer, and also to shoot one another. But it must not be supposed for a moment that the Governor believes in the "ethics" of killing breeding female deer. Quite the contrary. On account of the outrageous and shameless lawlessness recently prevailing in the Adirondacks, he said: "We must try the other plan for one season, and see how it works." That there will be a considerable number of hunters killed by deer-hunters is reasonably certain. It is so in every densely populated State wherein any deer may be shot regardless of sex. The absence of a buck law leads the nervous or the green amateur hunter to shoot at moving bushes in order not to miss his chance; and in one year in Wisconsin, previous to the buck law, 27 dead hunters were counted as the result. The fighters of the demand for doe-killing now warn all parents whose sons contemplate hunting deer in the Adirondacks this year that the risks of being killed are now very great. Adult hunters who know what doe-killing means are left to take care of themselves, and pass the increased risks along to the life insurance companies.

The See-Saw Concrete Mixer

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direct means of handling than the hoe. But he recognizes that a good deal of assistance can be given the man with the hoe, without altering the fundamental character of the treatment given the material. In particular, he finds it burdensome to demand that the hoer generate all the power for moving the heavy mixture from one end of the mixing tray and back again. So he has fixed up his mixer in such a way that this little detail is largely attended to by gravity.

Everybody who has ever worked over a batch of concrete with a hoe must have thought how much easier his job would be if the tray were only tilted, so that he could hoe down from the upper end to the lower. But then comes the distressing thought of what will happen when the mix has been brought entirely to the lowest level. Shall we turn about and proceed to sacrifice all the advantage gained, by hoeing it back up-hill?

The inventor of the see-saw mixer has answered this question the way we should like to have it answered. He has given us a mixer tray mounted on a rocker. Then, when we have hoed the mix all the way down from the top of the tray to the bottom, all we need to do is to reverse the tray and hoe it down from top to bottom again—and again and again, until mixing is complete. We are not even asked to tilt the tray over by unaided elbow-grease; it is semi-suspended from a tackle, with its roller resting on the ground, in such a way that we haul it over by pulling on the rope. Also, it is divided into compartments by transversal baffleplates, so that we get the extreme of mixing action possible as we hoe the mix over one after another of these.

As compared with shovel mixing on a floor, the inventor states that the see-saw mixer saves one man's wages and several bags of cement each day. There is no stooping—a very big factor—and no wet feet on a wet floor. The use of the muscles is diversified and changed, so that instead of just one stooping movement all day, there are three separate operations: yet this change in the work does not cause any loss of time. Like a wheelbarrow, the see-saw mixer is just a simple little device to enable a man to do more work in a given time, with less fatigue.

High-Lights of Air-Travel

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as well as increasing it by reflection. From the viewpoint of visibility the haze is generally more annoying to the observer at altitudes of about a mile than

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