

Few Moose Felled During Season

Now that another moose season has gone by, the time has come for an analysis of the situation.

In the Bulkley Valley it is usual for many perambulating bulls to be knocked over quite early in the Fall, these are the animals that live in the nearby highlands and they were almost certainly born in the vicinity.

Follows something of a lull in amount of hunting and number of bulls to be seen, then as November closes the herds come from distances to the wintering grounds in the floor of the valley.

Generally the weather has been zero-cold for two or three weeks, the snows lie 12 to 20 inches deep in the popple-willow stands and those hunters who like to get their meat the easy way (close to town) sally forth, but this year the weather was very mild.

REDUCE COWS
One former guide, now resident in Rupert, waited until December 11 before going after his bull; on the five days he hunted he saw three or more cows each day, all within easy shooting range, but NEVER A BULL! A large number of residents of Smithers waited late this year and failed to get meat, and the consensus there appears to be that the time is ripe for a reduction in the number of cows.

Buster, the aforementioned ex-guide, reports more wolf tracks in a given distance than he has seen before, and a surprisingly small number of yearling antlerless moose. I am acquainted with more than a

dozen capable hunters in Smithers who give similar reports. A certain provincial department (not the Game Commission) made an aerial census of moose in a district southeast of Prince George last March but it was not possible to determine sex, as none of the animals still retained their antlers.

OPEN SEASON
But a herd definitely totaling 2000 moose was found using a 60-square-mile winter yard, and he herd was already beginning to break up for Spring; so it was deduced that this cover was being overtaxed in its food producing possibilities.

I am quite in accord with this finding, and also with the open season that was declared on cow-moose in this area; should there not be a similar cow season in the Bulkley Valley very soon?

'Tis an ill wind that blows nobody good! Gordie Hetherington fished the Bulkley beneath the bridge at the east end of Smithers on Nov. 30, and took one of the finest steelheads ever, a fresh-run sparkler over 10 pounds. That is better than Marty did in the same water, for only once since the war did the weather permit fishing as late as Nov. 15; but the fishing was tops.

Buster also reported the river to be low and clear with many visible steelheads finning upstream.

The Cloyah gets into the news again, Bob Armstrong is one of those in the know, who is getting the odd steelhead from that water. All kinds of credit

is due those Rupertans who are responsible for establishing what almost surely will be a year-round run of steelies.

ROOM FOR MORE
Glad to notice that certain hidden lights are beginning to shine around the new trap-shooting grounds, there is room for you too! Why not turn out and do your bit for your own City Rod and Gun Club?

Remember Winston Mair? He came here a year ago and talked to the Rod and Gun crowd about predators, etc. For some reason that we won't discuss, he was permitted to get away from the service of this province, and that is a direct loss. Perhaps in his new capacity he will still give a helping hand to friends here, those same folk who are very happy that the Dominion Minister of Resources, Mr. Winters, has announced that Mr. Mair is appointed the chief of the Canadian Wildlife Service. This appointment was filled after open Dominion-wide competition following the resignation of Dr. H. F. Lewis. Good luck to you, Colonel Mair! Good luck to my readers too, and A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS to all of those who have patiently read this far!

ERIC S. MARTIN.

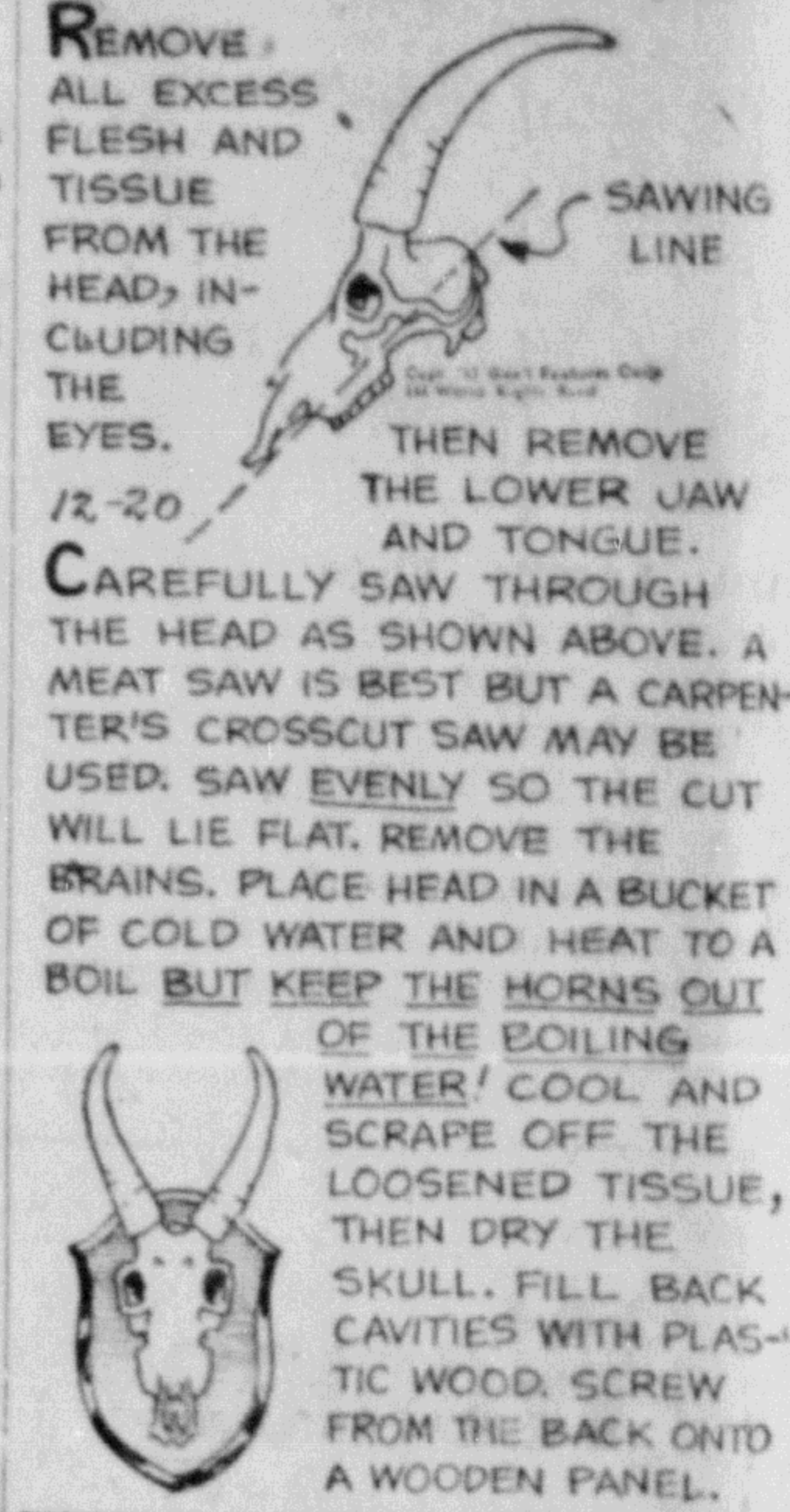
Defence Program

OSLO, Norway (CP)—The ministry of defence has started a new three-year defence construction program. Work now is proceeding on six airfields, four bomb-proof mountain shelters and 10 barracks to provide 248 apartments for officers.

SPORTSMAN'S DIGEST

By Hal Sharp

MOUNT YOUR OWN TROPHY HORNS....



Coronation Expected To Help Jewellers

LONDON (AP)—British jewellers reckon the Coronation June 2 will bring them boom conditions.

They already note tendencies of British women to imitate the jewelry they see in pictures of royalty. A queen's jewel casket tends to be costly, however, so jewellers have introduced a few gimmicks to help the fashion-conscious in Coronation year.

There will be no need to decide whether to have a diamond necklace or a tiara—one leading jeweller produces both for the price of one.

It is a series of composite tiaras which break down into individual necklaces, elips, bracelets and ear-drop ornaments when the tiara is not needed for headwear. Prices range from 3,500 pounds up.

Since the Queen gave permission for certain royal emblems to be used in jewelry, British craftsmen have been busy fashioning lions, unicorns and other royal symbols on a wide range of jewelry and silverware.

Other coronation jewelry includes models of the Coronation coach, the state trumpeters and London scenes made of gold and colored gems.

Libby Dam Problem To Be Probed

VICTORIA (CP)—A seven-man committee, consisting of four cabinet ministers and three engineers has been appointed to study all phases of the three-year-old Libby Dam problem in the Columbia River basin. Premier Bennett announced Thursday.

"The government is anxious to know our resources and our future needs before we give anything to the United States," he said.

"I must stress, though, that appointment of this committee is not an attempt to line our forces against the United States. We just want to get as much information as possible."

Lands Minister Sommers said recently the government would barter use of B.C. lands for water storage in exchange for United States permission to extend the natural gas pipeline from B.C. into the north-west states.

Main May Go Any Time

Several Solutions Offered To Solve City's Water Problem

At least five different solutions to the city's water problem have been offered by consulting engineers hired by the city to probe the matter.

While none of the suggestions have been adopted, several have come under close study by the city council board of works, and by D. C. Stewart, superintendent of works.

Both, the late W. R. Bonnycastle's report of three years ago and F. C. Stewart's complete survey results last year, warn of the condition of the 18-inch water main; that it may go at any time.

Corrosion is fast eating up much of the line and according to engineers' reports the inside diameter of the pipe has shrunk to less than six inches in some cases. Part of this line, from the chlorination station to salt water, has been renewed in recent years, but many sections in the several miles of steel casing are known to be on the verge of corrosion.

Another major factor which limits any expansion of the city's present water system is the fact that the actual source is itself limited by the rate at which the Shawatians power plant operates. Often the peak demand by the plant leaves little enough water for the city.

HAS FRANCHISE

The power company operates the plant under franchise and agreement with the city to augment its Falls River hydro and city diesel generated power output.

But the city has first water rights, and in an emergency can and has stopped the operation of the power plant in favor of increasing water supply.

To counter these factors one solution calls for tapping Woodworth Lake directly at the dam, at the same time replacing the present 18-inch main with a 30-inch pipe to allow for future expansion of the system.

This method would circumvent the power plant problem and assure a direct flow and high water pressure at all times. To install it would cost close to a million dollars, and pipe maintenance costs would be greatly increased.

SHARE COST

At present, the city shares with Northern B.C. Power Co. Ltd. one-third of the cost of maintaining the 45-inch penstock from the dam to the power house, amounting to about \$1,000 annually. Total cost of maintaining the present water system which includes the \$5,200 annual cost of operating a booster pump at the city end to maintain water pressure is roughly \$1,000 a month.

Booster pump operation would still be necessary, even though a new line were laid directly to the Woodworth dam.

Other solutions suggest laying a 30-inch pipe from the power house only, feeding from the 45-inch main, as does the present 18-inch line, at a cost of ap-

LACK OF PIPE

proximately \$750,000. One factor which plays a big part in all of these methods is the difficulty of obtaining a large enough quantity of steel piping, still very scarce, not considering the heavy initial capital investment.

The last proposed answer to the water supply problem is to scrap the entire line from the end of Shawatians Lake to the dam and forsake Woodworth Lake as a source of water.

This method calls for installation of three fully automatic pumps with room for a fourth.

only a mile from salt water which would furnish a greater than present capacity of water supply and would handle considerable expansion when warranted.

Shawatians Lake water would be used. Pumps would be electrically operated and fully automatic, requiring attention only of one man.

Cost of installation of this system would be about 20 per cent of the cost of laying new pipe. Operation cost has been figured roughly at \$18,000 to \$25,000 a year, depending on number of pumps used.

This system would eliminate

the use of booster pumps which would be independent power plant.

The pumping alternative is a serious consideration, says consulting engineer F. C. Stewart, who told the city in his report last year.

But whatever means decides to employ to replace its water system, action must be taken quickly to insure an abundance of water, a most important commodity of the city.



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