



An Oppressed People

ENDANGERED animal species, as well as conquered and enslaved peoples, must look to American might as their hope of liberation and survival. An outstanding example is the great fur seal herd of the Pribilof islands.

Last fall, before the American-Japanese crisis deepened suddenly into war, the international treaty protecting these valuable animals and insuring an equitable distribution of the pelts taken from surplus young males expired. Japan served notice of non-intention to renew, which in effect destroyed the treaty entirely. The Japanese government alleged that the seals were feeding destructively on fish in Japanese waters—something

for which scientists of other nationalities could not find the slightest trace of evidence.

Since the Pribilof islands are unquestioned American territory, we could have forcibly prevented any Japanese sealers from landing there during the breeding time next summer, even if war had not broken out. We shall probably do that now, to the further extent of sinking or capturing any Japanese craft seen in the neighborhood.

However, even that would not have insured the safety of the seals. After the pups are born and have learned how to swim, the herd takes to sea again, migrating southward for the winter, remaining permanently in the water. It used to be the practice of sealers to follow the migrating herd, killing the animals in the water. Elimination of pelagic sealing, as this is called, was one of the main objectives of the now defunct treaty.

There is no question whatever that the Japs will follow the herd if they are able—perhaps even shell or bomb the breeding area next summer just to damage and spite this country, if they are masters of the North Pacific. Certainly if Japan wins the war the seal herd hasn't a ghost of a chance, for the Japanese have long been notorious for their disregard of even the elements of conservation. To save the seals, we must win the war.

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SCIENCE CLUBS OF AMERICA

SAN DIEGO, Calif.—Chi Eta Mu, a club formed at the Hoover High School, is hinging most of its activities upon war work and national defense. At present, members are taking first aid courses under the sponsorship of L. Sorkness, head of the science department.

Members of Science clubs can contribute vitally to America's war needs. Because of their training and particularly because of their keen natural interest in scientific subjects club members are capable of performing many of the duties which civilian defense members will be expected to carry on in event of necessity.

Science clubs on the west coast were more alert to impending danger because they took an earlier interest in defense activities than clubs in other parts of this country. However, it is gratifying to know that science clubs at last have recognized the role they can play in America's new production.

CLEVELAND, Ohio—Eleanor Welsh, President of the Nieuwland Science Club of Notre Dame Academy, writes: "The outstanding event of the year was our very successful Science Night. We still get favorable comments from our past visitors." Club members prepare exhibits on dyes, paints, plastics, crystals, and conduct experiments with cosmetics, colloidal chemistry and the chemistry of kitchen materials. They use "Things of Science" units for study and experimentation. They have guest speakers, educational tours, and exhibits of photographs. They hold weekly meetings, annual parties, do the photographic work for the school annual and prepare auditorium programs. Sister Mary Carmelette, S.N.D., chemistry teacher, sponsors this club which is also affiliated with the Ohio Junior Academy of Science.

MALDEN, Mass.—Lincoln Junior High School has a compulsory club program. Students are expected to attend meetings during regular school hours and teachers must participate. Members of the club sponsored by Thomas H. Thomson, science teacher, conduct experiments in botany, chemistry and physics, take trips to nearby factories, and museums, and are now preparing for a science exhibit to be held in the spring.

ROCHESTER, N. Y.—The Science Club of Benjamin Franklin Junior-Senior High School is divided into three groups (each directed by a teacher) embracing the fields of biology, physics and chemistry. Among these groups there is further specialization: Some members working on chemical warfare, anatomy and microscopy; others trying to solve problems in the fields of radio, electricity and genetics. The club is sponsored by Robert H. Smith, biology teacher.

RACINE, Wis.—Each member of the Washington Park High School Science Club sponsored by vice-principal A. B. Close, works on a semester project which later is placed on exhibition. The club also conducts laboratory experiments, makes valuable charts, compiles data and carries on experiments with mice and guinea pigs.

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