

Protection Pays

IS IT WORTH while for farmers to protect and encourage wildlife? Demonstration that it is, even from a strictly financial viewpoint, was offered to the Wildlife Conference by Merrill C. Gilfillan of the Ohio Division of Conservation and Natural Resources.

Mr. Gilfillan deliberately chose one of the toughest problems in wildlife management that could be found in the United States: the northeastern part of Ohio, where there are many farmers all owning small, closely cultivated farms, and such big masses of urban population as Cleveland, Youngstown and Akron.

Cooperation of 23 farmers, with farms averaging only 68 acres each, was secured. They were shown how to make swamp and other uncultivable land as hospitable as possible to ducks, pheasants and other game birds, as well as to muskrats and other fur-bearing animals.

Carefully regulated hunting privileges were granted during the shooting season to city sportsmen who were more than willing to pay reasonable fees. In addition, the farmers themselves harvested muskrat and other pelts. Taken altogether, wildlife protection made this "useless" land yield about as much revenue per acre as neighboring cultivated fields.

Science News Letter, March 30, 1940

Coal Lands as Refuges

EMPTIED-OUT strip mines, hitherto disregarded as man-made deserts of no possible profit to anybody, are being made to yield substantial returns in fish, fowl and fur, Lee E. Yeager of the Illinois Natural History Survey reported.

Strip mines are coal workings where

the overburden of soil is so thin that it is more practicable to clear it away with steam-shovels and drags than to sink shafts. When the coal is all taken out, the land is left as great raw ridges of piled earth and shale, interspersed with swamps and long ponds. Abandoned strip lands like this are common in several states of the Midwest.

Natural return of trees, brush and volunteer weed vegetation is beginning

to afford sufficient shelter and food to encourage a considerable wildlife population, said Mr. Yeager. Speeding up the natural process by setting out the right types of vegetation has been found profitable in many places. The stripped lands, which would ordinarily yield nothing, are producing more game, fish and fur than similar areas along the margins of fertile fields.

Science News Letter, March 30, 1940

MEDICINE

New Kidney Hormone Helps Gastric Ulcer Sufferers

HOPES for high blood pressure and stomach ulcer patients appeared in discoveries announced at the meeting of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology in New Orleans.

For the stomach ulcer patients there will be the new hormone urogastrone, obtained from kidney excretions. First trials on ten normal persons showed that this hormone can stop the formation of acid by the stomach, Drs. A. C. Ivy, E. Wiczorowski and J. S. Gray, Northwestern University Medical School, reported. At present, ulcer patients must take alkaline powders to neutralize the acid in their stomachs so that it will not irritate the ulcers and cause bleeding.

The new hormone will be injected under the skin. Such injections at present cause swelling and reddening. Dr. Ivy and associates hope shortly to overcome this feature by further purification of the hormone, after which it will be ready for use in treating ulcer patients. The hormone treatment, by checking the acid in the stomach, will give the ulcer a chance to heal. To prevent

recurrence of the ulcer, Dr. Ivy said, the patients must learn a new philosophy of life which will help them to take their worries more calmly.

Science News Letter, March 30, 1940

Lowers Blood Pressure

PATIENTS with malignant high blood pressure which could not be lowered by any other means, were helped by two new kidney extracts described by Drs. Irvine H. Page and O. M. Hel-

PACKAGED PEACOCKS

Modern high-speed transportation makes possible express shipments undreamed-of a few years ago. Here are three rare white peacocks that recently went from Havana to Boston by air express, simply wrapped in paper and tied with cord. They travelled with a minimum of discomfort and arrived with their beautiful white plumage unsoiled and unruffled. Had it been necessary to use older, slower ways, they would have had to ride in crates, and would have reached their destination with feathers (and probably dispositions) considerably rumpled.

