

MARINE BIOLOGY

Walrus on Decline

► **WASTEFUL HUNTING** methods used by the Eskimo are blamed for the critical decline in Canada's Atlantic walrus by Dr. M. J. Dunbar, chairman of the board of governors of the Arctic Institute of North America and professor at McGill University, Montreal.

The Atlantic walrus is no longer found south of Hudson Bay and Hudson Strait. As recently as 200 years ago, walrus were common as far south as the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Eskimo hunting methods resemble those of the hunters in "Peter and the Wolf," "coming through the forest shooting as they come," according to Dr. Dunbar's paper, "The Status of the Atlantic Walrus in Canada." The paper will be discussed in Copenhagen at the annual meeting of the Danish Nature Conservancy.

The actual walrus loss caused by the Eskimo is uncertain. However, seal loss from similar hunting methods has been estimated at three animals lost for every one landed.

Due to the Atlantic walrus' decline, the Canadian Department of Northern Affairs is taking steps to supervise and control the Eskimo's hunting. The Canadian government has banned white commercial hunting since 1950.

Dr. Dunbar has pointed out that it will be necessary to learn a considerable amount about walrus life and habits before hunting can be rationally controlled.

There are indications that the walrus of Canada may be part of a large group that migrates with the West Greenland walrus every winter. Dr. Dunbar suggests that the animals be spotted by plane in an attempt to determine positively the walrus' winter habits.

Walrus conservation is important to the rehabilitation of the Canadian Eskimo economy. The huge, clumsy animal is highly valued as a food and oil source. Its thick, brown hide is used for harness, ropes and fishing lines. The iron-like tusks of the animal are made into tools.

Science News Letter, August 21, 1954

NUTRITION

Improve Dad's Diet

► **TRADITIONALLY**, Dad who is the family breadwinner eats highest on the hog, or is the best fed member of the family. However, a recent survey of 600 men working in industrial plants shows that this tradition is not being followed too well.

The survey was made by the New Jersey Experiment Station under the direction of Dr. MacLean J. Babcock. Records of food eaten and analyses of blood samples and medical examinations furnished the information.

Many of the men, it turned out, were not getting three square meals a day and were overdoing on sweet snacks between meals.

One-fourth were low in calcium, needed for sound bones and teeth and proper functioning of muscles and nerves. Because the important food for calcium is milk, a pint of milk a day or its equivalent in milk products has long been recommended for an adult man. Yet 30% of these industrial workers drank less than half a pint of milk a day.

Blood analyses indicated that a fourth of the men were low in vitamin C, corresponding to food records showing that they ate too few citrus fruits, tomatoes and leafy-green vegetables.

Forty-four percent of the men were overweight. Food records showed that many had only a cup of coffee and a sweet roll for breakfast, and eased mid-morning hunger with high calorie snacks sold at the plant. This kind of eating not only leads to obesity, but causes a lack of appetite for foods rich in minerals and vitamins.

Diet records and medical examinations revealed not only a shortage of calcium and vitamin C but also of other vitamins, particularly the important B-vitamins, thiamine and riboflavin.

Science News Letter, August 21, 1954

ENTOMOLOGY

Iowa Corn Borer Attack Worst Since Record Year

► **THE EUROPEAN** corn borer is attacking Iowa farms with greater severity than at any time since 1949 when damage in the U.S. totaled \$349,635,000, the all-time high.

The first brood of borers has infested from 70% to 95% of the corn stalks in counted Iowa fields, a U. S. Department of Agriculture official told **SCIENCE SERVICE**. Spraying against the second brood of borers has begun in both northern and southern counties.

Southeastern counties of South Dakota report 87% of the stalks infested. Counts in this area showed 393 holes per 100 stalks.

Reports from Minnesota indicate there will be serious second generation damage in that state if the borers are not partially destroyed by the hot, dry weather and natural enemies.

Other areas reporting borer infestations include Illinois, Wisconsin, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri, Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, North Carolina, Maryland and New Jersey.

The corn borers damage corn and, to

much lesser extent, a variety of other crops by their tunneling and feeding. The insects bore into practically all parts of corn plants except the fibrous roots.

The first European corn borers to be found in this country were discovered in 1917. A Massachusetts research worker found several pinkish-brown worms on corn in market gardens around Boston.

These first borers were traced to Medford broom factories that had imported broom-corn from Italy and Hungary a few years before.

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There are only 18 *calories* in a spoonful of sugar.

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