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ZOOLOGY

Surplus in Oil Will Mean Respite for Persecuted Whale

WHALES, in danger of extermination from overhunting, will "get a break" this year; for due to a heavy over-production of whale-oil last year it has been decided to curtail whaling very sharply, and many ships have been laid up. The present status of the whale problem is discussed in *Science* by Dr. H. C. Townsend, director of the New York Aquarium.

Only Modern Vessels

Dr. Townsend quotes from a letter by a Norwegian correspondent:

"So far as I can gather, the outlook is this: Next season only the modern vessels will go out, and that only provided they have been able to sell the oil in advance. There is still a quantity of say 500,000 barrels unsold of last season's catch . . . Sandefjord, Tonsberg and Larvik are the New Bedford, New London and Nantucket

of Norway at the present day."

The whales pursued by the ships of the present day, with their terrifically efficient methods of killing and their factory-like organization, are not the same species whose blubber filled the barrels of the Yankee ships of a century ago. The species chiefly pursued in Antarctic waters, Dr. Townsend says, are blue whale and finback, which did not figure in the catch of the old time whaler. His methods were less effective. Other kinds of whales, such as sperm, right, humpback and sei, are no longer abundant. These were greatly reduced in numbers during the nineteenth century. The gray whale has become a rarity and the once important bowhead does not figure in modern whaling at all.

There is a year's supply of whale oil on hand. Whaling ventures as a whole are in abeyance until next fall. It is evident that the stock of whales has greatly decreased. It would be deplorable if the last season's slaughter were repeated in 1933, and the world's most important animal-oil resource seriously damaged.

Science News Letter, March 19, 1932

ZOOLOGY

Moose Calf Approved Radio But Disliked Announcer

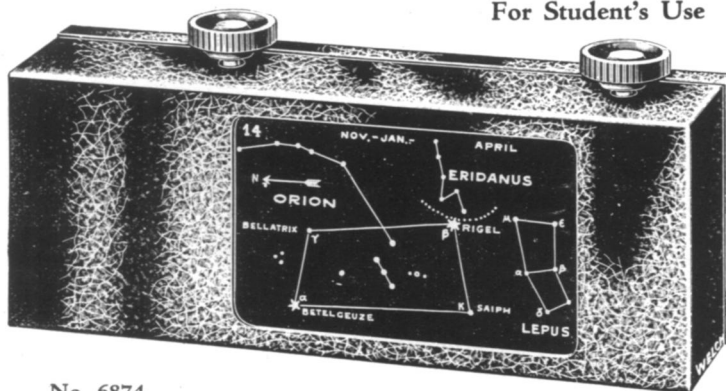
RADIO ANNOUNCERS seem to be as much anathema to Yellowstone Park moose as they are to some people. Park Ranger Edward E. Ogston tells this tale of a moose calf he saw lying within range of his loudspeaker when he turned on his radio:

"Music drifted to the calf and he turned his head from side to side like a smart dog listening to his master's voice. The calf was pleased and contented until, as Walter Winchell would say, 'Now we'll let the dunce play his three notes,—ding—dong—ding.' Following the station announcement, a masculine voice spoke from the radio. In an instant the calf was on his feet. With hair bristling he ran into the woods with a very discontented air, quite different from the calm peaceful attitude of his repose."

Science News Letter, March 19, 1932

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