



### Smaller Homes

WITH the lion's share of a continent at our disposal, we Americans are rather given to thinking of wildlife conservation in very large and spacious terms. The idea that anything worth while can be done in less than a thousand square miles seems hardly worth considering.

Yet two of Europe's smaller countries, Denmark and the Netherlands, have well-worked-out systems for the protection and encouragement of wildlife, despite the intensive utilization of the last inch of cultivable land necessitated by their limited territories and dense populations.

In Denmark, the government may create wildlife preserves, upon suitable compensation to the landowners. But landowners themselves may set up preserves if they so desire, with the scientific advice and assistance of the government. Two types of wildlife preserves are provided for, intended respectively for game-providing and scientific purposes.

In the Netherlands the cause of wildlife conservation is a genuinely popular one. There is a well-organized society

for nature protection, with a membership of 13,000, who are backed by other and even larger organizations such as the bicyclists' union, with over 100,000 members. These groups have been so well able to swing public opinion—not to mention fiscal legislation—that in the past 31 years no less than 39 game and wildlife sanctuaries have been established.

As in Denmark, private landowners are encouraged to put some of their lands to use for the benefit of wildlife. In the Netherlands, this encouragement takes the practical and highly tempting form of a partial remission of taxation. As a result, more than 325 large estates, with a total of over 125,000 acres, have taken advantage of this law—and given the country the advantage of their utilization as homes for game and wildfowl.

*Science News Letter, February 18, 1939*

#### ETHNOLOGY

### Cult of Sundowners Linked to Cocktail Habit

OF SERIOUS aspect was a communication handed to those in attendance at an anthropology section "tea" during the recent meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science at Cambridge. It was headed: "The Sundowner, its distribution, ritual and sociology."

Excerpts from this weighty report:

"The Sundowner appears to have been limited to Africa and Australia and the neighbouring islands . . . From America and the West Indies we have evidence of a similar custom, known as the cocktail habit. . . . it may be performed at any time during the 24 hours. In England the custom has recently appeared in the form of sherry parties. This culture seems to have reached England from the West, reversing the usual European culture-drift from east to west, the infer-

ence being that it is not of Nordic origin.

"Evidence as to its ritual significance is not wanting. First, there is the evidence of its name, 'Sundowner'; philologists are agreed on this point, if on no other; and with this is linked the regularity with which the ceremony is performed at the hour of sunset in the countries where the custom originated.

"Secondly, in its original and austere form, the ritual seems more often to have been performed by men in seclusion after several hours of fasting, and both these facts point to its origin being based on magic.

"Thirdly, part of the ritual consists of raising the glass, uttering an incantation, and then drinking some of the liquid. The incantation varies in different countries, and is often quite unintelligible, e.g. 'Chin-Chin', 'Here's How', and the like are now meaningless phrases but occasionally in country places one hears the phrase 'Happy Days', which unquestionably connects the rite with Sun-Worship, and in particular with the setting of the sun, a point which has hitherto been overlooked by our leading anthropologists."

*Science News Letter, February 18, 1939*

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two Army and two Navy radio-sonde stations.

The balloon which carries the instrument is about 3 feet in diameter before inflation and 5 or 6 feet in diameter after inflation. It can lift almost three pounds, but the instrument, including its inexpensive radio transmitter, weighs only about 1½ pounds. The instrument now in use for Weather Bureau observations is that developed by the National Bureau of Standards for use of the Navy Department.

The balloon and the instrument rise at a rate of about 1,300 feet per minute. They ascend for sixty minutes or more to an altitude of about fifteen

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