

The Arbitration and Peace Movement

By Euphemia Holden, secretary to the executive committee of the North Carolina Arbitration and Peace Congress.

The peace sentiment has always existed and in almost every age it has found a voice. The day will come when the Christian ideal will come into a perfect, permanent peace exist between man and man and nation and nation. Until that ideal is demonstrated, however, it will be necessary to adopt methods which may be called "sufter-it-to-be-so-now."

The most practical efforts to establish an intermediate peace are those made to bring about the substitution of arbitration for war in the settlement of disputes between nations.

A short time ago in England there passed away a man who is responsible for much of the good work that has been done along these lines in the last twenty years. He was a working man, a carpenter, and he always remained a working man. Yet for many years he occupied a seat in the House of Commons and accomplished things of immeasurable importance. He received the Nobel peace prize of \$40,000 for his services in the cause of peace, a sum which he promptly gave to the International Arbitration League of which he was the founder. He was also given the Cross of the Legion of Honor through President Carnot, of the French republic.

When King Edward of England wished to confer upon him the Order of Knighthood he refused because he would not confer honor upon an independent citizen that arrangements were made by which he was permitted to appear in ordinary clothes, and he became Sir William Brandt Cremer.

In 1850 when Cremer was 25 years old he went through a lockout which involved 100,000 men. At that time he made up his mind that war, either industrial, civil or international, was madness. He spent two decades organizing unions among British workmen and strengthening the sentiment for arbitration in industrial matters. In 1885 he was sent to the House of Commons, one of the first workmen ever to enter its doors.

Washington arrested a petition signed by over two hundred members of Parliament, requesting the President and Congress of the United States to conclude a treaty with England, stipulating that any differences or disputes arising between the two nations which could not be adjusted by diplomatic agency, should be referred to arbitration.

"The conclusion of such a treaty," said the document, "could be a splendid example to all nations who are wasting their resources in war-provoking institutions and might induce other governments to join the peaceful compact."

Mr. Andrew Carnegie, who many years later was to be a peace advocate, attended the various meetings of the men who were regularly appointed delegates from thirty-nine States and Territories. The organizations from which these delegates were sent included commercial bodies, labor unions, farmers' granges, mutual aid societies, churches, and other religious, ethical, reform and philanthropic societies, colleges, universities, learned, patriotic and women's societies. The register of the congress and its committee showed that there were enrolled among its membership and supporters two men who had been candidates for the presidency of the United States, eight Cabinet officers, ten United States Senators, nineteen members of the House of Representatives, the chief justice of the Supreme Court, twelve State Chief Justices, nine State Governors, sixty New York editors, thirty labor leaders, ten mayors, eighteen college and university presidents, twenty State Superintendents of Public Instruction and forty bishops.

The second Hague conference consisted of two hundred and forty-four members representing forty-four nations. Of these members forty-two were now entrusted with the highest diplomatic positions, twelve of them being ambassadors and thirty ministers. In fact, all of the members were men of the highest order of intelligence and character, the appointments in our own country go to prove.

The conference lasted four months, and while many who do not appreciate the immense difficulties involved in arranging such a world assembly of men, ideas and ideals were disappointed in the actual results of this meeting, those who see the development necessary before reaching Tennesson's vision, "the parliament of the world," are not disappointed. They are satisfied that the outlook for universal peace and mutual understanding among nations was never so bright as today.

The net results of the second conference were the provision for the opening of the third conference within a time analogous to that which intervened between the first and second and for the appointment by the powers of a committee of arrangement to assemble the third conference for the date of the third conference to prepare the programme, second, the passage of the Porter proposition providing that armed forces should not be used hereafter in the settlement of international disputes between governments, without first offering to submit the claims to the judgment of an international tribunal; third, the victory of the American principle of equal representation without regard to military power among nations participating in these world assemblies.

Although the proposal of obligatory arbitration and general treaties of arbitration were lost, a number of treaties was concluded between the representatives of different nations at the Hague, and since the close of the conference a dozen or more have been put into actual operation between this and other countries.

At the close of the second conference Dr. Ruy Barbosa, of Brazil, uttered these memorable words: "But, in spite of all things, the authority, the utility, the necessity of these assemblies, occurring periodically hereafter for the promotion of peace, have achieved for them an irrevocable conquest. They cannot be prevented, frustrated or replaced. They are an open door for all time, through which the rights of nations shall enter effectively into operation, little by little."

Numerous individuals and unofficial societies are adding yearly to the education and growth of public sentiment as to the possibility of securing a peaceful settlement of national disputes; year by year, also arise new instances of this possibility.

Among the peace societies, which have had great national and international influence are the American Peace Society of Boston, the Universal Peace Union of Philadelphia, the Lake Mohank Arbitration Conferences (founded and conducted by Albert K. Smiley), the International Conciliation established by Remondelle de Constant, to promote mutual understanding and sympathy between individuals and members of nations.

Youngest but by no means least im-

portant is the North Carolina Peace Society and its outgrowth, the Practical Peace League, both of which were founded by Hayne Davis, a North Carolinian, who has been prominently identified with the peace movement for a number of years.

The purpose of this congress is "to unite the people of North Carolina upon the progressive proposals approved by the second Hague conference, and to concentrate thought upon those ideas which need to be popularized prior to the third Hague conference. Also to discover the true relation between arbitration and armaments, so that nations may be brought always exist through adequate armaments until a reliable system of arbitration furnishes an efficient substitute."

This congress will take place in connection with the Greenback centennial, October 11th-16th. Eminent speakers will be present and speak upon various practical phases of the arbitration and peace movement. Every part of the State should be well represented and order proved. President Roosevelt's statement that "since the days of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence the country has looked to North Carolina for great initiatives."

FUR-BEARING ANIMALS IN NORTH CAROLINA

BY H. H. BRIDLEY.

One does not usually associate North Carolina with fur production but, in reality, some very fine furs are produced here. Including all mammals that have a fur of commercial value we have Virginia deer, black bear, otter, beaver (very rare), mink, coon, possum, skunk, muskrat, red fox, gray fox, wildcat and rabbit. Of these, by far the most valuable per skin, eliminating beaver as too rare to be considered, is the otter. These animals are found nearly all over the State, except right up in the mountains and are much more plentiful than is generally supposed. Their nocturnal and aquatic habits, and their extreme shyness all tend to make them inconspicuous and, unless one is familiar with the "stretches" they make along the banks, any suitable body of water may contain a gang unsuspected for a long time.

The otter reaches its greatest degree of development in the tracks in waters of the lower section. The largest of which I have recorded were from the lower part of the estuaries of Neuse and Pamlico rivers. There they may occasionally reach a weight of thirty pounds and a length of four and a half feet in the flesh. Around Raleigh the largest I ever handled was three feet nine inches in length and weighed seventeen pounds.

The fur of the otter is of two kinds. A very dense soft, silky and rather short under fur covers the whole of the body and gathers this a scarcer growth of longer, darker and coarser hair occurs. In dressing for commercial purposes the longer hairs are often "plucked" leaving the beautiful undercoat exposed. This is often dyed and the product much resembles the best grades of Alaska seal, both in beauty and value. Sometimes the long hairs are retained and the undyed pelt sold as "natural" otter.

The otter is caught almost entirely in steel traps, a number three Newhouse trap being the favorite. Owing to the extremely keen scent this animal possesses its trapping is very difficult and only the most experienced trappers can hope for much success.

The fur is "prime" about the first of the year and for a month or two after and after I have known a large, dark, prime, well-handled pelt to bring the trapper \$15 or more within the past year or two. But the majority caught are badly handled and do not bring the best prices.

Next in order among the higher grades of fur taken in this State comes the mink. While not nearly so valuable per skin as the foregoing, its much smaller size makes the made-up garment even lighter and warmer than a similar one made from otter. Mink fur also comprises two grades of fineness and length but it is invariably so far as I know—made up "natural," that is, unplucked. It is an exceptionally beautiful fur and, like the otter and other high-priced varieties, of first-class wearing qualities.

The mink is very much of a fish and crawfish species. The fact that many chicken raisers regard it as a poultry lover first and foremost and are prejudiced against the animal for this reason. Its natural home is along the water, and when it does visit the chicken yard it will usually be found that its course lay up the branch from the back.

These two varieties of fur, so far as those produced in this State are concerned, stand in a class to themselves. They are of the few that are never sold under manufactured trade names. Otter and mink are as standard names as seal or sable, but the same cannot be said of such trade names as brook mink, Alaska sable and a lot of others.

Such deer skins as are produced with us usually go into rugs or are made into buckskin, and seldom or never go into fur garments. Deer skins so into rugs or robes and for such purposes a well-furred skin is quite useful and valuable. But neither deer nor bear are sufficiently plentiful with us now to influence the market to any marked degree. Bear fur does not become prime until after the hibernating season is over, well along in the spring.

Muskrat skins are probably produced in greater numbers in North Carolina than those of any other fur-bearing animal. This fur is something like mink, but is thinner and coarser and does not compare with mink in beauty or wearing qualities. Nevertheless, much of the cheaper grade of so-called mink and many commercial furs sold under high-sounding names no doubt came originally from the backs of the muskrat. It is seldom sold under its proper name after being made up and I have seen it when plucked and dyed black sold as some kind of seal. The United States regulates muskrat traps in cold climates in winter and such a cap is warm and in every way desirable—but it doesn't pretend to be anything other than what it is. The fur is also used in glove and coat trimming. It becomes prime in the spring, mid-winter caught specimens usually grade about No. 3.

Coop probably comes next to the above in quality produced in North Carolina. This fur again is usually sold under other names and after treatment that hide its identity. It is often plucked and dyed and then makes a rather pretty, but not expensive—fur for collars, coats, etc. The under fur is rather long and not at all dense, compared with such varieties as mink and otter, but it has its place in the economy of furs.

Skunk is a rather handsome fur, always in demand, but not much of it goes on the market from this State. The smaller the amount of white, the more valuable the skin. It is being equal and skins with much white grade quite low. The fur is long and glossy and goes on the market under the name of Alaska sable. A great many of our fur makers understand where they are used in the manufacture of these large, bushy, "shaggy" worn by some English and con-

ventional regiments under the name of "bear skins."

"You may dye, you may work up the fur as you will, but the scent of the varmint will linger there still."

At least, many people would say were this commodity sold under its own true name.

Gray fox is one of the cheaper furs and not rated very highly. Red fox ranks higher and is often used naturally in hats and neck pieces. Its length and softness, combined with its warm color, make it a very pretty ornament. To my mind, but the dyed fur of not so good a quality seem to be preferred by the buying public.

Possum is another of the lower grades, the fur being thin and not particularly beautiful. It is usually discarded and plucked before going on the market.

Wildcat is another fur of only medium value, but in this we only produce a few annually.

Last comes the cheapest of all per skin and that is our common cottontail rabbit. Perhaps more individual, than any other animal, wildcat, skunk, bear, deer, gray fox and muskrat.

year than those of any other species, but most of them go into the manufacture of felt hats and not into fur.

Fur production in North Carolina is by no means an industry of any great importance, but there is a great value of this class of commodity shipped out of the State yearly than most people imagine. We do not have any professional trappers, but many trappers or farmers' boys, add a few dollars to his spending money by picking up a few mink, muskrat or beaver, with an occasional otter, possum or fox during the winter months. It is a pity that the majority of such pelts are badly handled and do not bring the trapper more than a third to a half the money they would if properly prepared. And it is little if any more trouble to make a good pelt than it is to make a poor one.

In the museum at Raleigh there is a collection of first-class native furs, showing the styles in which they should be prepared for the market to bring the best returns. Nearly all varieties found in the State are represented and in the collection are three otter pelts that are extra fine in color, size and quality. Others shown are fall rabbit, French mink, wildcat, skunk, bear, deer, gray fox and muskrat.

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