

‘ Why do we people wish the money ? ’

This is important. Please think if you are Christians or Roman Catholics or C.M.S. or C. of E. or many different Churches.

‘ Work hard and fear in God. Amen.’ ”

Written by J. TOKWARA.

THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURE

The fourth General Assembly of the I.U.P.N. was held at Copenhagen from 25th August to 3rd September, 1954, under the presidency of Dr. C. J. Bernard, who may be called the founder of the Union. His term of office being over, he is succeeded by Professor Roger Heim of France. Delegates and observers came from the U.S.A., Japan, India, Peru, New Zealand, U.S.S.R. and nearly all European countries. Among the British delegation were Lord Hurcomb, President of the Society for the Promotion of Nature Reserves, Mr. Max Nicholson, Director-General of the Nature Conservancy, Dr. J. Berry, Director of the Nature Conservancy for Scotland, and Lieut.-Colonel C. L. Boyle, Secretary of the Fauna Preservation Society.

Among the reports submitted to the Assembly was that of the Survival Committee, which is concerned with animals and plants in immediate danger of extermination. This Committee presented to the Assembly its new illustrated book, *Les fossiles de demain*, produced as a by-product of its work. It is hoped shortly to publish an English edition, amended in accordance with the information given by delegates during the course of the Assembly.

In spite of extensive inquiries the Committee had failed to obtain any information of the continued existence of the bubal, a desert hartebeest from Morocco and Tunis, and it is feared that this animal is now extinct. But cheering news came from Western Australia of an increase in the banded ant-eater, or numbat, so it is hoped that this little marsupial need no longer be regarded as a “fossil of to-morrow”. Another animal to which the Union had directed the Committee’s attention was the Asiatic lion, now surviving only in the Gir Forest of Saurashtra. The Committee was able to report the great interest taken in India in this lion, and the steps which the Indian Board for Wild Life has proposed to ensure its survival.



[Alwin Pedersen

**WALRUS IN GREENLAND. THE ARCTIC ANIMAL MOST IN
DANGER OF EXTINCTION.**

Besides statutory meetings, three technical meetings were held. At these were discussed—Protection of Arctic fauna, the effect of insecticides and weed killers on mammals, birds and insects, and means of publicity for nature protection.

The papers on Arctic fauna and the discussions following showed that many species had declined during recent decades and that, although climatic changes might partly be responsible, the main cause was persecution by man. As the preservation of these animals is of scientific and economic importance and is clearly an international matter, the Union has set up a standing committee under the chairmanship of Professor Spärck of Denmark, to consider the status and preservation of Arctic fauna.

Considering insecticides and weed-killers, it was clear that although much work has been done upon methods of avoiding the ill-effects of sprays on honey bee populations, less attention has been paid to other insects, such as solitary bees. These are important for they continue their work of pollination when the temperature is too low for honey bees. Hedgerows are an important habitat for these creatures and are made unsuitable by indiscriminate spraying. The devastation caused by the spraying of road verges with poisonous chemicals was shown to be unnecessary, for hormone sprays would remove the tall plants and effect the desired economy in roadside maintenance.

At the meeting on publicity the importance of radio broadcasts was emphasized as a means of bringing to notice the necessity for nature protection and the conservation of resources. Films and other visual aids were also considered effective, provided they were scientifically accurate.

During the Assembly visits were made to many protected areas of heath and woodland devoted to public recreation and to scientific research. Coastal areas put aside for wintering geese and other wild fowl were also seen. Particularly attractive was the absence of roadside advertisements, for these have been prohibited since 1937. It was obvious to the Assembly that nature protection in Denmark had reached a very high standard indeed.

[Reprinted by permission of *The Times*, in which newspaper this report has appeared in a shortened form.]