

**CONSERVATION OFFICER GIVES REASONS FOR SCARCITY OF FISH**

LANSING, Feb. 12.—The advance of civilization and with it the drainage of swamp lands and the cutting of forests, lowering the levels of many small lakes and shutting off their inlets or outlets may form one reason why fish are not found in many of these bodies of water scattered throughout the state, according to Fred A. Westerman, head of the Fish Division of the Department of Conservation.

It may be that the fish have smothered to death, he said. There are scores of small lakes in Michigan, many of them not more than an acre in size, in which no fish are found, and no conclusive theory has been given for the reason.

In some of these lakes fish may have lived at one time. An outlet may have ceased flowing; an inlet may have dried up through cutting of the forests or the change of the marshes. The lakes became smaller. In the winter the ice permitted no air to enter the

water, and the fish which were formerly adequately provided for through an outlet or inlet or because of a larger body of water, smothered. Since the same condition probably existed every winter, the lake may have become entirely depleted of fish.

In some sections states the smothering of fish in small lakes during the winter is reported as offering a very serious problem. Michigan has no serious condition of this kind, Mr. Westerman said, but it is probable that some such condition may exist in some instances and a loss of fish life occurs.

Some losses are reported from various sections each spring, but whether from smothering or some other cause, has never been definitely determined.

Olivera Bennett, 11, of Sharon, Pa., both of whose legs were amputated after an accident when she was 3 years old, dances skillfully on her hands and expects to go into vaudeville.

**TRAGEDIAN'S WIDOW CARRIES ON**



Mrs. Genevieve Hamper Mantell

By LILIAN CAMPBELL  
The story as told of Genevieve Hamper that when she was 14 she appeared in a "mob scene" in a Shakespearean play in which Robert B. Mantell was starring in her home town, Detroit. That she attracted his attention, either by her beauty or because she made more noise than anyone else in the mob.

Miss Hamper, herself, laughs when this is mentioned, and says it is a good story, but not strictly truthful. As a matter of fact, she made her first appearance in a walking part as a quart lady, and

was then promoted to the role of Jessica. She was in her teens at the time, and was a protegee of Mr. Mantell and his wife, Marie Booth Russell. After the latter's death Miss Hamper succeeded her in both roles—as Mr. Mantell's leading lady and as his wife.

Whatever her start, Miss Hamper has played few but Shakespearean roles, and was very thoroughly trained in her characterization of Juliet, Ophelia, Portia, Lady Macbeth, Rosalind, etc., by Mr. Mantell. Now he is gone, she carries on, heading the Mantell-Hamper company, in which she is touring the country in Shakespearean repertoire, the only woman playing Shakespeare's heroines, and the only company producing the hard of Avon's plays this season.

Miss Hamper strives to produce Shakespeare in a "natural" method, eliminating the somewhat "mouthing" many actors think necessary to proper characterization of the roles. She raises her company at her home, "Brucewood," in Atlantic Highlands, N. J., a wooded spot across the Hudson from New York City.

"Shakespeare's plays have been enjoyed for 300 years," she says, when asked what, in her opinion, is the future of his productions. "I think they will continue because they treat of situations common to human experience, and because human nature is much the same in any age."

She thinks they will never be adapted to the talking picture, however, as there "is too much dialogue," and that is not practical in pictures.

Audiences are usually responsive," says Miss Hamper. "Although children from Catholic and military schools make the best young audiences."

She does not know why, but thinks possibly they are more familiar with the lines. Friday night audiences are always the best, and grown-ups prefer the more sophisticated humor of "As You Like It," to any other play. The very best audiences are those composed of groups of students of Shakespeare. They appreciate every line.

Miss Hamper and Mr. Mantell once essayed the moving pictures, but Mr. Mantell found they were too cramped; and returned to the stage.

Their son, Robert Bruce, Jr., sometimes takes a small part in Miss Hamper's plays, under an assumed name, as he says "too much would be expected" of him if he used his own. He is 16 and attends military school.

**CAMP REUNION**

The following Birmingham boys and their parents attended the Camp Charlevoix Reunion held at the Michigan Union, Ann Arbor, Saturday Feb. 8: Mr. and Mrs. Francis W. Bagby and son John; Mr. and Mrs. Melvin F. Doty and son Melvin; Mr. Guy E. Parker and son John; Dr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Neal and son Tim; Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Smith and son Brad; Mr. A. J. Neerken and son Junior; Curtis Matthews and Morris Winborn. The mothers attended a tea at the home of Mrs. Risman, the Camp Mother, while the boys were the guests of the University for a swimming meet in the new Intramural pool.

Miss Edna Peterson of Weiston, Iowa, manages a 110,000-bushel elevator, besides selling coal, feed and seeds.

See Page 5, Part One, For Announcement

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