AN INTERNATIONAL PARK BY MAJOR-GENERAL
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On the borders of Poland and Czecho-Slovakia, some sixty-five miles south of Krakow, one of the most attractive and romantic cities of Central Europe, lies the Tatra range, a western extension of the great Carpathian system. It is no easy task to define the frontiers of new states, created or recreated on the demise of old established governmental systems; claim and counter claim follow in bewildering succession. The dispute about the frontier in the Tatras was more than usually complicated, in that it did not arise out of the treaties of peace alone, but had been a subject of dispute long before the war. After the war, the question of the boundary was referred to the Council of the League of Nations, to the Council of Ambassadors and to the World Court. A decision was given by the latter, but the effectiveness of that decision depended primarily upon an amicable adjustment of details by the parties. Such an agreement appeared to be as remote as ever until lovers of nature upon both sides of the frontier stepped in and, influenced by the desire both to remove causes of friction and to promote the preservation of the fauna and flora of a remarkable and beautiful district, they propounded a solution. In this they were guided by the experiences of the United States in the creation of national parks and they proposed that the disputed area should be created an international park, jointly administered by the two governments. This arrangement has been accepted in principle and the final arrangements for the administration of the park are in process of adjustment.

The Tatra range, the centre for which is Zakopane, easily accessible from Krakow, towers to a height of 8,734 feet. Its crags have long been known to mountaineers, and its winter snows are beginning to be visited by devotees of winter sports. The proposed park will comprise an area of more than
1,000 square kilometres which include bare granite peaks, magnificent forests, a number of charming lakes and numerous streams, the chief of which, the Donajee, rapidly becomes a river. The scenery is therefore very varied and everywhere beautiful, frequently imposing in its grandeur.

The flora and fauna of the district are of great interest. It is with the latter I am chiefly concerned.

The birds to be found include the golden eagle (Aquila chrysaetus), the goshawk (Astur palumbarius), Falco sacer, and several other types of falcons, wood-peckers, particularly Picus tridactylus, kingfishers (Alcedo ispida) are common in the streams and rivers, while the wall creepers (Caprimulgus europaeus) and the bittern (Tetrao urogallus) are found in the mountain forests.

Of fish, a good stock of trout inhabits the streams and salmon up to thirty pounds have been taken in the Donajee.

In the higher elevations, the mountain goat (Rupicapra) is numerous, there are a few bear (Ursus arctos), lynx and wild cat (Felis catus). Lower down, there are large heads of roe deer and chamois, and I believe some red deer. Marmots are frequently met with. On the Polish side of the frontier there is at present one specimen, a female, of Bison europaeus, and I was informed that there were two or three more on the Czecho-Slovakian side. Whether these were indigenous or had strayed into the Tatra from another herd disturbed during the war, I could not obtain reliable information. But, I understand that one of the objects of the conservators of the new park will be to establish a herd of Bison europaeus in the Tatra. The remnant of the Bialowieza herd, sadly depleted by the war, is already under the protection of the Polish state.

It is proposed to have a conservation of two kinds in the new park. In the higher altitudes conservation will be absolute and access will only be permitted to the authorities,
keepers and authorised guides and tourists. In the lower altitudes conservation will be partial and a certain amount of exploitation of timber, etc., will be permitted.

The realisation of the scheme has been greatly aided by the action of Count Ladislaus Zamoyski in leaving to the Polish nation his estates in the Tatras which comprises some of its most beautiful parts.

For the information in this article I am indebted to Major Bronsilaw Romaniszyn of Zakopane, Poland, a keen sportsman and lover of nature, and a most courteous guide to visitors. He is one of the Polish Commissioners for the frontier settlement, and the chief Polish promoter of the Park. He will, I am sure, be happy to supply enquirers with further information.

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