

Sermon May 2, 1948 P. M.

Beautiful until you get just what is involved in it and yet they can give you instance after instance in nature of what they call the balance of nature.

There was a _____ years ago when the Government hired a hunter to come in and kill a great many of the mountain lions. They said, "What good are these mountain lions? They're killing the deer, they're dangerous, they're vicious. Let's kill them," and he came in and he hunted down fifty of those great mountain lions and killed them, and then, the rangers say, the result was that the deer multiplied so rapidly that they had sick deer falling all over the roads and lying half sick and dead here and there and the condition was terrible. "We needed the mountain lions to keep a proper balance." One he said, someone said, "There's a certain animal there in the canyon which," they said, "is just destructive to other animals and absolutely no good." They said, "Let's trap this animal and get rid of them, out of the canyon," but having had previous experiences of the balance of nature, someone asked the question: "Shouldn't we wait a little and see what the effect will be, and see whether perhaps that animal belongs in the balance of nature there," and so he investigated and he came back with the report. He said, "Do you see those beautiful century plants over there on the sides of the canyon? Do you want to lose them altogether? Then," he said, "if you want to keep century plants you have to keep this animal," and they asked, ^{"Why"} _{"is that?"} "Well," he said, "there is a little fox growing up in the canyon, a special type of little fox which, when the century plant once in a great many years begins to shoot up that little central stalk which is very tense as yet and has got the sharp spines all around it and it shoots that up, as it gets just up two or three feet above the ground before it has yet come high enough to produce any flowers or any seeds, he says this little fox just _____ right into the center of it and eats the center of it and the result is that soon there would be no century plants at all if it were not that this other animal which they all disliked so much killed a great many of these little foxes and keeps them down and makes it possible for them to have century plants. It all reminds you of the statement