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BULLETIN

(Issued by The Vancouver Angling and Game Association)

This pamphlet is addressed not so much to the sportsmen, who know and deplore the disastrous way in which the protection of game has been carried on for the past couple of years, but to the business men of the Province of British Columbia as an urgent appeal to save from complete destruction what is one of the Province's biggest assets.

In order to explain the necessity for this appeal, a short history of the struggle to protect game may be given for the benefit of those not already acquainted with the facts.

No serious attempt was made to protect game until the year 1890; from then on there was a continuous struggle. For a number of years certain well-known sportsmen worked in vain to educate the public and induce the members of the local Legislature to take an interest in the matter. Year after year the Game Act was forced before the Legislature, only to be treated as a joke to wind up the session. For fifteen years the struggle went on, during which time the enforcement of the Game Act was solely in the hands of the Provincial Police with few results. But few prosecutions took place, and those that did were nearly always through the efforts of a few enthusiasts of the Game Association, who not only laid the information, but, at their own expense furnished counsel for the prosecution. Even when a conviction was obtained it usually resulted in the offender being let off with a warning or a very light penalty.

Finally in the year 1905 the Government at last awoke to the fact that game was an asset worth looking after, and in the session of that year introduced legislation establishing a Game Department and appointed a qualified man to act as Provincial Game Warden.

This was the first real step in the right direction, but still matters continued in a bad way; there were no funds to work with other than those subscribed by the Game Associations, who still continued to foot the bills.

Gradually, year by year, improvements were made, increasing amounts were voted by the Legislature for the enforcement of the laws, though these amounts were so small that but little could be done.

To provide funds sufficient for the purpose the sportsmen offered to pay a licence on firearms, and several largely signed petitions were presented to the Government only to be rejected, though by degrees more and more members of the Legislature became alive to the fact that it was a necessity.

Finally in the year 1913 the Gun Licence became an accomplished fact, the understanding being that the funds derived from it were to be used for the protection of game and for no other purpose.

At once the whole situation changed. During the first year, in spite of the fact that the law had only just been passed and there was no time to organize a proper system for the collection of fees, it was amply proved that sufficient funds could be collected to put the Department on a thorough working basis. The following figures give the receipts for a number of years:—

1913.....	\$107,154.00	} decrease due to the war.
1914.....	90,948.00	
1915.....	71,592.00	
1916.....	65,000.00	
1917.....	67,000.00	
1918.....	75,000.00	
1919.....	108,000.00 — approx.	

After the introduction of the licence fee everything went well, the laws were better enforced, the public became used to the change, paid the fee