

The Conservation of Wild Life in Canada

EVERY HUNTER SHOULD SIGN SPORTSMEN'S CREED

By J. Moffatt Ross

PRESENT measures aiming toward Wild Life Conservation in Canada might very well be represented as a more or less dilapidated fence, separating a pasture field from a field of luscious clover over which, once the pasture gets short, a herd of cattle looks to see how high the fence is, and then if it is possible to get over, one of the herd breaks through at a low place and the rest follow. The result is that twenty-four hours after, the cattle have filled themselves to over-capacity, and they usually lie down on or otherwise foul the balance of the clover so as to make it unfit for harvest or even food for themselves.

What we need today is a closer inspection of the line fence separating the people of this Country from their vast heritage of wild life, so that during the proper seasons they take only what they require and even then bear in mind that all wild game killed must be re-stocked in some way or other. You can build a mill on a stream and ruin it for fish. You can shoot off all the fawns and does amongst our Red Deer and sooner or later you will have no Red Deer left for the Sportsmen.

The question of using dogs for hunting wild game is one that should be dealt with in the very near future, as it is a common thing amongst hunters to see deer after deer driven into ice-cold water on their local lakes, and when shot find that the meat has undergone such a heating followed by a chill that, chemically, it is practically unfit for use.

One day I asked a hunter why it was that he had so many fawns in his bag that season. His only remark was that as he caught most of them on the jump it was very difficult to distinguish between the young and the older deer. Although no particular authority, I can just pass on my own experience as a still hunter, and I invariably get my largest bucks by really careful deer stalking, which is about the only way that you can get these wily old fellows. Rarely have I had to use more than one bullet to dispatch the largest of them, while daily we can hear the roar of from three to eight or ten shots fired by hunters in adjoining territory, and frequently they come home nights with no game in their bags. With

WHAT'S WRONG WITH OUR GAME LAWS?

By W. J. Taylor, President, "Rod and Gun in Canada."

If the game laws in force in the various parts of Canada were properly observed there would be plenty of game for all. The natural yearly increase is sufficiently large to take care of the legitimate kill in the Dominion. The game laws of the provinces should be co-ordinated so that adjoining provinces, with similar climatic and geographic conditions would have the same open seasons or at least seasons that are more uniform than at present. This objective could be attained by a national convention held under the auspices of the Department of the Interior. At the same time a wild life survey could be taken, which, if revised yearly, would be invaluable to legislators in deciding the game seasons and bag limits.

our very rapid shooting rifles, including the automatic, a tendency amongst hunters is to reel off a roll of bullets as fast as they can pull the trigger, and then when the white tail of the deer has just gone over the hill, they stop and consider what "dub shots" they are, whereas one well aimed bullet by a cool-headed hunter would bring home the bacon without any guess-work. Consider the way our forefathers had to aim in order to bring down their game with rarely more than one shot.

We have enormous areas in Canada of land more or less useless for agricultural purposes, and on most of this roams a variety of valuable wild life. Therefore all we have to do is to co-ordinate the efforts of all the Sportsmen throughout the Dominion, and we have an army of game-wardens, such as no Government could afford to pay, doing the necessary guardianship for the sake of sport. If every man who asks for a hunting license signed a "Sportsmen's Creed" embodying all that is fair and sportsmanlike in the game, this would go far toward building up a safe barrier between the wasteful people of this Country and the God-given heritage that was left them in such abundance of wild life, which was never intended to be killed and eaten all in one year, but rather to be a continuous source of supply.

SAVE THE PRAIRIE GAME!

By the Editor of the Saskatoon Star

It is stated on good authority that wolves are killing more big game in Saskatchewan in one year than all the hunters who gather in the wooded lands in the open seasons kill in ten. This is a serious condition, and persists despite the fact that the province employs between the months of September and April fifteen game guardians for the protection of the thousands of game animals and birds that inhabit practically every portion of the country. Saskatchewan obtains a revenue from game of approximately \$32,000 annually. Last year the sum was \$32,684.

There seems no particular reason why the province of Saskatchewan should not take as great an interest in its magnificent game resources as has its neighbour to the south, and it would be well for those in authority to take the necessary steps quickly. In older lands it has frequently been found that measures for restricting the unnecessary slaughter of game have come too late, and it has been necessary to exercise the most extraordinary care in order to preserve any game at all.

Unless adequate game protection measures are taken, within reasonable time, there will come a day when the people of the province of Saskatchewan may look upon empty forests, rivers and prairies and lament the passing of the "good old days" when moose, deer and elk, prairie chicken, partridge, and wild duck abounded in a land where now only an occasional gopher pops up his head and squeaks the triumph of the fittest to survive. This is no empty threat, but a situation that has been found in dozens of countries where proper steps were not taken in time. The creation of a public conscience with regard to the preservation of game, backed by an adequate force of game guardians competent to exterminate pests as well as protect game, are the means by which our animal and bird resources may be saved. Already sportsmen in various parts of the province are forming themselves into associations and using their best efforts to bring the seriousness of the situation fully before the public. It is to be hoped that their efforts may meet with the success they deserve, but it is a matter more to the point that prompt steps should be taken by the government to preserve this most valuable natural resource.