

THE CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST.

No. 2.

MONTREAL, FEBRUARY, 1883.

VOL. III.

WILLIAM COUPER, Editor.

Subscribers, please notice that the pages of "The Canadian Sportsman and Naturalist" are to be consecutive until the end of the third volume, when we will supply an index.

PROPOSED CONVENTION OF CANADIAN SPORTSMEN.

In Vol. II., No. 9, of this journal, in concluding our remarks on the Forestry Congress we stated that the next good move should be a Congress of American and Canadian sportsmen to provide correct means for the protection of Fish and Game of both countries. There are several interesting subjects which may be discussed at meetings of true sportsmen—such as the effect of forest fires causing the decrease of animals; fish and game protection in an American and Canadian view; harmonizing the game laws of the Provinces; correct nomenclature of the game animals and other kindred subjects. American sportsmen have a greater interest according to numbers and position in taking part in a Congress of this nature than we have; besides, there is something congenial in a meeting of true sportsmen; all have the same objects in view. We at least protect the bulk of woodcock and snipe bred in the north, more for the benefit of our neighboring sportsmen than our own. We do the same with geese and ducks, classed as game occurring on the waters of both countries.

At the suggestion of several of the leading sportsmen of each Province, a Committee consisting of Mr. F. J. Boswell, Major H. R. Smith and Mr. W. A. Allan has been formed for the purpose of holding, if possible, a representative convention of the sportsmen of the Dominion to consider the present anomalous condition of the game laws, and, if thought advisable, to take immediate action with a view of doing away with market shooting by foreigners, and the export of game, and for the discussion of other matters of interest to lovers of sport. At a meeting of the Central Committee (held at Ottawa) it was resolved:

"That the Secretary be instructed to issue a circular requesting some leading sportsman to

call a meeting of the sportsmen in each county in the Dominion for the purpose of electing a delegate to attend a general convention, to be held in the city of Ottawa, on Easter Monday, the 26th of March."

The objects of the above named sportsmen are exactly what our remarks referred to in the issue of the "C. S. and N." last September, but we fear that the time stated for calling a convention of the sportsmen of the Dominion is too limited, even to secure a thoroughly representative meeting from the counties in the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec; but even should these two Provinces be well represented, a good beginning will be made, offering some encouragement in the first attempt to bring the lovers of the rod and gun together to discuss these matters.

We are in favour of American sportsmen taking part in this convention, nationality having nothing to do with sporting matters, as far as we can see. There is quite a difference between a man shooting for the purpose of supplying a foreign market and a gentleman visiting Canada for legitimate sport and recreation. These and many other points will no doubt be discussed at the convention, the result of the labors of which will be looked forward to with interest by all sportsmen.

MONTREAL MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY.

The monthly meeting of this society was held at the Natural History Society's Rooms, on Monday evening, 12th instant, Mr. Wm. Muir in the chair.

There was a good attendance, and a number of microscopes were on the table. Mr. G. J. Bowles was elected a member of the society.

The subject for the evening, "Insect weapons," was opened by a paper from Mr. Edward Murphy, who dealt more particularly with the proboscis of the mosquito. Mr. Murphy illustrated his remarks with drawings on the blackboard, showing the parts as seen by him under the microscope. He was followed by Mr. Wm. Muir, on the same subject, after which a discussion arose as to whether this insect had poisonous glands or not. Dr. Geo. Wilkins, in the absence of Dr. Osler, exhibited an apparatus for counting the corpuscles in blood, and gave an illustration under the microscope with blood drawn from a member present.