

THE SEARCHLIGHT

A Great Game Preserve.

One of the most ambitious fish and game club yet projected on this continent is the proposed Lake St John limited privilege club, with a proposed membership running the thousands, and the rights to the fishing and hunting contained in 30,000 square miles of territory. A few prominent Canadians and Englishmen are interested in the movement, but the great bulk will be Americans.

It is understood that the admission fee will be \$500, and even at this rate the membership will have to run into the thousands, for the contemplated outlay upon the club's preserve will range from a million to a million and a half of dollars. The promoters of the club have already secured control of nearly all the trout and ouananiche waters of Lake St John and its tributary lakes and rivers. All the rivers flowing in from the north and west, some of which are 200 or 300 miles long, and all the waters connected with them are already secured.

Hatcheries are to be established for both trout and ouananiche to keep up the supply of these fish in all the club waters, and—most important undertaking or all—the Atlantic salmon is to be planted in all the large rapid flowing rivers in Lake St John.

Arrangements are now being made with the government of the province of Quebec for securing two immense tracts of territory for game parks for the new club. Each of them is to be about 3,000 square miles in extent. These parks are to be abundantly stocked and to be inclosed in heavy wire fencing. The fences alone will cost \$150,000. In addition to moose, elk, caribou, and red deer, it is proposed to stock these parks with the best species of foreign game birds from localities enjoying similiar climatic conditions to those of Canada.

The success of the organization is already said to be practically assured. The new club is expected to have a very far-reaching influence upon the fur trade and fur bearing animals of northern Quebec. The four-footed inhabitants of northern Canadian woods that supply such a wealth of furs to the Hudson Bay Company are now practically hunted by that portion of the Montagnais tribe of Indian hunt-

ers that reside at Lake St John during the few weeks that they spend each year on the confines of civilization. Efforts will be made to induce almost all the members of this Montagnais encampment to give up their roaming forest life in pursuit of game and fur and to engage as guides and canoe men guardians, etc, for the members of the new club. A notable increase in both game and fur-bearing animals may be looked for in consequence.

General Miles Censured.

The court finds censure of General Miles for "error" in failing to promptly notify the secretary of war when he first formed the opinion that the food was unfit;

Censure of the Commissary General (General Eagan) for the too extensive purchases of the canned beef as an untried ration;

Censure of Colonel Maus, of General Miles' staff;

The finding is that the packers were not at fault and that the meats supplied the army were of the same quality as those supplied to the trade generally and the recommendation is that no further proceedings be taken in the premises.

Killed A Big Bear.

Henry Skidmore of Canaan, Cumberland County, killed a very large bear in the woods at that place last week. Last fall Mr Skidmore mourned the loss of a large number of fine sheep and from tracks found in the vicinity he concluded there was no doubt but that they were killed by bears. Mr Skidmore arranged a trap for Mr Bruin and on Monday when Mr Skidmore paid a visit to the trap he found a

large bear caught in its unfriendly clutches by the paw. A few shots from a rifle put an end to his bearship. Mr Skidmore now possesses a large bear skin, as it measures 6 feet 7 inches by 7 feet 8 inches. The bear weighed about 600 pounds. James Skidmore, who is Mr Skidmore's father, and the oldest resident of Canaan, states that this is the largest bear ever killed in Canaan woods. Two other bears were seen near the trap but they made their escape.

A Woodstock despatch says: G. Fred Watson, a book-keeper in the office of the Maritime Pure Food Company, disappeared last Thursday night and no trace of his whereabouts can be ascertained. When last seen he was in the company of a commercial traveller about 9.30 o'clock on that night. After that it is thought he went to the company's office and wrote two letters, copies of which were found in the letter book, and he then went down to the steamer Aberdeen to look after some freight. The mysterious part of the affair is that a fire occurred in the Pure Food Co's office on Thursday night, which burned two of the books, the journal and ledger, so that the auditors who are now at work on them cannot tell just how they stand. Mr Watson is a young man of temperate and steady habits, and was not indebted to anybody in town. The directors have every confidence in him and think the books are all right. The whole affair seems to have been shrouded in mystery. The young man's father and mother naturally feel badly over the matter and are anxious to have the trouble cleared up.

Watson formerly lived in Moncton.

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