

## THE PROTECTION OF THE WILD

man in more ways than one, than his white brother—north or south. However, that's a different story.

Let us return to the other animals. The point I am aiming at is that what is known as the middle west, was the natural home of the deer, the elk, the antelope and all that interesting hoofed and horned family, and that all this beautiful, not to say valuable wild life was wasted. The American west is almost empty of wild life to-day. I have ridden for days in Southern Colorado hearing only the hoof-beats of my horse, and seeing nothing more attractive in the way of animal life than a horned toad.

Fortunately, for the people of the Republic, Eastern States are beginning to protect game. They find it pays. The Forest, Fish and Game of Maine yield a rich revenue to the State. Half a million men, women and children visit Maine annually, leaving fifteen million dollars each year. They go to Maine because the forests are full of wild life and because one may fish and shoot from early autumn to the end of the year for \$15.00. I am told that ten years ago no deer were seen in western Connecticut. To-day, as a result of a few years protection, you can pick up the fresh trail of the deer, four-legged and properly spelled, forty-five minutes from Broadway.

For you, of Canada, this wind that put out the wild life of the American West, is not an ill wind, for it has enhanced the value of your wilderness. At the same time it has taught you, if you care to have it so, a valuable lesson—to hold what you have.

But first of all you must save the shelter. The forest is the natural home of big game. Destroy your forests and your game will go, your rivers will dry up, your fish will die, and desolation will brood over this land that God made most fair.

The preservation of the forest need entail no expense to the State. There are forests in Switzerland that have been cut over four hundred years, and the animal revenue increases as the years go by. The old saying that you cannot have your cake and eat it too does not hold good here. By scientific lumbering you cut out the old trees and encourage the young ones. It would be almost as foolish to let your forests go to waste uncut, as to allow them to be lumbered wastefully. Work them and reap the rich reward, but work them up in Canada.