

Regarding big game, one word. Apart from the present two-week allowance, which every hunter knows to be absurd, would it not be better to devise some scheme to do away with the present system of requiring a license to go to hunt for game, especially the heavy one on non-resident sportsmen. My idea would be to let any one go into the woods who wanted to, between the 1st October and 15th November, and require no license from him as preliminary, whether he was a resident or not. But for every deer brought out of the woods, I would collect a proper price. There is only one way of bringing the animal home and that is by rail and the package is big enough to be conspicuous. In addition to freight charges, the railway companies could be required to collect from the shipper an adequate price sufficient to compensate for the loss of the license fees. The non-resident hunter could be got at, at the points allowed for export, and be made to pay an additional price for the privileges he has enjoyed in Canadian woods. Not every one who buys a license and goes into the woods after big game comes back with anything to show for the money he has invested, except a good supply of renewed health. The man who pays for his outfit, railway ticket, &c., has already invested a good deal on the chance of bagging his quarry. If he is successful he will willingly pay the additional sum required, and if he isn't, he shouldn't be asked to do so. The result of some such arrangement, it seems to me, would be to induce more sportsmen to go into our Northern woods and would be the means of bringing into that country and leaving there a larger amount of money than at present, with more satisfactory results to sportsmen and without hurting our game or diminishing the revenue derived from our hunters of deer and moose.

CROSS-BOLT.

TO THE EDITOR OF ROD AND GUN :

The contributions which I have seen from your subscribers in connection with the game laws of Ontario have given me courage to write upon a subject in which I take great interest, but particularly in connection with the close season for moose. When I noticed last spring that the Ontario Commissioners had made the open season for moose from November 1st to 15th, and once in every three years, I was simply dumbfounded, not to say disgusted, and I cannot conceive why such a season should have met with favor by the commissioners. November is not a pleasant month, generally speaking, and to hunt in Northern Ontario in that season one has to meet with more or less hardships owing to the severity of the weather and danger there is of the closing in of navigation owing to the formation of ice, which is a serious matter for a hunter who may find himself some distance from civilization and his only means of communication being cut off, perhaps in a night. The hunter usually goes, not for the sake of slaughter, but for the health and sport he derives from an outing in the woods and the prospect of getting a "trophy" with the least possible chance of being "bagged" himself. In the territory to which I am referring, one has to do considerable canoeing to get about with facility, and, as before stated, after November 1st the weather becomes such as to render canoeing anything but pleasurable. Surely the commissioners cannot claim that it is the lack of game that has guided them in framing the laws with regard to moose, for it seems impossible that moose should instinctively know when they have reached the imaginary line which divides the Province of Quebec from the Province of Ontario and keep on the Quebec side, where the commissioners

certainly take a more reasonable, and what appears to me a more enlightened view of the matter, and they give a fairly good open season which has not worked detrimentally to the game interests of their province, for from all accounts there are more moose in the County of Pontiac to-day than there has been for years past. Short seasons are moreover dangerous to the hunters, for the reason that they crowd in at the same time within a very short season and the districts are liable to become overrun and accidents and mishaps occur which we read of in Maine every year. This certainly should have some bearing with the commissioners they should not be neglectful of the hunters' safety.

JOHN BROWN.

TO THE EDITOR OF ROD AND GUN :

I am glad to see the letters about the Ontario moose law and beg to add my views on this interesting subject.

I have hunted deer for several years in Ontario in the short season which our liberal Game Commission dole out to us, and it has always been a surprise to me as to why it is necessary or desirable to make every man go into the woods in two weeks and run the risk of getting potted by mistake, while a season of say Oct. 15th to Nov. 15th would not only lessen the risk but let those who like myself preferred October to camp in, do so. However, I started to write about moose. I have looked forward for some time to going for a moose hunt, when the long expected moose season arrived, and I even intended to take some risk of frost interfering with the canoe portion of my trip, because I thought a Peterboro would probably be all right, (I wouldn't risk a birch in ice). Serious illness in my family kept me at home in early November, and now our precious law makes a close season for 1901-02 to preserve moose in a country the greater part of which the game wardens I'll bet not only don't go into, but know nothing about, as the part I mean is inhabited by Indians and Hudson Bay people. Take that slice of land beyond the C.P.R. track, north of Lake Nipissing, and the French River, why I am told by what I have every reason to know is good authority, it is full of moose, and these law makers of ours talk about a two years' close season; it is nonsense. I hope there will be a reform in this matter right off; we need at least one game commissioner who comes from the moose country—choose one from Liskeard, Haileybury, Mattawa or some place where they know what a moose is. And while I am at it, why are all our commissioners from the East—Fenelon Falls, Athens, Dunnville, Toronto? The West is absolutely given the go bye. The commissioners living in those places cannot be expected to know anything about moose, or caribou either. Let us have one western man anyway, for example, C. Rankin, Mattawa, or Geo. Marks, Port Arthur; they wouldn't make such blunders as we have been suffering from so long.

ROBERT THOMSON.

It is announced that the entire herd of buffalo owned by the Dupree estate, of South Dakota, consisting of forty-five full bloods and a number of crosses, will soon be disposed of.

It costs a non-resident \$20 for a license to shoot big game in New Brunswick, and a resident must pay \$2. Up to Dec. 7 the income from these licenses was \$7,000, most of which was paid by visiting sportsmen for the privilege of shooting a moose and a caribou.