

ROD AND GUN IN CANADA



DEVOTED
TO
THE
FISHING
AND
GAME
INTERESTS
OF
CANADA.

One Dollar Per Annum.

MONTREAL, SEPTEMBER, 1900.

Single Copies Ten Cents.

Manitoba Game Act.

The new game act of Manitoba passed at last session of the legislature, and recently published, contains some important changes, chief among them being the protection at all times of females and fawns of all kinds of deer, caribou and moose, and the abolition of spring shooting of Jucks, the close season now commencing Jan. 1st instead of May 1st.

Under the new act all kinds of male deer, moose and caribou are protected between first December and fifteenth September in the following year, and no person shall during any one year or season kill or take more in all than two of such animals. Beaver and otter are placed under absolute protection and their skins may not be had in the possession or offered for sale at any time, no matter where from. Fisher and sable are protected between 15th May and 1st October; marten between 15th April and 1st November, and muskrat between 1st May and 1st December. For the protection of game birds it is provided that no person shall hunt, catch, shoot at or pursue any variety of grouse, prairie chicken, pheasant or partridge between 15th November and 1st October of the following year; plover, quail, woodcock, snipe and sandpiper between 1st January and 1st August; ducks of all kinds between 1st January and 1st September. Not more than 100 grouse, prairie chicken, partridge or pheasant may be killed by one person in any one season, nor more than 20 in one day. The time within which birds may be had in possession is extended from the first fifteen to the first forty-five days of the close season. A sensible change is the permission to export the heads and hides of animals, non-resident sportsmen having hitherto been prohibited from doing so.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture, Division of Biological Survey, has recently published a directory of State and also provincial officials and organizations con-

cerned with the protection of birds and game. In addition to the governmental officers we find there are 5 national and 25 state and provincial protective organizations and 24 State Audubon Societies (organized for the study and protection of birds). The Canadian provinces are conspicuous by their absence from the ranks of the Audubon Societies, a state of affairs which should be remedied and we hope will be very soon. These societies have done and are doing excellent service beyond our southern boundary, and as their scope makes them a desirable field for women's activities, we naturally find many of the societies are officered altogether by women. We understand that their members took a very active part in securing the recent legislation in New York State against the wearing of birds as decorations (?) on hats.

An unique trip was recently commenced by D. W. Hildreth, proprietor of a newspaper in Newport, Vermont, and his companion, J. B. Barker. These gentlemen travel by train to Lake Kippewa and from thence canoe about 600 miles entirely in Quebec province, via Grand Lake Victoria and the head waters of the Ottawa to the St. Maurice river, coming down that river to the village of Grandes Piles, from where the railway takes them to Montreal, thence home. This journey is undertaken solely for pleasure and is expected to occupy six weeks to two months. When it is remembered that this canoe trip is made entirely within the boundaries of Quebec province, that it is a straight away journey with no retracing of steps, that it is entirely through a wild country uninhabited except by a few Indians, with Hudson's Bay Company's posts at wide intervals, and that the route has been traversed, as far as can be learned, very seldom, even by the missionary priests, some conception can be formed of the journey before these ardent sportsmen. And yet this trip is only one of many

canoe voyages of even greater length that can be made within the bounds of Quebec province through unsurpassed game lands and via waters teeming with fish.

Could Longfellow have returned from the Happy Hunting Grounds for a brief space during August, he would doubtless have looked with pleasure upon the interesting and dramatic spectacle to which we referred in a recent issue, and of which an account appears on another page. "Lo! the poor Indian," as seen too frequently, is anything but the poetic creation that Longfellow has given us, but Kabaoso standing in his canoe leaning on a paddle as he sails into the West and disappears behind an islet in the full glow of the setting sun, is one of the most poetical images in Indian life that one could wish for. Those anglers and campers whose good fortune has caused them to sojourn in August within easy reach of the Desbarats islands in Northern Ontario and view the enacting of the Hiawatha drama by the Ojibway Indians have seen the romance of Indian life and customs at its best. It has been a source of great pleasure to us to view this drama personally, and as Canadians we express the hope that the Ojibways will repeat their performance annually.

With reference to a spirited discussion which took place in our columns some months since between correspondents attacking and defending the English sparrow, it is interesting to note that this pugnacious bird figures in the proscribed list in the (U.S.) Lacey Act of May 25, 1900, alongside the mongoose, flying foxes and starlings, all of which are declared pests and their importation prohibited.

Sportsmen are much wanted in the parish of St. Antoine, Que., where bears are committing frequent depredations on the flocks of sheep. St. Modeste, Que., also reports damage to crops by super-