

ROD AND GUN IN CANADA



DEVOTED
TO
THE
FISHING
AND
GAME
INTERESTS
OF
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Communications on all topics pertaining to fishing, shooting, canoeing, the kennel and amateur photography, will be welcomed and published, if satisfactory. All communications must be accompanied by the name of the writer, not necessarily for publication, however.

All communications should be addressed to:

ROD AND GUN PUBLISHING CO.,
603 Craig Street, MONTREAL.

Our frontispiece this month gives an excellent representation of a member of the celebrated Northwest Mounted Police force, which a leading New York daily calls the finest body of mounted police in the world. In the performance of their multifarious duties as guardians of law and order in the great Canadian West, they are constantly policing the entire country, and the law breaker, be it of game laws or any other laws, has scant chance to escape. While we do not call them game wardens, their action and presence has a strong deterring influence on the illegal hunter, and operates to preserve the game of our western country.



PRESERVATION OF THE FORESTS

Sir Henri Joly de Lotbiniere, and the gentlemen associated with him in calling the meeting which took place at Ottawa, March 8th, for the purpose of forming a national association for Canada, are deserving of great credit in bringing to a successful commencement the movement for preserving Canada's 800,000,000 acres of forests, and, irrespective of any other important consideration which appeals to all classes alike, deserve the thanks of every sportsman. Wise game laws, well

enforced, are far reaching in their effects, but forestry is the very foundation on which the game superstructure has to be reared. Forest fires are a direct menace to a large portion of the game supply, so is an indiscriminate destruction of forest by the axe. A report of the proceedings is given in our columns.



At the first meeting of The Canadian Forestry Association, ROD AND GUN IN CANADA was designated as the official organ of the association, and will hereafter have a department devoted to forestry. We consider this a position of honor, irrespective of its mere business aspect. Forestry is not a fad—it is one of the most important sciences; its importance to Canada cannot be estimated; it is concerned with the basis of many of our most important industries. The influence of the forest on the rainfall, climate and crops is enormous. Forestry seeks not only to preserve those forests we have, but to cause forests to grow where none are now, and ameliorate some undesirable conditions to the lasting benefit of our country. The Canadian Forestry Association, under the direction of the intelligent and earnest workers who have launched it, will do most excellent work which we shall be glad to chronicle from month to month.



In these days of military fervor and patriotism, when Canadians experience a thrill of pride as they read of the doings of our brave Canadian contingents in Africa, it is not amiss to call attention to the country which breeds these men, and to reproduce from our October number part of the opinion of Frederick Irland, of Washington, D.C., a most enthusiastic lover of Canada. He says:—

“To my mind there is only one real camping country, and that is the great wilderness of the North. Wherever I go I carry in my valise a big map of Canada, and when my mind is disturbed

“I spread out the map of that earthly paradise and my heart flies away, like a wild duck in the spring, leaving every trouble behind. Land of the sunshine and the snow, how big and splendid and sweet you are, my sweetheart! Surely the God of all the earth never made any other country like you. After one has seen Canada, it's like having kissed the prettiest girl you ever saw. She spoils everybody else for you.”

“Devote ten years to the wilderness from Labrador to Lake Superior, and you will never care much for any other place on earth. You will only wish you had a thousand years to live, so you could really see the rest of that country. Nobody can tell you about it. You must see it for yourself.”



In a recent publication by Leroy T. Carleton, Chairman of the Board of Fish and Game Commissioners of Maine, entitled “Carleton's Pathfinder and Gazetteer of the Hunting and Fishing Resorts of the State of Maine,” he makes the statement on page 9 that the lands of Maine in the wilderness state are 22,800 square miles. This area is about as large as the single county of Pontiac in the Province of Quebec. All the lands of Pontiac county, excepting possibly 500 square miles, are wild lands. In the southern one-third red deer are plentiful; in two-thirds of that county moose are abundant, in the northern one-third caribou are found in herds; and yet the county of Pontiac is only a small portion of Quebec's area of 220,000 square miles.



ARE MOOSE DECREASING IN MAINE?

There were 9,300 non-residents and 6,000 residents employing licensed guides in Maine during 1899, a considerable increase over 1898, but the total moose shipped decreased from 218 in 1898 to 177 in 1899 (216 in all were killed in 1899). It will be noticed that 216 moose to 15,300 hunters is not quite enough to go once around, but the chance of being