

ROD AND GUN IN CANADA

DEVOTED
TO
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FISHING
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GAME
INTERESTS
OF
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DESTRUCTION OF BIRD LIFE.

A recent fire on Long Island destroyed a factory which was engaged in the business of making feather ornaments for ladies' hats. Among the losses we read of the breasts and wings of 10,000 sea-gulls, and the heads and wings of 30,000 other birds. These figures are merely relative, as showing the actual stock at the time of the fire, and take no account of the immense numbers used annually by this and other factories engaged in the business.

What a commentary on civilization. These little birds by the hundreds of thousands are slaughtered, not because they are destructive, not for food purposes or even because a mistaken idea of sport might palliate such wholesale destruction, but simply that the fair sex may decorate their hats!!!

We men are prone to look to woman-kind for all those gentle qualities which sweeten life; we are gently chided for our desire to fish and shoot—it is cruel to impale a worm or a grass-hopper on a hook,—to shoot, because we frequently wound and do not always kill,—and those amongst us who are properly trained hang our diminished heads in shame and meekly acknowledge our fault. What, therefore, must we say to my lady, it having been proved that her penchant for so-called artistic decoration of her

hat is causing such a serious diminution of bird life as to cease to keep in check noxious insects, and our crops and fruit trees suffer each year with increasing severity? Shall we merely plead with her, knowing full well that the modern ear of Juggernaut, fashion, has to roll unceasingly forward, and she must prostrate herself before it or cease (for society) to be; or shall we rise in our might, while the machinery of the law-making power still remains in masculine hands, and pass drastic measures that shall stop the evil? Laws that seek to interfere with the liberty of the individual are generally undesirable and frequently difficult of enforcement, especially if not backed by a strong public sentiment, and should be resorted to only where other means have failed and the end sought to be obtained is of real importance to life. We believe this is an instance where the end justifies the means, and the very storm of feminine indignation that at first may be aroused will clear the atmosphere so as to show woman-kind, as never before apparent, what a real danger confronts us.

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We are informed that the lamentable chapter of fatal accidents in the Maine season just closed is responsible for a movement, commenced by some sportsmen who go to that state each year, with a view to adopting a bright color, such as scarlet, for cap and coat, so that no more mistakes may be made. While this may have the desired effect where the sportsman is in view, it will not provide for those cases where the moving bushes are fired at, apparently with utter disregard of repeated warnings, and instead of the expected deer some poor fellow receives the bullet. Everyone interested in shooting is vitally concerned in an educational crusade. The rash man who shoots without seeing the game must be taught better. Possibly a few indictments for manslaughter would reach the desired result quickly.

Those who like to carry a belt axe to the woods will appreciate the miniature edition of a full grown chopping axe, a representation of which is given here. The weight of head with handle is 27½ ounces. Length of handle outside of head, 16 inches; total length, including head, 18½ inches. The benefit of such a shaped handle is that the axe, while light and handy, can be used effectively for chopping trees of 3 or 4 inches diameter, whereas the straight handle belt axe is of comparatively small use. Of course the weight can be increased or decreased by using a heavier or lighter head.



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Although only one year has elapsed from the commencement of work, the great New York Zoological Park is rapidly assuming shape and a large portion of it is not only ready but occupied by a portion of its four-footed and other population. About \$300,000 so far has been expended and the annual maintenance is expected to be over \$75,000. Great pains have been taken to provide not only the best accommodation for its denizens, but also to place them so that they can be easily viewed by the public. Canada is naturally looked upon as the place to obtain beaver, of which it is intended there shall be fifteen specimens.

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We are glad to learn that the recent change in Ontario Crown Lands Commissionership does not involve a change in the head of the game interests. Under the able administration of the Hon. J. M. Gibson, many excellent reforms have taken place, and it is satisfactory to know that the good work will go on under his auspices.