

# ROD AND GUN IN CANADA

DEVOTED  
TO  
THE  
FISHING  
AND  
GAME  
INTERESTS  
OF  
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ROD AND GUN PUBLISHING CO.,  
603 Craig Street, MONTREAL.

Our frontispiece this month shows one of those stupendous mountains for which Canada has become famous—Mt. Burgess—the view being taken from the head of Emerald Lake, B.C. We have tried from month to month to present on our cover page some of Canada's scenic masterpieces, believing a change of cover each month is preferable to a set design, and we hope this idea has met the approval of our subscribers.

The North American Fish and Game Protection Association, at its first annual meeting, February 2, 1900, passed a resolution reading: "That it is the sense of this meeting that, in the general interest of fish and game protection, it is desirable to as far as practicable harmonize the game and fish laws of the provinces and states represented at this meeting." A committee was appointed to give effect to the resolution, and we are informed that the committee will be called together in the autumn or early winter in time to enable the members to make recommendations to the respective legislatures. The work before this committee is difficult and will require great consideration, and undoubtedly the views of many persons qualified

to speak will be asked respecting the proposed changes. There is much to be said on all sides, and ample room for discussion. For example, Ontario's open deer and moose season is from November 1st to 15th, and moose may be killed only every third year, while in the bordering counties of Pontiac and Ottawa in Quebec the open season every year for both deer and moose is from October 1st to November 30th. The Ottawa River and Lake Temiskaming form the dividing line between the two provinces. Is Ontario's season too restricted or Quebec's season too long, and is there some middle ground on which the advocates of both can agree? In the portion of Quebec nearest New Brunswick the open season for deer and caribou commences September 1st, and the sister province permits hunting to commence September 15th. In this case it would appear reasonable to make both commence September 15th. Appreciating the difficulty and magnitude of the task before the committee, ROD AND GUN IN CANADA is desirous of assisting them in their work, and believes a desirable means of doing so is to ask for expressions of opinion from its readers as to the best means of reaching the desired result. Those who do not wish their letters published or who wish their names withheld will please so indicate. Now, gentlemen, we shall be glad to hear from you, either all at once or as you find it convenient to write, and be assured that all opinions will be welcomed.

In the preface to his latest book W. W. Greener says: "From long connection with firearms and intercourse with the foremost users of them, I am convinced that any one can become an efficient marksman. The object of this book is to \* \* \* direct those who don't shoot at all to the practice of the most interesting amusement the century offers." There

are some readers of ROD AND GUN who do not shoot, and to them especially we commend the full consideration of the quotation just made. Rifle shooting at a target is a game of skill, and to excel at it requires considerable practice. Unlike some other games of skill the nation is likely to have pressing need of its results, and it certainly is not against a sport that its training is at any time of need instantly convertible into practical business; on the contrary, it is a means of combining pleasure with possible business.

The government of Switzerland requires rifle practice of all its able-bodied men of specified ages, and it supplies material for practice at less than cost and permits each man to keep his rifle at his house, subject to periodic inspection, and he can use it for practice as much as he pleases. We believe that the Swiss idea is suitable to Canada. It is the medium between compulsory military service and the present status. Compulsory military service is not only highly objectionable for many reasons, but absolutely unnecessary. Smokeless powder and high power magazine rifles have so changed the face of warfare that the individual is now probably the important factor, and his training as a marksman must be secured irrespective, or otherwise, of his knowledge of drill. Every man can become more or less expert as a rifleman with practice and without practically any loss of time from his business. The undisciplined Boers' expert shooting has been an object lesson of the strongest kind.

Dr. David Starr Jordan, president of the Leland Stanford University of California, and one of the most distinguished ichthyologists of to-day, is a man we approve of. In a preface to a volume, "Familiar Fish," by Eugene McCarthy, Dr. Jordan says: "Every healthy boy, every right-minded man,