

"CANADIAN SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION"

Editor Illustrated Canadian Forestry Magazine:

Sir,—In response to your note following Mr. J. Moffatt Ross' suggestions re above organization, inviting comments, I should like to express my views in favor of its formation and development as the obvious means whereby the only qualified opinion in the country upon the subjects within its scope, may exercise a proper leverage upon the State.

Obviously in such a country as Canada there will be wide differences of opinion with regard to many things pertaining to questions affecting sportsmen from the Atlantic to the Pacific, but there cannot be other than practical unanimity upon the vital principle of conservation of our natural resources of forests, fish and game by every possible effort of individual and State. In my own Province of Nova Scotia sportsmen's societies were active for many years in conservation of game. The old Nova Scotia Game Society did excellent pioneer work and was followed by the organization known as "The People's Game, Fish and Forest Association," which did something to develop public sentiment in favor of its ideals. I am not proud of the fact that I was president of the latter at the time of its decease, but its functions were supposed to be assumed by a body of government commissioners, and later by a commissioner of forests and game who does the best he can with the limited funds at his disposal. It is hoped that the recent big game gun license fee will augment the sum available, and that our forests and game will be better protected than ever. The Federal and Provincial Governments seem to be slowly awakening to a realization of the incalculable value of these natural resources, but they need a strong "bisatergo" to keep them moving. I have no fault to find with the title Mr. Ross has suggested but possibly the title of "The Canadian Forest, Fish and Game Protective Association" might appeal to a larger number of people. Certainly it might be promoted by the Canadian Forestry Association and logically come under its jurisdiction as the three are practically inseparable. So far it seems to me that governments have only tinkered with the whole question, and seem to have had no effective grasp of it commensurate with its importance. If one-tenth of the millions squandered for so called public works, railways, and for political exigencies, had been applied efficiently to the conservation of the forests, fish and game of the country, Canada would have been infinitely better off to-day. Mr. Ross is correct in his denunciation of the wild shooters of wild game, but the cure is not obvious. However, I am going to inflict something upon the readers of "Rod and Gun in Canada" in that line, and in your journal I shall confine my views as to destruction by fire. A short time since I went over many miles of country formerly covered with beautiful foliage, and the music of "the murmuring pines and hemlocks" mingled with the singing oaks and the music of the birds, and it was the home of the moose, deer, grouse, woodcock, snipe, and wild ducks, song and insectivorous birds, and yet to-day a barren desert, with neither fish, flesh nor fowl, and its eroded soil deprived of reproductive power for generations. I could write pages on the tragedies of the wild from fire, the moose,

deer, and birds innumerable, rushing out, and bewildered, rushing back to be destroyed, and in most cases the result of so called "freedom of democracy," for which we have fought and suffered beyond description. Truly "freedom" to destroy the property of others, and the most valuable resources of the State, should be checked, and clearly uncontrolled democracy is not an unlimited blessing. To-day the hoodlum and the pauper as well as the profiteer and millionaire can ride through the country in a car to the fishing or camping grounds, throwing his burning cigar or cigarette butt into the tinder like leaves by the wayside, and leave his camp fire to destroy the country, with no apparent limitations to his "freedom," rarely detected, and still more rarely punished. Your journal is educative and the Forestry Association of great value with its cars and slides and lectures, etc., to educate both young and old, but it is not permissive, and it takes more than moral persuasion or education by voice or pen, or eye, to bring home to these "Fool Devils" any sense of control of their "freedom." Something dramatic is needed to impress them. My opinion of the effective solution of the problem is that in every province efficient fire detective agencies should be established by the government, and that these criminals should be apprehended with as much certainty as others, and punished with both fine and imprisonment to fit the crime.

I have preached "game sanctuaries" for years, but the first thing to do is to stop preventable fires. In my own profession of late years the words ascribed to the late King Edward have had a practical application in efforts made to prevent diseases, and may well be applied to the fire menace. "If preventable why not prevented."

W. B. MOORE, M.D.

Kentville, Nova Scotia.

Montreal, Que., Jan. 18, 1922.

To Canadian Forestry Magazine:

Dear Sir,—I read with much interest letter from J. Moffatt Ross, regarding an association for the conservation of wild animals, birds and fish. This same thought occurred to me last Fall, while on a fishing trip in this Province.

It was surprising to find that lakes within a short distance of the railways were fished out, and to get any fishing one had to go back into the bush. This condition is due, in a sense to the fact that there is really no limit on the number of fish taken, as long as they are taken in season, and one place where I fished, I found a native who made it his business to be in a certain spot (which I afterwards learned was a spawning ground) every day, and it was not unusual for him to take out one hundred fish. It must be understood that no man is fishing for the sport of it when he is taking such a great number every day, and it is such men as this, and others who have no idea but to get as many fish as possible, without regard to the method of getting them, that make it necessary for some means to be sought to curtail their activities.

I was also sorry to note that the great majority of trout taken out of the lakes in early September were full of spawn,

and it naturally follows that this cheats the fishermen of a few years hence from having any sport. If this condition continues, it will be necessary, in order to secure a good day's fishing, for one to travel back in the bush for a couple of days. In the section of the Laurentians in which I was this year, had to go thirty to forty miles into the bush to get a good day's fishing. There are more accessible places but they are either private preserves or fished out.

I feel, like a good many other sportsmen, that hunting and fishing should be conducted as a sport, and not as a slaughter, and any association that would tend towards improving conditions would be of great benefit to the sportsmen throughout the Dominion.

Yours faithfully,

E. J. WALSH.

(Editor's Note:—Mr. Walsh is manager, Eastern Provinces Branch, Canadian Surety Co., Montreal.)

Jan. 20, 1922.

To the Canadian Forestry Magazine,—

In the December number of Canadian Forestry Magazine, a letter from Mr. J. Moffatt Ross, under the heading, "Is the Time Ripe for Canadian Sportsmen's Association," was read with a great deal of interest by the writer, who has communicated with Mr. Ross, drawing his attention to the fact that the sentiment expressed by himself is one that is agreed with throughout the country, only lacking leadership and co-operation to establish sporting ethics that cover Mr. Ross' observations.

I am enclosing you a copy of the Constitution, Rules and Regulations of an Organization formed in Ontario last year. The name, as you will see is The Ontario Sportsmen's Game and Fish Protective Association, Inc. We shall be glad to have your comments on this. We welcome criticism and we welcome suggestions for the betterment of preservation, conservation and propagation of the desirable wild life of this Dominion.

I am also enclosing you a copy of resolutions that were passed at our Annual Meeting. As I have stated to Mr. Ross, these have not been forwarded to the Government and any suggestions of improvements or additions will be gladly welcomed, in fact appreciated.

Conservation of the Game goes hand in hand with conservation of the Forests. Without the forest the game must go, and without the game and the forests much of our territory is worthless.

Sincerely yours,

The Ontario Sportsmen's Game and Fish Protective Association.

SAM HARRIS, President.

There was a young lady of Kew,
Who ran for a train at 2.2;
When the guard saw she hurried,
He said, "Don't be flurried,
There's a minute or two to 2.2."