

any kind of game in each district; residents to pay \$1 to \$2 for each district. License good for the whole Province, \$50.

The proposed amendments in regard to the close seasons are to be desired, and if the Spring shooting of Black Duck, Mallard, Wood Duck and Teal were prohibited, the Bill, in this respect, would meet the views of most sportsmen. Numbers of Black Duck and Wood Duck breed in suitable localities throughout the Province, and many more would, doubtless, remain to nest if protected in the Spring, as they commence nest-building early in May, and the full number of eggs is usually deposited before the latter part of that month. It is true many nests are found as late as the middle of June, but this is the result of the birds having been disturbed in Spring and prevented from occupying the places they had first selected, as in the most Northern parts of the Province, where they have been undisturbed, nests have been found as early as the 15th May. The first principle of all laws for the protection of game is that the quadrupeds and birds protected should not be disturbed at those particular seasons defined by Nature for the perpetuation of their species. It is obvious, therefore, that it is wrong to permit the shooting of these ducks until 1st May, as they have paired and selected their places for nesting long before that time. The proposed division of the Province into districts, and the imposition of a license fee for the privilege of shooting, is not likely to meet with much favour from sportsmen, who have already to pay pretty dearly for the privileges they enjoy. The confusion likely to arise from this division, and the impossibility of collecting the tax impartially will make this portion of the Bill most unpopular, not only to sportsmen, but to farmers and others who, from time immemorial, have been accustomed to enjoy a little shooting in their spare time. The necessity of securing a Government license to hunt on their own farms, cannot but seem arbitrary;

and we fail to see any good to be derived from the imposition of this tax as the revenue accruing therefrom will be more than consumed in the cost of collection.

A careful revision of the Bill is necessary before its final reading as several omissions occur, and the use of local names may lead to some confusion.

A MYSTERY.

A magnificent adult Moose head was lately sent by W. F. Lewis, Esq., of this city, to me to stuff. There is a mystery about the ears of this head. Each ear has three deep cuts longitudinally from the apex towards the base. The edges of the cuts are healed and covered with hair similar to the outside margins of the natural ear. Who or what cut the ears of this Moose, and what was the animal's age when these cuts were made? The head was sent from Pembroke by Messrs. T. & W. Murray to whom I wrote asking if they could give me some information regarding these ear-cuts, suggesting that at one time (probably when young) the animal may have been the property of some one who had it partially tamed; that the cuts were then made as marks of identity, and that it afterwards escaped to the woods. I have had deer heads with fresh ear-cuts which were done by the hunter after the deer was shot, but this one is the first instance of the kind coming under my notice. Messrs. Murray say:—"We do not think that it was ever tamed as there are no settlers in the section it was taken from. The Indians might probably keep one a short time when young, with a view of taking it where it could be disposed of alive, but they very seldom keep them any time." I may probably have some further information regarding these cuts. They do not represent wounds made by a quadruped; they resemble cuts made with a knife; but when and where they were made, is the mystery.

C.