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DESTROYING DEER.

We have received the Fourth Book of the Michigan Sportsmen's Association, being the transactions in full of the Sixth Annual Session held at Lansing last January. It embraces several questions of vital importance to the Association, especially regarding the Fish and Game of the State. The Sportsmen of Michigan deserve the sympathy and support of all who love to use the rod and gun, and we trust that the State Legislature will embrace and carry out the Laws which the sportsmen of Michigan are anxious to enforce. The late enormous slaughter of deer within the range of the Sporting regions of the Association is sufficient to cause enquiry, and if such illegal killing is not prevented, the ultimate result will be the total extinction of *Cervus Virginianus* in the State of Michigan. We give the following extract from Prof. H. B. Roney's elaborate paper on the destruction of deer in 1880.

TOTAL EXTINCTION INEVITABLE.

"These statistics give a grand total of 70,000 deer, or about 10,000,000 pounds of venison destroyed in Michigan in the one year of 1880. At this rate how long will it take to exterminate the species in Michigan? How long can the State stand this drain, before the last relic of the noble race disappears? Just about five years, and they will become scarce in less than twelve months, as indeed they are already. And when the present supply is gone, where can the next come from? Certainly not from the North, East, or West, for that is a geographical impossibility, while from the South it can not be expected. Unlike other States which border upon vast wildernesses out of which a new supply comes to replenish the disappearing race, the Lower Peninsula of Michigan, when it has once permitted this noble animal to be exterminated between lakes Michigan and Huron, has for

ever lost a great source of wealth and valuable food supply, which if now wisely preserved will last for generations."

The Sporting Clubs of Canada will have to keep a sharp lookout in order to prevent a similar slaughter along the woodlands of our Northern lakes, because we are fully aware that when market hunters are not allowed to enter the woods of Michigan, they will doubtless have to procure the animals from other localities, and they will enter Canada for their game. We have had an instance of this from market fishers who had a contract to supply American hotels with a weekly weight of Brook Trout, the fish being then supplied from the Adirondacks. The ponds or lakes of the latter locality were quickly exhausted and could not supply the demand, but in order to do so, the contractors came to fish the trout regions in the Province of Quebec. One thousand pounds was the weekly weight sent out, and this was carried on profitably for nearly three years before the Fishery Department stopped it. The taking of this quantity of trout at that time from the Laurentian lakes, did not, in our opinion, make a great difference in the way of decreasing the annual production, as the natural facilities for the propagation of trout in our Northern lakes and rivers, are not surpassed in any other portion of the world. The spawning-grounds adjoining our northern mountain lakes are cool and numerous, and will therefore be always productive.

It is different with deer, which are only found within their food ranges and are accessible during the open season. We cannot allow American market hunters to enter these deer frequenting localities to slaughter them as they have been in the wilds of Michigan. This privilege is only for the humane sportsman who goes out to enjoy a few days, not with the purpose of making money from his skill in handling the rifle—not with the intent of destroying