

ROD AND GUN IN CANADA



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NEW GAME LAWS.

The League of American Sportsmen has laid out its winter programme as follows:—

“There is a vast amount of work for the League to do next winter in the various State Legislatures. There are some fundamental principles in game protection that should be put before the law makers of the various states, in such shape as to impel action. One of these must look to the prohibition of the shameful traffic in bird plumage for millinery purposes, which is now being carried on everywhere.

“Here is a draft of a bill covering this subject which should be presented to the Legislature of each state and territory in the Union:

“Whoever shall have in his or her possession the body or skin or any part of the plumage of any bird classed as a song or insectivorous bird, a plumage bird or bird of prey, and which is not generally considered edible or classed as a game bird, whether taken in this state or elsewhere, or who may wear such feathers for the purpose of dress or ornament, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and on conviction shall be fined not less than \$10 nor more than \$25.

“Provided, that this act shall not be construed to prohibit any person having a certificate provided for under any law of this state, from taking or killing such birds; or keeping their skins or skeletons or parts thereof for scientific study; the intent of this provision being that persons legally authorized may take and retain such birds for use in museums or other collections for scientific purposes.

“This act shall not apply to non-residents of this state passing through it, or temporarily dwelling within its limits, unless they are engaged in collecting or destroying birds in violation of the spirit and intention of this act.”

“Another bill should be introduced in each of these state legislatures to prohibit the sale of game at all times. A draft of such a bill will be submitted to the League members in the near future, and a vigorous campaign must be inaugurated everywhere in order to secure legislation on these most important subjects.”

We, in Canada, are not yet prepared to absolutely prohibit the sale of game, as our resources in that respect are still very large, but any province or territory whose laws do not prohibit the sale during the close season in such province or territory of imported game should pass a law to that effect, for under the cold storage plea there is too good an opportunity to dispose of game killed during the close season.

At first sight the proposition to prevent the fair sex from ornamenting their headgear as fashion dictates may seem an unwarrantable interference with their privileges, but when it is remembered that “the more birds alive, the less bugs alive” is the underlying principle, the proposed law seems not only reasonable, but an absolute necessity in most states if they are to be saved from annually increasing insect pests.

POLICE REVOLVER PRACTICE.

A police team match was arranged to be shot recently in Chicago. The best fifty marksmen were selected, ten men from each district. From these, five-men teams were made up. Such competitions should be extended to every city among the police, and one should like to hear of similar competitions in our chief Canadian cities. The Chicago affair is promoted by private enterprise, which, while creditable to the promoters, is wrong in principle, for it should be a requirement that every police officer should acquire proficiency with the weapon with which he is armed. Nothing is so disappointing as to see some of the vain efforts by policemen to hit a dog that we have witnessed, whereas a crack shot is admired by all.



The good effects of the recent change in the Dominion Customs Export Law, by which, under adequate restrictions, visiting sportsmen are permitted to export moose, caribou and deer killed by them, becomes more apparent as the open season advances. There have been unprecedented numbers of hunters come into Canada so far who have generally been successful and taken out trophies of their skill. On the other hand, it is not an over-estimate to state that at least \$100,000, from September 1st to November 1st, have been left in the country this year by hunters and there is still a long open season to come.



Any of our provinces or territories which have not passed a law providing a bounty on wolf scalps should do so at the first session of their legislatures. Reports of depredations by wolves are not infrequent, and in these days when our deer attract the visiting sportsmen from the South and thus possess a commercial value to our country, we cannot afford to satisfy the hunger of the remaining *Canis Lupus Griseo-Ilbus* by feeding them on venison.