

ROD AND GUN IN CANADA

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The North American Fish and Game Protective Association met at Montreal, Jan. 30 and 31, and adopted a constitution and by-laws and considered the report of the committee on harmonizing the laws, inadvertently omitted from our last issue, in addition to other business. A report of the meeting is to be found on another page.

A digest of the laws regulating the transportation and sale of game, issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Division of Biological Survey, as Bulletin 14, is an interesting feature of the working out of the Lacey Act. This publication contains nearly 100 pages of extracts from the various state laws, besides nine maps and diagrams which show states which prohibit the export of game, the open seasons for various kinds of game, where market hunting and sale is not allowed and those states which prohibit non-residents hunting without a license.

Twenty-five of the United States prohibit the sale of game, partially or wholly, and there appears to be a strong tendency to make such prohibition universal, all of which assists in preserving the game of Canada, by preventing the successful disposal of game birds and animals illegally exported from the Dominion under various aliases.

As an illustration of the trend of restriction with relation to game, twenty-one of the United States limit the amount of game which may be killed in a day or season; twenty-eight states prohibit trade in certain game, fifteen states require non-residents to procure licenses costing from \$5.00 to \$40.00 each, if they desire to hunt; and six states require license fees of 25c. to \$1.00 from residents.

The Ontario Government has set aside 1,400,000 acres of forest as a reserve, the final arrangements regarding the withdrawal of the Lakes Temagaming and Lady Evelyn region having been completed. These lakes are probably the most beautiful in Canada and with their finely wooded surroundings will form a beautiful Provincial Park.

In their 1899 report the Ontario Game and Fish Commissioners speak as follows respecting insectivorous birds:

"We regret that year after year we have in the strongest terms warned your government that in extravagantly granting as many as fifty or sixty licenses to men to destroy all the most beautiful and useful birds, they wanting to make large collections of skins, is simply sanctioning officially one of the most detrimental acts possible for the agriculturist. In saying this your commissioners merely assert what is admitted by everyone interested except perhaps the professional bird skinner and egg collector. These men would, and do no doubt, kill thousands of birds and destroy thousands of eggs of the farmer's best friend. We trust that the members of the Legislature representing rural constituencies will demand that something be done to stop this wholesale slaughter of one of the most useful forms of living creatures. It is their duty to do so."

Why not cease granting any licenses to kill insectivorous birds? Why should the fifty men be benefitted at the expense of hundreds whose farms and orchards suffer from the depredations of insect pests, which these slaughtered birds would have dealt with? We need a good number of Audubon societies in Canada, who will do for us the excellent work accomplished by those organizations in the United States in protecting insectivorous birds. It is time that the traffic in their skins should cease.