

ROD AND GUN IN CANADA

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The committee appointed by the North American Fish and Game Protective Association at its first meeting to report at the next annual meeting on the possibilities of harmonizing the fish and game laws of the Provinces and States represented in the Association will meet in Montreal, Dec. 13th. It is a strong and representative committee, and being for the most part composed of practical government officials of the fish and game departments, its members should know fairly well to what extent their respective governments will be prepared to accept their recommendations. While the resolution appointing the committee does not specifically require the members to approach the several State and Provincial powers, as a body, it is generally understood that the findings of the committee will undoubtedly be also the recommendations of its members to their respective governments. The task before the committee is an arduous one. The close seasons not only vary considerably, but the climatic and settlement conditions are so different that no one set of dates can be agreed upon to cover all Provinces and States, and we are of the opinion that it would be well to consider very carefully the propriety of making the dates of the open seasons in the more northerly portions of Ontario sufficiently early and of duration enough for the sportsman to visit those regions before there is any danger of frost cutting off his retreat by canoe. Quebec's dates are so arranged now, and we hope will not be interfered with.

We suggest to the committee that they should first lay down the principle "that we believe it is desirable to encourage the visits of non-resident sportsmen," and having so decided proceed on fixing dates and conditions that will go as far as consistent in so doing. Limit the number of deer, caribou and moose, etc., each man may kill, as closely as necessary, but do not make short seasons that require thousands to go into the woods within two weeks. One animal per man with a one month

season is preferable to two per man with a two weeks' limit and the danger of the sportsman being shot by mistake is thereby lessened. Furthermore, do not decide to prohibit shooting altogether in immense areas where the game wardens never penetrate. It keeps out the non-residents who disburse money in those districts, and it brings the laws into contempt.

The fire-rangers of Quebec Province in all cases hereafter will act also as fishery overseers and gamekeepers. This appears to be an excellent idea, but it should be followed by the licensing of guides, each guide to be a fire-ranger and fishery overseer and game-warden in any territory he may be travelling in. The guides are interested in preventing fires and in preserving fish and game, and a proper knowledge of their responsibilities will have a good effect.

The mighty hunter and celebrated author and naturalist, Frederick C. Selous, having heard of Canada's big game, paid a visit to Quebec Province from Sept. 25 to Oct. 21, and hunted in the Kippewa region, from which he secured two fine moose heads. After leaving Canada Mr. Selous intended to hunt caribou in Newfoundland. Mr. Selous is well known on account of his writings and his eighteen years' hunting in Africa.

The committee of the North American Fish and Game Protective Association, to prepare a constitution and by-laws for adoption at the next annual meeting, will meet in Montreal, Dec. 13th.

The Lacey Act passed by the U. S. Congress (referred to in our July issue) is stated to be having an excellent effect in preserving game. Briefly, it prohibits interstate traffic in the game from any state whose laws prohibit its export. Illegal market hunters, therefore, find it very difficult to dispose of their game.

The United States Department of Agriculture, Division of Biological Survey, issued Circular 31 on Oct. 25th, giving a *résumé* of state laws concerning game. From it we learn that twenty-eight States prohibit trade in certain game and forty-one States prohibit the export of various game. Fifteen States require the issue of licenses to hunters, usually at \$10.00 to \$25.00, and one State, Missouri, makes it a misdemeanor for a non-resident to hunt therein.

We have been able to secure several articles, written not long before his death, by our lamented and valued contributor, Frank H. Risteen, the first of which appears in this issue.