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THE GAME LAWS OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

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It is notorious that for many years past Game Laws have been in force in the Province of Quebec; that these laws were repeatedly amended and even at this instant they are imperfect; that on all former occasions the alterations sought for were brought forward by parties who knew very little of the Natural History of the animals which are said to occur in the Province. In the Bill now before the Legislature of Quebec there is the heading *Moose, Deer, Elk, Caribou*. Now, to make the matter plain, the word DEER includes all which are hunted for venison. We have in this Province, four species of deer, viz.: the Elk, commonly called and known as Moose; two of Caribou and the Virginian Deer. These quadrupeds are invariably confined to certain localities, each having ranges of various extent. For instance the Virginian Deer has not a wide range in Quebec, and it may be now accidental in places where it was formerly abundant. The cutting down of forests accounts, in a great measure, for its disappearance. The Elk or Moose is also similarly situated, because its chief food consists of moosewood and aquatic plants; it is also extremely fond of mountainous regions, especially where there are lakes, which are not frequently visited by man. The deer known as Caribou of which we have two species, are generally confined to high latitudes, and it is only during winter that man can approach them. To make the Game Laws perfect, these animals should be indicated in the Act, by placing the scientific after the local name of each species—as Elk or Moose, (*Cervus alces*); Woodland Caribou, (*Rangifer tarandus*); Baren-ground

Caribou, (*Rangifer Greenlandicus*), and the Virginian Deer, (*Cervus Virginianus*) This would make the law definite with regard to these animals. Confusion will certainly arise from this nomenclature when not framed in a manner to be clearly understood by the sporting people of the Province. Greatly as are the inhabitants of the United States ahead of us in some matters of this nature, they will call animals by wrong names, for instance the large deer or Wapiti (*Cervus Canadensis*) of the Rocky Mountains, is vulgarly named Elk, while the latter is the animal we call Moose in Canada, and which is scarce near the Rockies. In the French and English copies of the Act, the word Pécane occurs. Now, surely, if the framer of this Bill went to any trouble, he would have discovered that this is the animal commonly called Fisher by English people, *Musclea Canadensis* of naturalists, and not the WILD CAT (*Chat sauvage*). Well, what animal have we here? We are told that it is the Raccoon (of uncommon occurrence in this Province). There is another common animal called Lynx (*L. Canadensis*) which is also called *wild cat* by country people, and although there is no true wild cat found in the Province of Quebec, it occurs in Ontario. As for Muskrat, there is no greater nuisance among the quadrupeds of this country. It burrows under the banks of rivers, making numerous holes whereby the fertile lands of the farmer (especially if a stream is overflowed in Spring), are destroyed; however, if all parties are satisfied with the protection of this animal, we are.

Regarding the feathered game, no bird called Partridge exists in this latitude. There are five species of Grouse occurring in the Province—i. e. the Ruffed Grouse (*Bonasa umbellus*), Sharp-tailed Grouse (*Tetrao pedicellatus*), rare in the valley of Lake St. John, Upper Saguenay; Spruce Grouse (*T. Cana-*