

Our Game Birds Getting Scarce

Natural Food and Cover Diminishing
Too many Bags Offsets Bag
Limits Regulations

In the United States, there is no sinner or abler advocate of game conservation than Dr. William T. Hornaday, Director of the New York Zoological Park. In a recent letter, he sums up the present situation in the States as follows:

"First—We see glorious Federal and state laws for the protection of the insectivorous and non-game birds well observed in most places, but in some places shamefully abused by alien shooters. That abuse is because it is an utter impossibility for any state to put into the field enough wardens to watch every alien who goes out hunting with a license in his pocket.

"Second—We now see game-bird hunting reduced, very largely, to the hunting of ducks and geese, with a very little shooting of six shore-birds, quail and grouse.

"Third—We see all American quail, ruffed grouse, pinnated and sharp-tailed grouse on a steep toboggan slide going swiftly toward sure abolition.

"Fourth—We see in the near future no wild game remaining, save water-fowl, rabbits, hares and white-tailed deer, and a trace of introduced pheasants. Any one who thinks that quail and grouse of any species whatever can be hand-made propagation keep the sport of shooting them on a permanent basis, makes a sad mistake. It cannot be done!

"Fifth—We see that the propagation of pheasants on game farms is worth while, though it is not a great factor in the production of sport.

"Sixth—As we have all said many times, guns and gunners are increasing at an enormous rate, while many kinds of game are growing more and more scarce; and the open seasons are entirely too long.

"Seventh—We have seen that bag limits are not saving the upland game birds, partly because there are ten times too many bags!

"Eighth—For land game we see all kinds of natural cover and food diminishing through drainage, cultivation, timber-cutting and fires. We see the natural enemies of the game holding it at great disadvantages, and the hard winters steadily are becoming harder and more destructive to feathered game.

"Finally, we see that the resident hunting license fees in the various states, one and all, without a single exception, are ridiculously and absurdly below the real value of the sweeping, wholesale privileges that they confer."

Dr. Hornaday's study of the situation leads him to recommend the following remedies:

"1. From this time henceforward all shooting of game must be diminished at least 50 per cent!

"2. This can be best, most easily and most justly be accomplished

by permitting no man to have a license, or to go hunting, even on his own land, more often than one year out of every two years.

"3. All licenses to hunt either small game or large game now should be doubled, or even tripled, in price.

"4. No state that maintains deer hunting should license any man to kill a deer for a smaller fee than \$5.

"5. A license fee should everywhere, save by bona fide explorers and natives in the far North, be paid on each bag game animal killed; and of all places in which this is necessary Alaska needs it most! The existing (non-resident) license fees in Alaska, for everything except the shipment of moose heads, are ridiculous and exterminatory, and if continued for the future they would be a crime. No Alaskan will admit this, however, even when the big game of that territory becomes extinct.

"6. In view of the cost to the nation of the adequate enforcement of the Federal laws for the conservation of wild life, after increasing its rates, each state henceforth should turn over to the Federal government for conservation purposes only, 10 per cent of its annual receipts from hunting licenses.

"In various states many open seasons now should be closed from two to ten years each. Full specifications would make a long chapter dealing with each of the forty-eight states. It should begin with the upland game birds and embrace many species of birds—game and pseudo-game, many game mammals, and the fur-bearing animals of many localities. If this is not applied immediately to many fur-bearers in many places the whole series very soon will disappear from the map of North America, and the fur dealers and trappers can take this fact or leave it. I have said all that I have to say.

"Professor Henry Fairfield Osborn, author of *The Age of Mammals*, now solemnly says:

"We are now at the end of the Age of Mammals.

"It is my fear that man's rapacity and greed for wild life now is so great that nothing will avail to save for the next century anything more of it than nee catered remnants of a once glorious fauna—rats, mice and English sparrows."

While the situation in Canada is not as bad as in the United States, it is also true that a larger proportion of our area is unsettled and difficult of access. Unquestionably, the situation demands incessant watchfulness that our game resources be not unduly or dangerously depleted.

A Dominion park has been established along the new Banff-Windermere highway, to be known as Kootenay Park. A portion of the land has been transferred to the Dominion by the province of British Columbia, and a portion of the Railway Belt will be included.

Wasting Our Water Powers

Inefficient and Obsolete Plants Not
Developing Power Available

Canada occupies an outstanding position in regard to water-power wealth, not only with respect to the aggregate power at sites already developed and in use, but even more so to that awaiting development. The total of our potential load-water, 24-hour power is estimated at some 19,000,000 horse-power.

Although the greater amount of power is produced in large and efficient plants, there are many inefficient small plants. Each of these plants, however, is valuable as a producer of energy and, owing to the number, the aggregate amount of power they represent is considerable; moreover, these smaller plants are usually situated in the more thickly populated areas, where power is at a premium.

It is interesting to note how conditions in some of the small plants can be improved at a relatively low cost, as illustrated by the reconstruction of a small hydro-electric plant of some 400 h.p., operating under a head of 14 feet.

The original plant was destroyed by a washout, and, in the design of the new plant, all modern and efficient practice and methods were utilized. The new plant is showing marked increase in efficiency over the old, due to the increased efficiency of the units and of the method of operation. The plant has carried for the past two years more than twice the load that the old plant normally handled and has not yet experienced the shortage of water which formerly occurred each year in the late summer and winter months. The results at this plant illustrate what reconstruction can accomplish for small plants operating wastefully, either through antiquated equipment, leaky dams or other inefficient works. —L. G. Denis.

Fire Loss in 1919

Paid to insurance companies	\$40,000,000
upkeep of fire departments and interest on investment in equipment	8,700,000
Losses not covered by insurance	5,800,000
A total of	\$54,500,000

This was a direct charge against the production of Canada for 1919, and it was paid by those who produce; it was the penalty for neglect of one of the first essentials of property protection—fire prevention.

Canada is not in any position to continue this policy of *laissez faire* in regard to the fire waste. Houses are scarce and building costs are exceedingly high. To relieve the housing situation, governments and municipal councils are advancing money or pledg-

ing public credit for building purposes.

Regardless of this condition, however, reports of Provincial Fire Marshals show that, last year, fires occurred in 5,792 dwellings in Ontario, and in Saskatchewan, 603 dwellings suffered from fire.

Undoubtedly the greater proportion of the monetary loss resulted from fires in large properties, but these dwellings where fire occurred were the homes of employers or employees in various industries. It is only reasonable to suppose that the careless home holder will be the careless worker; that the same degree of neglect of precautions against fire will be evident. Private dwellings provided by far the greatest number of our fires; each of these fires is a potential conflagration, and no authority exists for a compulsory inspection of dwelling houses for fire dangers. With such a record as the above, fire departments and fire inspectors should be provided with such authority, and employers should in every manner promote education in fire prevention among their employees.

Transmission of Furs by Mail

The game guardians of the various provinces, in their endeavours to control the illegal taking of furs and to collect reliable statistics of fur production, have been handicapped in the past because parcels containing furs have been accepted for transmission by mail without a permit being required. The 1920 edition of the Canadian Postal Guide (No 200), contains a regulation to the effect that furs, skins, plumage, etc., will not be accepted, even during the open season, unless the packages are plainly marked to show the actual nature of the contents and the name and address of the sender. During the close season, it will also be necessary for the sender to secure from the game warden a permit covering the shipment. The Deputy Postmaster General has directed the attention of each postmaster to these requirements.

Although the strict enforcement of this regulation should minimize illegal traffic, the regulation itself is not entirely satisfactory to the Provincial authorities. In Nova Scotia, for instance, the law requires that no package should be shipped unless accompanied by a proper tag, whether during the close season or not.

At the recent Fur Industry and Wild Life Conference held in Montreal it was shown how exceedingly difficult it is to obtain reliable statistics of Canada's fur production. The suggestion was made that the Post Office Department should make a return of all furs accepted for transmission. If this were done, great assistance would be rendered in preparing the data on which to frame improvements in the laws relating to the taking and selling of fur-bearing animals.