

## ANNUAL REPORT.

The Annual Meeting was held at "Dolly's," on Saturday, 5th March. Mr. Henry McKay, the President, in the chair.

The Secretary read the following Annual Report:—

The Committee of the Montreal Fish and Game Protection Club have to report that, during the past year, every effort has been made to secure the enforcement of the law, in so far as it provides against the improper destruction of Fish and Game.

A reward of ten dollars offered to any one securing a conviction, was extensively advertized throughout the city and in country places, and the markets here have been so carefully watched, that it has become a matter of more danger than profit to buy or sell at the prohibited seasons.

As large quantities of Black Bass and Doré were openly exposed for sale as late in the season as April last, the Secretary prosecuted one of the dealers, but failed to secure a conviction, as evidence was brought to show that the fish in question had been taken before the 15th March. The prosecution had a good effect, however, as the sale was at once put a stop to. Your Committee would recommend, that, on the 15th instant, notice be given to all dealers that ten days will be allowed them to dispose of stock on hand; but that, after that time, an information will be laid against every one having these fish in his possession.

A well-known trader from Vercheres, who has been in the habit of supplying the markets and hotels with game, both in and out of season, was detected on one of the market boats in May last. His bag of game was confiscated, and himself convicted in ten dollars and costs. In this case, the Club reward was divided between the informer and the police constable who effected the capture.

On the 10th of June last, the reward was claimed for the conviction of one Ives, of the Township of Bolton, for having shot three Partidges on the 25th April. A certified copy of the conviction before H. S. Foster, Esq., J. P.

for Bedford, having been received, as also a letter from that gentleman, stating that the penalty awarded (sixteen dollars) had been enforced. The sum of ten dollars was remitted to the party who prosecuted.

It having come to the knowledge of the Committee, that Fish and Game, out of season, had been served at the St. James Club House, this was at once brought before the Manager, and a letter was received from the Secretary stating that the matter had been one of inadvertence, and that instructions had been issued that any Fish or Game which may be out of season should not again enter the Club.

The attention of the principal hotel and restaurant keepers has been, from time to time, called to these laws, and their observance of them, and co-operation with the Club generally asked and promised.

The Committee are sanguine that, by a steady perseverance in the course followed during the past year, one great object of the Club will be attained in the closing of all markets here, at all events, for the prohibited articles. It is really in the markets of large cities that the battle has to be fought, for it is almost impossible, for many reasons, to reach the first offender in country places. Stop the sale of his illicit wares, however, and you will do much to cure the evil.

For this reason, the Committee would express an earnest hope that organizations similar to this and the Quebec Club, will soon be found in every town in Canada. The object appeals not alone to the interests of sportsmen. In a country like ours, so recently wrested from the hands of nature, and blessed by Providence with such magnificent preserves for the finest of Fish and Game—preserves that, by proper management, could be made almost inexhaustible, and from which might be drawn a large and valuable portion of the food of the people,—it is surely lamentable to see a war of utter extermination so ignorantly and recklessly carried on,—to see that while other countries are at great expense carefully fostering both foreign and home fisheries, that while the people of Australia for instance are bringing the