

catch, not to kill the deer—it is considered very bad form to allow the staghounds to kill the animal—the frightened quarry suffers all the terrors of the chase except actual death, and may be compelled to endure them many times. On the contrary, rabbits are killed when caught and suffer so much the less. Many critics think the Queen should begin preventing cruelty to animals by abolishing the Royal Buckhounds.

FISH AND GAME PROTECTION.

The annual meeting of the Fish and Game Protection Club was held in the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, on the evening of the 5th inst.

The report read by Secretary Shewan shewed the difficulty the club had to contend with in consequence of limited resources owing to loss of membership, and the difficulty experienced in securing convictions.

The thanks of the club were due to Mr. W. S. Walker, advocate, who acted as the club's legal adviser.

The club had been in communication with the Ontario Game and Fish Commission with a view to securing uniformity in the laws, but as yet nothing had come of the correspondence, beyond the wish expressed by the secretary, Capt. Stewart, of Hamilton, that they might act in unison. This would be a very desirable thing were it only for the sake of causing some action to be taken with regard to the protection of ducks in Lake St. Francis, in which so many of our sportsmen are concerned.

In the month of March a deputation was named to obtain an interview with the Minister of Marine and Fisheries with regard to certain amendments to the fishing laws which it is desired to obtain. An interview was held in the month of July, and since then a correspondence has been opened, and it seems probable that the requests of the club will, in part at least, be complied with.

The changes which the club wish to have made, and which they think will very much improve the fishing in the province, may be summarized as follows:

1. Fixing the meshes of nets at four inches extension measure.
2. Making the close season for bass, maskinonge and pickerel from 1st Jan. to 1st July or 15th June, as at present.
3. Making the close season for speckled and lake trout from 15th Sept. or 1st Oct. to 1st May, with leave for settlers in the back woods to catch fish for their own use during Lent.
4. Appointing a sub-inspector of fisheries in Montreal with power to engage assistants during the close season, and thus do away with at least twelve fishing overseers and wardens in the district, who,

with one or two exceptions, are worse than useless.

5. To restrict somewhat netting, especially in the Ottawa river, between Vaudreuil and St. Andrews.

6. To secure greater accuracy in fishing statistics.

Should the club succeed in obtaining these concessions there can be little doubt but there soon will be a very great improvement in the fishing in the neighbourhood of Montreal.

The illegal duck-shooting in Lake St. Francis still continues. An officer was sent up to Lancaster early in October and saw some offenders at work, but as they were just across the line in Ontario, they could not be arrested. The committee has year by year called attention to the shooting of ducks in spring and hopes that the club will again try to have this practice abolished.

THE LEGION OF HONOUR.

[By a Volunteer Abroad.—In Volunteer Service Gazette.]

Some interesting notes on the origin and attributions of the much coveted French Order of the Legion of Honour have been lately published in a Paris journal. The Legion, entitled to wear the "star of the brave," was first created by Napoleon the First on the 14th of July, 1804, at the camp of Boulogne, where the immense array of French troops had been assembled to await the favourable moment—which never arrived—for the invasion of England. The Order was primarily intended for the recognition of valour and merit amongst naval and military men alone, but its honours and emoluments had in some cases also, as at the present day, to most unworthy civilians, and to such a degree, that the decoration has in many instances been refused by those over susceptible Frenchmen who haughtily distained any association with such a questionable mixture of knighthood.

At first, the Legion of Honour was instituted according to the old Roman form, and consisted of 15 cohorts, each commanded by seven grand officers or "great eagles," 20 commanders and 30 officers, with 350 legionaries, or, as ruled by the Emperor, an effective of 6,000 honoured soldiers and sailors of all grades; but owing to the widespread warfare of the epoch, the Legion, in 1815, had been increased to more than double its primitive strength. Under the Restoration and the Monarchy of July, the statutes of the Order were considerably modified, and a large infusion of the civil element was imported into the ranks of the Legion, as well as under the Second Empire, until ten years ago the present Republican Government ordered a census to be made of the legionaries, and a balance sheet drawn up of their pension accounts. It was then found that the military members

counted for 39,793 individuals, drawing annually 12,718,000 frs., and 15,000 civilian members, who were not entitled to any pecuniary emolument with their decorations.

As at the moment constituted, three-fifths of the crosses periodically distributed are reserved for the army and navy, and the remaining two-fifths for the church, bar, and for other civil services. The proportions of the pension vary according to the degrees of rank in the order enjoyed by the military or naval recipients on the following scales: Chevalier, 250 frs. per annum; officers, 500 frs.; commanders, 1,000 frs.; grand officers, 2,000 frs.; and the grand crosses, 3,000 frs. The pay or pension of the Grand Chancellor charged with the administration of the order is 40,000 frs. a year with free residence in the Palace of the Legion of Honour, firing, &c. Certain rules for promotion are ostensibly laid down, but only occasionally adhered to, or controlled either by favour or circumstance dependent upon the goodwill and pleasure of the head of the State or the Ministry for the time being.

In connection with the Order and supported from its large revenues and funds, are two houses of education at St. Denis and in the forest of St. Germaine, for the daughters of impecunious legionaries, and the male children of the same if they elect to follow the profession of arms for a future career are assisted in their studies by various advantages. The Legion of Honour is the only national order of knighthood or nobility that has survived the former monarchical regimes, when three other orders existed for emulation either to valour and virtue. The Order of St. Michael (1469) was awarded for civil services, that of St. Louis (1693) for military pre-eminence, whilst the last Order, that of the Holy Ghost, instituted in 1574 by Henry III., was only bestowed upon one hundred members of the most ancient nobility of France, whom the royal founder designated as his "gentils dépravés."

The German authorities deny that they propose to replace their Mannlichers with a smaller bore weapon, though they do propose to make some minor changes in it.

A Twelve Thousand Dollar Farm.

A subscriber to the Montreal *Weekly Witness* writes to that paper, that through the hints received in its agricultural column he is now the possessor of a twelve thousand dollar farm which he otherwise would not have owned, and that he, through following its advice, is making a success of his orchard and bee culture. It is a notable fact that the readers of the Montreal *Witness* are as a rule well-to-do, prosperous and influential. People of this class admire such a paper as the *Witness*, and the *Witness* aids in increasing their prosperity and extending their influence for good. It is a highly interesting paper. Messrs. John Dougall & Son, Montreal, are the publishers.