

in hunting phraseology in England to any low growth of cover for game. The Conqueror punished with death the killing of a deer, a wild boar, or even a hare. The conquered English were hanged for the murder of a plover, death was inflicted on those who spread nets for pigeons, and those who had drawn a bow upon a stag were to be tied to the animal alive. In France up to the time of the Revolution the slightest trespasses on the forest domain were severely punished, and game animals were held strictly sacred, even when they ravaged the fields of the peasantry.

Many of the most valuable forests of both England and France, which proved so extremely important for the supply of timber during the late war, owe their preservation to their employment as hunting preserves. The enormous value of our forests today to many of our leading industries, and especially, as we all know, to that of pulp and paper, largely overshadows their importance from the fish and game point of view, and as protectors of these last mentioned we may rejoice that this is so, and that there are so many other weighty reasons for the preservation of the woods that are so essential to our fish and game life.

When last I addressed an association of those interested in fish and game protection in New York—I believe it was the American Game Protective and Propagation Society—I was at the head of the Department of Colonization, Mines and Fisheries of the Province of Quebec, and spoke upon the fish and game resources of the Province. It so happens that now, when I have had the honor of saying a few words upon the importance of forest protection to fish and game, I happen to be Minister of Lands and Forests of the same Province, and you may perhaps like to know what we are doing in my department for the protection of the natural nursery of fish and game.