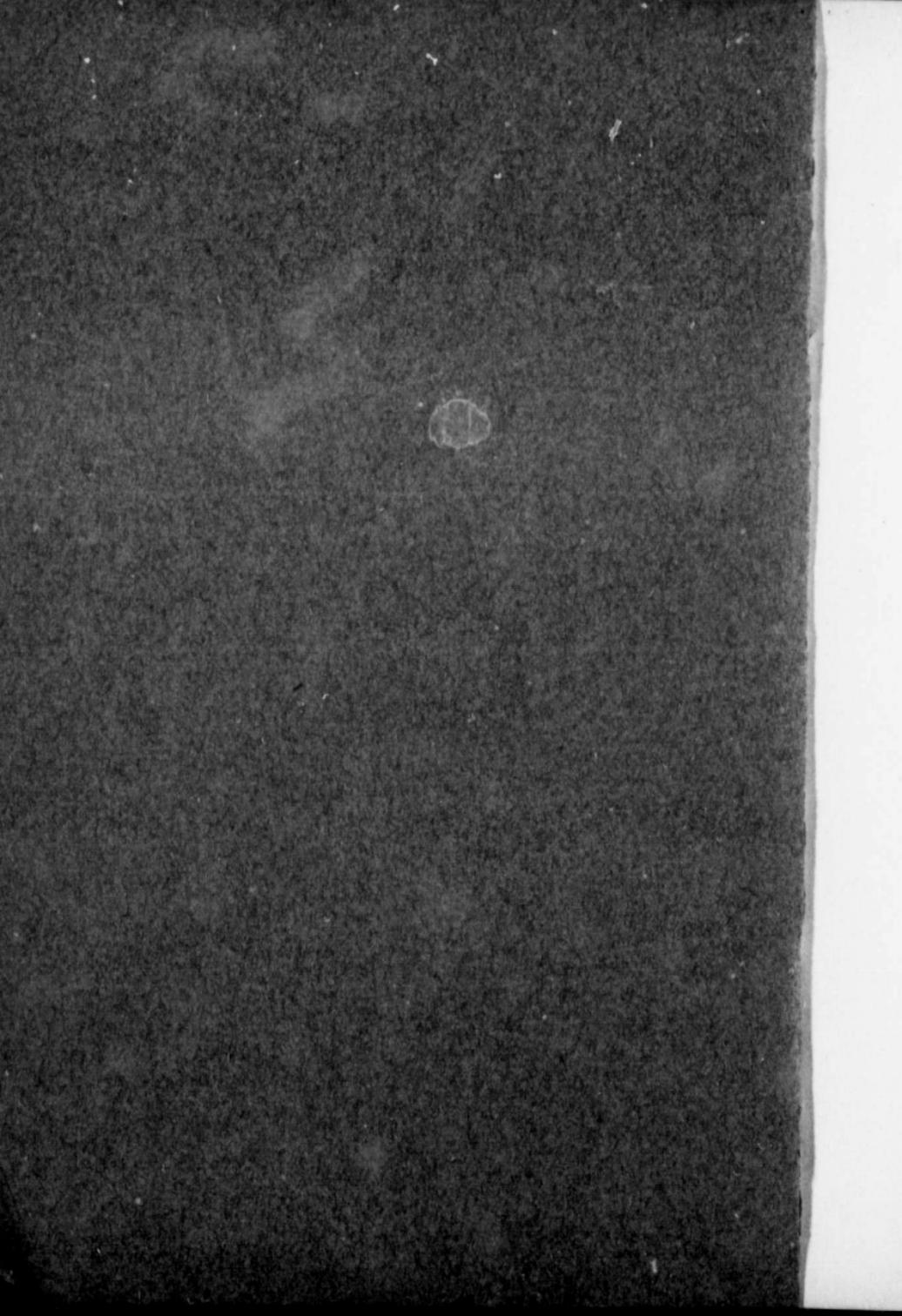
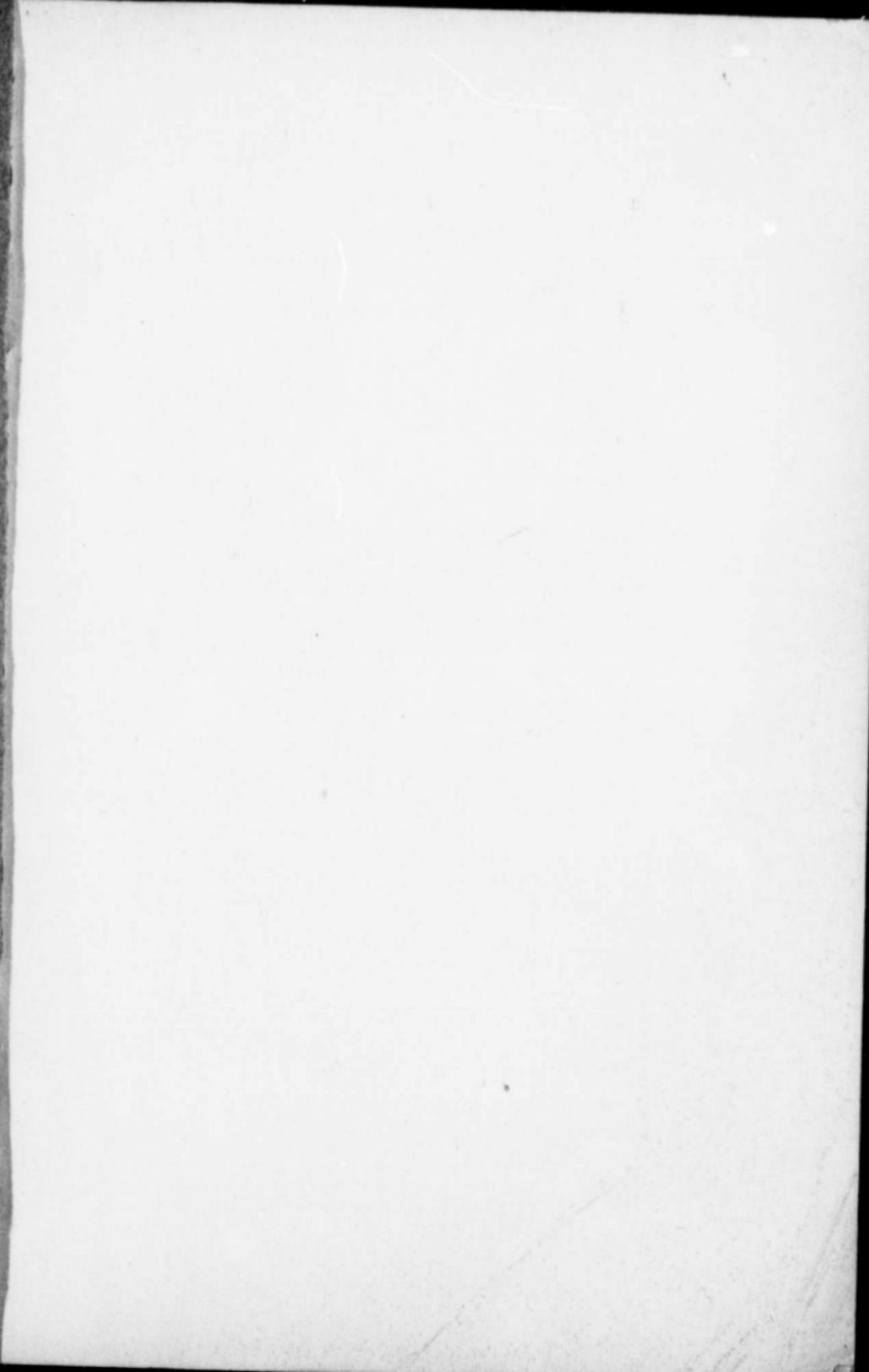


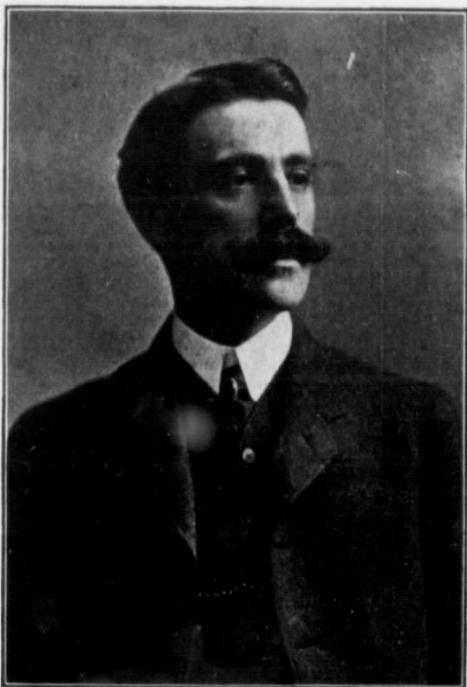
FISH AND GAME
PROTECTION
MEMORANDUM
QUEBEC, CANADA

Speech of Hon. Jean Prevost, M.P.P.

Minister of Colonization, Mines and Fisheries of the
Province of Quebec. Delivered in the Legislative
Assembly of Quebec, February 23rd, 1906.







HON. JEAN PREVOST, K.C., M.P.P.

Minister of Colonization, Mines and Fisheries
of the Province of Quebec.

Fish and Game Protection
and
The Fish and Game Congress
of Montreal

SPEECH OF
THE HON. JEAN PREVOST, M.P.P.

Minister of
Colonization Mines and Fisheries
of the Province of Quebec

DELIVERED IN THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
OF QUEBEC, FEBRUARY 22nd

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QUEBEC
LITHOGRAPH JOE PRINTING HOUSE

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FISH and GAME PROTECTION

SPEECH of the HONORABLE JEAN PRÉVOST, M.P.P.,
*Minister of Colonization, Mines and Fisheries, delivered in the
Legislative Assembly of Quebec, on the 22nd of February, 1906*

In explanation of his new legislation for the better protection of Fish and Game in the Province of Quebec, the Hon. Jean Prevost, M.P.P., Minister of Colonization, Mines and Fisheries, addressed the Legislative Assembly on the 22nd of February, 1906, speaking at the same time upon the motion of Mr. A. Bergevin, M.P.P. for Beauharnois, for the production of papers and correspondence concerning the Fish and Game Protection Congress held at the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, on the 13th and 14th December, 1905.

The Hon. gentleman spoke as follows:—

HON. MR PREVOST'S SPEECH

Mr. Speaker,—When I had the honor last week to lay before this House the programme which I have undertaken for the development of the colonization movement in this Province, I said that I had believed it to be my duty im-

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mediately after taking the oath of office as a member of His Majesty's Executive Council and as Minister of Colonization, Mines and Fisheries, to visit the different parts of my Province in order to familiarize myself with its resources and its wants.

I repeat, that although I had always believed in both its riches and its splendor, I had never imagined that it possessed such marvellous wealth or such a variety of natural beauty.

The fertility of its soil, its luxurious forests, its innumerable rivers, its lakes crowned with the sombre verdure of our coniferous trees or fringed with golden sand, its inexhaustible mines, its magnificent water-falls have stimulated in me the determination to turn all these sources of natural wealth to the best possible account for contributing to the prosperity of the people.

I have been particularly struck with the richness of our supply of fish and game. After spending a few days in the virgin forest under the guidance of our Indian attendants I remained perfectly stupefied in contemplation of the enormous capital which we possess in bird, beast and fish life.

Our woods are peopled with great quantities of big game. The bear, the moose, the caribou and the deer abound.

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Our feathered game constantly startles us by taking wing at the noise of our approach.

The salmon still ascends many of our rivers in enormous numbers, while both trout and coarse fish afford abundant sport to our people.

While, however, we are legitimately proud of our magnificent fishing and hunting opportunities, we must not forget the lessons taught us by the experience of other countries, where the valuable fish and game of bygone days have vanished with the vanished years.

In some parts of Canada, and even in our own province of Quebec we are actually suffering from .

The Improvidence of the Past

Which of the Honorable Members of this House has not heard of the vast herds of buffalo, which peopled the vast prairies of the West by hundreds of thousands? They have now almost entirely disappeared.

The wapiti or elk, the most elegant of the occupants of our forests, has entirely forsaken our eastern territory

Many of our salmon rivers have become entirely deserted by the king of fish, and there are few of us who cannot recall the fruitful trout streams of our childhood days, now rendered uninhabitable for "fontinalis" by reason of

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depleted water in consequence of forest destruction, or because of the contaminating influence of saw dust and other mill refuse?

Many of our fine rivers have been robbed of even their coarse fish. In some of them there are no more bass, no more doré and often no more perch. And how many of our lakes have been entirely ruined?

If we are wise we shall profit by these painful experiences. It is not yet too late. For although in several localities, our fish and our game have been partially destroyed, I do not hesitate to say that the Province of Quebec is still able to offer

The Very Best Fishing and Hunting

of the continent, if not of the entire world. It is not yet too late to secure its efficient protection, and to pass down to those who are to come after us the rich heritage of fish and game life which is so abundant to-day in our inland woods and waters.

The aboriginal inhabitants of the country, improvident as we are accustomed to regard them, so well understood the principles of fish and game protection that up to the coming of the white man, the beaver and the salmon, the elk and the moose, the bear and the marten were everywhere abundant, though supplying all the domestic needs of the many Indian

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nations of hunters and fishermen. In their trapping and spearing and employment of the bow and arrow, they took care to make the same judicious selection of game and fish as is displayed by the provident stock farmer, when marketing or slaughtering his surplus cattle. He would no more think of massacring everything within his reach than a rancher would of killing off all his cattle and running himself completely out of stock.

There is reason to fear that much of this has been changed for the worse in these days.

It is true that we can boast of many wise, prudent and reasonable hunters and fishermen. But on the other hand there are poachers and fish and game hogs who kill without mercy, in season and out of season, without regard to the necessity of permitting the reproduction of species, and without regarding the heaps of immature fish that they leave to rot by the sides of our lakes and streams, or the eggs which cover the nets in which they have destroyed the thousands of spawning fish.

Now it must not be forgotten that this game and this fish

Belong to the State

and that it is the duty of the people's representatives to protect them in the public interest and for the benefit of their constituents.

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How then shall the Government best fulfil this duty in an efficient manner? What are the proper methods for it to follow?

In order to be thoroughly informed upon this point, I believed it to be wise to invite the attendance at a

Fish and Game Convention

of sportsmen from different parts of Canada and the United States, including the different fish and game protective associations. The officers of the different fish and game clubs, dealers in furs and others interested were also invited, and during two whole days we carefully studied together the best means to be adopted for the promotion of the objects we had in view: namely

First. To protect in the most efficient manner possible the game of our forests and the fish of our waters.

Second. To make them contribute a revenue to the province proportionate to the enormous capital which they represent.

1st—Efficient Protection of Fish and Game

It cannot be denied that our fish and game laws leave much to be desired.

I have made a careful study of the laws of the sister provinces and of several of the neighboring States.

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If we have been able, on the one hand, to collect from them much valuable information, on the other it has been with much satisfaction that we have discovered that upon more than one point our own laws are superior to many of these others.

Unfortunately, owing to the immensity of the territory of our fine Province and to the diversity and extent of our water courses and lakes, the perfect enforcement of the laws is exceedingly difficult, if not nearly impossible.

How is it possible, for instance to completely prevent the poaching which is practised on so large a scale from the far north of Saguenay county and from Gaspé to Lake Abitibi, often with the complicity of powerful fur traders and of some of the most important hotels of the Province, which are not afraid to place upon the menus of their dinners and banquets the game of which the sale has been prohibited by this Legislature?

For the Government to stop this poaching by means of the strict surveillance of all our forests, lakes and rivers is necessarily impossible. It would require such an army of fish and game guardians that the cost would surpass all reasonable limits.

The only solution of the problem lies in private action, and experience teaches us that the

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guarantee which this affords is more or less uncertain.

We have, however, in the past, taken some advantage of this method by giving effect to the law permitting the corporative existence of clubs for the protection of fish and game. This law provides that "the aim and end of all such clubs shall be to aid in the enforcement of the laws and regulations for the protection of fish and game in the province."

Division into Districts

Notwithstanding the meagreness of our revenue, however, there is room for a material improvement in our system of protection.

We intend to divide the Province into six districts, and to put each of these districts under the surveillance of a special inspector.

These different districts will be as follows:—

OTTAWA will include the counties of Pontiac, Ottawa, Montcalm, Joliette and Berthier. It will represent a population of nearly 148,000 people.

MONTREAL will include Montreal, Two Mountains, Terrebonne, L'Assomption, Argenteuil, Hochelaga, Laval, Jacques-Cartier, Vaudreuil, Soulanges, Beauharnois, Chateauguay, Huntingdon, Napierville, St. John's and Iberville, Missisquoi, Rouville, Vercheres, Chambly, St.

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Hyacinthe, Richelieu and Yamaska, representing altogether a population of 740,000.

QUEBEC will include the counties of Maskinongé, St. Maurice, Three Rivers, Nicolet, Champlain, Lotbinière, Portneuf, Quebec, Levis and Montmorency, containing a population of 365,000.

SHERBROOKE will include Shefford, Bagot, Brome, Richmond, Wolfe, Sherbrooke, Stanstead, Arthabaska, Compton, Megantic, Beauce, Dorchester, Bellechasse, Montmagny and L'Islet, containing a population of 315,000.

MATAPEDIA will include the counties of Kamouraska, Temiscouata, Rimouski, Matane, Bonaventure and Gaspé, with a population of 138,000 inhabitants.

SAGUENAY will include Charlevoix, Saguenay, Chicoutimi and Lake St. John, representing a population of 70,000.

The extent of these districts varies considerably. However in tracing the limits, I have had in view the division of the work as far as possible into equal parts.

Thus the Saguenay division is very vast but contains only 70,000 inhabitants, while that of Montreal, which covers an extent of territory only one-tenth of the former, has a population of 740,000. The surveillance of this district will therefore give just as much work, not-

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withstanding that its population is more compact.

Ottawa comes next in extent, but in this division, as in that of Quebec, a good deal of territory and many lakes are leased to clubs and to individuals, thus considerably diminishing the work of surveillance.

The Sherbrooke division, which is contiguous to the States of Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine, is a particularly important one, owing to its position. Poaching is practised in this district on a very large scale. The same remark applies to Matapedia district, which borders upon both New Brunswick and the United States.

Foreigners do not hesitate to invade both these districts for the purpose of openly violating our laws.

I intend to have a very rigorous surveillance exercised all along our side of line 45, and I can assure this House that the poachers will be punished with all the rigor of the law.

We are certainly placing an immense territory in charge of each of these inspectors, but it is a commencement.

It will be the duty of each inspector to report to the superintendent of Fish and Game and also to the Inspector-General, monthly, as to all violations of the fish and game laws in his territory, and he will have under his im-

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mediate direction all the fish and game wardens inhabiting it. These latter will in their turn be required to keep the inspector of their district informed of their movements and of the complaints made against violators of the law.

Many of these officers of the department are never heard from except upon pay day. It is true that their salary is very small, but is this any reason why duty should remain unperformed?

We have fully decided to make careful enquiry into the capacity and zeal of these officeholders, and to retain only those who can efficiently perform the duties which devolve upon them, distributing them so that a careful protection may be exercised over as large an extent as possible of our immense Province.

Each Inspector will be responsible to the Government for all the illegalities committed in his district.

The Canadian Pacific and Grand Trunk Railways

have generously offered me passes over their lines for these Inspectors, in order to assist the Government in improving its protection of fish and game. This will materially lessen the expenses of these officers. I have no reason to suppose that the other transportation companies will be less ready to furnish similar facilities.

for our fish and game guardians, for they have more interest than any other corporations in the preservation of our fish and game, which annually attract an innumerable throng of sportsmen and tourists, some of whom are met at every season of the year, sniffing the perfume of our resinous forests, or breathing in the morning breeze which ripples the surface of our lakes.

Big Game

The regretted Arthur Buies, in that magical and sparkling style of which he so well knew the secret, in a work on the province of Quebec, has given us the following description of our big game:—

“The Province of Quebec has for long been recognized as the paradise of amateur Nimrods, as the country *par excellence* for professional fishermen and hunters. For a long time past, the superb moose,—the largest deer of the American continent, having a height of seven to eight feet, the giant quadruped of the forest, who carries a forest upon his own head, whose neck and shoulders are those of a lion, whose strength and rapidity are equal to the latter's, having a hoof as hard and as deadly as a cannon ball,—is the object of the hunting exploits of the most daring sportsmen of the two hemispheres. For some time, too, the noble caribou,

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—the dandy of the mountains, slender, elegant, graceful, which runs in the forest glades, along the brink of lakes and precipices with the care of art and the accuracy of the gymnasium, which never allows itself to be captured or killed without having taken infinite precautions against it and exhibited a refined astuteness, who, when it is wounded defends itself with fury, and whose sense of hearing is so delicate that the woodsman is obliged, in order to get near to him, to drag himself flat upon the snow, divides with the moose the glory of being the most magnificent victim, marked in advance as the quarry of the most envied, the most indefatigable and the ablest of hunters. In a lesser degree the red deer, the bear, the wolf, the otter, the wolverine, the lynx, and finally, the beaver, living model of industry and wisdom, the most precious of quadrupeds for the trappers in their long winter tramps through the forests when threatened with inanition; and in diminishing size, though not of lesser utility, the marten, the fox, the skunk, the mink, the ermine and the grey squirrel are all extremely coveted, and constitute with their luxurious fur, an indispensable element of welfare, of comfort and of elegance."

Unfortunately we have almost daily reports to the effect that in some parts of the province

An Unjustifiable Massacre of these animals

the finest of our forests is indulged in.

Who has not had his indignation aroused by the daring manner in which hundreds of our large game are shipped to market by rail every autumn?

The gallant member for Sherbrooke, Dr. Pelletier, aroused by this condition of affairs, has raised the cry of alarm. The province owes him a debt of gratitude.

I am fully convinced that all the members of this House, like him, love their province, and like him also, desire to preserve its riches, which are so much envied by the sister provinces and the states of the neighboring Republic.

Let us therefore closely follow up those who profit by the winter crust to slaughter our big game. We must punish and punish most severely those who laugh at our laws and kill as many as fifteen moose each, leaving their carcasses to rot upon the ground without being of any utility either to themselves or to any of their fellow-countrymen.

I declare here, upon the floor of this House, that there are reports in the archives of the fish and game department which would be incredible if they did not confirm each other by reporting the same condition of affairs in almost every part of the province.

Amendments to the Fish and Game Laws

We have decided to take energetic measures to assure a more effective protection of our fish and game.

I will review as briefly as possible the principal amendments which are now submitted for the consideration of the House, merely observing that they are the result of very careful and prolonged study and of personal observation.

I have also availed myself of the experience of the officials of the fish and game department, and of suggestions from the most prominent sportsmen of Canada and the United States.

Most of these proposed amendments to our fish and game laws were either suggested or sanctioned by the recent fish and game congress at the Windsor Hotel, Montreal.

The Coupon System

Not a hunting season passes in which we do not read in the newspapers energetic denunciations of the massacre of our big game where it is found in the greatest abundance. The reports of our guardians equally testify to the scandalous audacity of too many hunters and poachers. And the immense quantities of red deer, of moose and of caribou which are shipped from the woods are so many proofs that the

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law is violated in the most daring and atrocious manner.

Our neighbors of the province of Ontario and of the state of Maine have taken energetic measures to prevent these massacres. These measures have been successful, to a considerable extent, thanks to a system of tags and coupons which are issued by the game departments and delivered, to a limited extent, to hunters going into the woods. Without one of these tags being attached to the game killed, it cannot be brought out of the woods for shipment.

By this system, the transportation companies and all carters and common carriers of any kind are prohibited from shipping or from having in their possession any moose, caribou or deer, or any part thereof, unless there be attached thereto a coupon authorizing such transport.

After a careful study of this system, which has produced such excellent results in other provinces and states, and which, instead of proving any impediment to the freedom and enjoyment of honest sportsmen, is strongly supported by them, I have come to the determination to adopt it for our own province, and consequently article 1397 is amended in this sense.

It is understood, however, that this coupon will not be required from settlers who legally

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hurt the game affected by this amendment, for their own subsistence and that of their families.

Nor will it be required for game which has been killed outside of the province of Quebec, when an affidavit to that effect is furnished.

At first sight this coupon system may perhaps appear to some sportsmen to be an innovation likely to cause them some annoyance and inconvenience. This has not been the experience of those who have already had practical illustration of its working, however. Sportsmen who have hunted in Maine, New Brunswick and Ontario, where the system is worked to such perfection, are loud in its praise. It was unanimously urged by the Montreal fish and game convention. Our two largest fish and game protective associations, those of Montreal and Quebec respectively, and the international body known as the North American Fish and Game Protective Association, all of which consist largely of sportsmen who hunt big game in the province of Quebec have repeatedly urged it upon the government. The late Mr. L. Z. Joncas, when superintendent of fish and game also made a special study of the system and strongly recommended its adoption in more than one of his reports now on file in the department.

Those sportsmen who have recommended the adoption of the system appreciate the fact that

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they will be the first to benefit by the prevention of existing slaughter which it is destined to bring about, and I am thoroughly convinced that a careful study of its conditions and any experience of its operation will convince those who are yet unfamiliar with it that it is destined to add materially to their own sport and to the efficient protection of our big game. As I have already said, the experience of our neighbors testifies to the efficiency of the system and it is our duty to profit by it.

Fur-Bearing Animals

Our fur-bearing animals constitute one of the great natural riches with which our province has been favored. Our furs take their place among the finest known to the European and American markets. It is our duty to see to the protection of these animals which in the near future ought to become an important source of revenue. It is with this object in view that the killing of beavers has been prohibited for a further term of three years, or up to the 1st of November, 1908.

We must also look after the protection of the otter, the mink, the marten and the fox, whose furs command high prices.

At present we do not know even the approximate value of the fur industry in this province,

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for no report of it is made to the fish and game department. Nor do we derive any revenue from it. We know however that it is very large and very lucrative, and should be made to contribute to the public revenue. In one of his reports to the fish and game department, M. de Puyjalon, late inspector of fish and game estimated that one fourth or one-fifth of the furs exported from North America by the Hudson Bay company, come from the province of Quebec, and represent an annual value of \$800,000 to \$1,000,000. And these figures represent the industry of one trading company alone.

It is my intention to put an end to the present system, and the law is consequently to be so amended as to oblige all companies, firms or individuals hunting for or trading in raw furs to make an annual report of their operations to the government within the first fifteen days of May. This report is to indicate the number and the variety of the fur-bearing animals killed during the year. By these means we shall be able to inform ourselves of the extent and value of the fur trade and to endeavour to find means for making it contribute to the provincial revenue.

Feathered Game

The hunting of feathered game has always been in our province one of the chief attractions of the sportsman. It is also the species of sports most available to the greater number of the population, and therefore stands in the greater need of protection.

Amongst the game birds which particularly attract the attention of the sportsman may be mentioned the partridge, the woodcock, the snipe and the different varieties of ducks.

The prohibition of the sale of partridges has been extended to the 1st of October, 1908, and it will also apply in future to

The Wood-Cock

so difficult a bird to kill and so much appreciated by connoisseurs.

The opening of the duck hunting season has been deferred to the 15th of September, and it will not be permitted at all in spring, notwithstanding a number of demands that have been made to me in favor of it. Before coming to this conclusion I studied the question with care, and it is simply with a view to the protection of the game during the season of propagation that I believed it to be my duty to maintain the prohibition of

Duck Hunting in Spring

One of the arguments invoked in favor of spring shooting was that certain varieties of ducks only pass across our province to reach other countries, and that there is consequently no harm to kill them as they pass over. I admit that there is something in that argument, but it must not be forgotten that this spring shooting has given rise to numerous abuses, and that under pretext of hunting the ducks of passage, some sportsmen do not scruple to kill the black duck, which breeds here.

Shooting ducks after sunset is also forbidden at all seasons. By these means we hope to put an end to wasteful massacres of this fine game.

Automatic Guns, Yachts, Etc

In either drafting or enforcing a fish and game law it is essential to bear constantly in mind the difference which exists between a sportsman and one who hunts merely for the purpose of financial gain. The former must be protected against the latter.

The first-mentioned uses an ordinary firearm in order to have the greater merit in killing his game. The other employs the most murderous weapon so that he may kill the greatest quantity of game.

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For the purpose of protecting the true sportsman we have resolved to amend the law so as to prohibit the use of any gun of more than eight calibre and of any automatic gun.

Hereafter it will also be forbidden to kill ducks or other aquatic birds by means of yachts or other vessels propelled by steam or other motive power.

Open Packages

Another reform which is of a nature to put an end to frauds, and which will doubtless receive, as it merits, the assent of this House, is the proposed provision of the new law that all parcels, bags, boxes, etc., used for the transport of game must be made in such a manner that their contents may be exposed to view, or that in any case they must be indicated by a label or tag, which must also contain the name and address of the proprietor. The amendment which is made to the law in this sense imposes a fine for its contravention, of \$10 to \$20. A similar law exists both in Ontario and in some of the United States.

Birds' Eggs

To protect the eggs of our feathered game is to assure its reproduction. In some parts of the province the commercial collection of eggs

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is practised on so large a scale that certain species of birds have almost completely disappeared.

Some of our game birds breed at such distance from the sea coast that they are in no immediate danger of disturbance.

There are others, however, which build their nests on the shore itself, and which are, consequently, constantly exposed. Amongst these latter may be mentioned the eider duck, which has a very great commercial value. Heretofore this duck was wonderfully abundant. Now it has diminished to most discouraging proportions.

The amendment which we have introduced into the law for the protection of such species absolutely forbids any interference with, damage to, or collection of the eggs of any bird, and at any season of the year.

Protection of Fish

It is an admitted fact that our fisheries are the richest and the most varied on the American continent. The reputation of our lakes and rivers is becoming more and more known and understood abroad, but in order to maintain their renown it is necessary to protect them with a jealous care.

As a general rule, the lessees of lakes and rivers protect their own territories, but it is

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more particularly the waters situated in the domain of the Crown which have the greatest need of watchfulness against the operations of poachers.

The right of net fishing in our lakes and in the estuaries of our rivers has often been given far too freely.

How many lakes and rivers hertofore famous for their fish have been depopulated by illicit fishing?

I could name hundreds which would have retained their former renown if these protective measures had been earlier adopted.

The Grand Lake Nomingue, situated in the north of my county, was only a few years ago, the favorite rendezvous of Montreal fishermen. To-day the fishing there is almost valueless.

But the evil is not without remedy. The rigorous application of the law, an active surveillance, and the severe punishment of delinquents may still save the situation and bring back the splendid sport of bygone years. With this desirable object in view, the new fish law will provide for the

Complete Prohibition of Net Fishing

in our interior lakes. This netting was a great injustice to the public in general, since it favored the few at the expense of the many,

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enabling the former to profit by destroying the fish which were the property of the state, for their own advantage only.

Thus if we take Lake St. John for example, we find there five or six net fishermen who have been engaged in depopulating the lake of its famous ouananiche, which for so many years past have proved such a source of wealth for the whole surrounding country, because of the thousands of American and other anglers which they attracted there. And at the same time a fish hatchery was kept in operation at Roberval to repair the evil which was being wrought by these five or six fishermen.

Does not common justice cry out for an end to such a state of things?

Is it reasonable that capitalists should spend thousands of dollars to assure the reproduction of fish destined to be captured in the nets of the commercial fishermen.

To ask the question is to solve the problem and apply the remedy.

In those localities in which netting will be still permitted, it will be subject to a severe control. The same remark applies to hoop nets which will hereafter be numbered and each one kept track of.

There are other causes of the destruction of fish in our rivers, such as the construction of railways, the increased consumption of fish, the

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dredging of rivers which destroys the marine algæ and the eggs of fishes, the construction of sawmills and of factories which discharge into the water, sawdust and other deleterious substances.

Another cause of the diminution of fish life is to be found in the construction of dams, sluices, etc.

The effective method of combatting these interruptions to the ascent of rivers by migratory fishes consists in the construction of fish ladders or passes.

An amendment is proposed to the existing law, to render more effective the establishment of these passes. It will increase the penalty for damaging or obstructing a migratory pass, from two dollars to fifty dollars or three months imprisonment as a maximum.

Caviar

The collection of the eggs of fishes is another cause of the depopulation of our waters. In some localities it is practised in a very disastrous fashion. It is necessary, in such cases, to make a rigorous application of the law, and I declare that no mercy will be shown offenders against the law in this respect.

FISH AND GAME PROTECTION

Fishing During Winter

is one of the most audacious forms of poaching. The number of lakes which have been thus depopulated, is very considerable.

To the north-west of Montreal, the poachers of Hartwell township have openly mocked at the law and made real massacres of our trout. The same results have followed the use of dynamite.

The new law on this point decrees

Imprisonment

without the option of a fine for offenders of this nature.

It is absolutely necessary to put an end to these disastrous practices, and I hope to have the approbation of the members of this House in applying the measures of rigor introduced into the law.

Penalties

The best means of assuring the efficient protection of our fish and game is to provide severe penalties for violations of the fish and game laws and to apply them without any false pity.

I have already spoken of imprisonment without the option of a fine as the punishment of those who destroy fish with explosive materials.

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In all cases of a second offence the same punishment will be provided as for the use of dynamite. Though this chastisement may be found severe, it is much less than the damage caused by the poachers.

In a general way it may be said that all the penalties have been increased considerably. In many cases they have been doubled and even trebled.

For Illegal Fishing

The penalties for the first offence is hereafter to be a fine of not less than five dollars and not more than thirty, or eight days in jail. The old penalty was twenty dollars.

For the second offence the fine is to be \$20 at least and \$30 at most or two months in prison. For the third and all other infractions of the law the penalty will be imprisonment for not less than thirty days and not more than three months.

Under the old law the fine belonged to him who secured the condemnation. Hereafter the fine will have to be divided between the informant and the Crown, equally.

For Illegal Hunting

For illegal hunting the penalties are increased in the same proportion. And just as for the violations of the fishing law, the third and later infractions are to be punished by imprisonment.

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In the case of moose, of partridge and of wookcock, the fine will be

So Much per Head

of the game killed in contravention of the law.

The appeals which heretofore could only be made to the Circuit Court of the district may now be made to county courts, and the delay for the institution of prosecutions is prolonged from six to twelve months.

Fish and Game Reserves

One of the most useful agencies for the protection of our fish and game is the creation of reserves. The experience of the Laurentides National Park is there to testify to the efficacy of this system. The Government has so well understood it that it has established another of these reserves in the Gaspé peninsula. The new preserve is over 2,500 square miles in extent, or in the neighborhood of a million and a half of acres. It is situated in the very heart of the Gaspé peninsula, an enormous plateau of considerable elevation, crowned by the famous Shick-Shock Mountains, and covered with a luxurious growth of forest. From a glance at the map of this part of Canada it will quickly be seen how essential it is to the protection of the inland fisheries of the Gaspé country that

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the forests of the interior should be carefully protected. From a dozen to twenty large rivers take their rise in or near these mountains, and flow therefrom in every direction toward the sea, those running toward the north and east emptying themselves into the Gulf of St. Lawrence, and those toward the south mingling their waters with those of the Baie des Chaleurs. With the exception of the Restigouche and its tributaries, these rivers include almost all the south shore salmon streams of any value in the Province of Quebec, and many important trout waters as well. Among them may be mentioned the Matane, the Cap Chat, the Ste. Anne, the Magdalen, the Dartmouth, the York, the St. John, the Bonaventure, the Little Cascapedia, the Grand and Little Pabos, the Grand River, the Grand Cascapedia, the Nouvelle, the Escumenac and the Causapsca. Many of us have revisited the scenes of fishing exploits of a number of years ago, only to find that since the disappearance of forests we are unable to discover the brooks and streams in which we fished in early youth, nothing now being observable but dry, or almost dry, beds, partly grown over with weeds. It is true that there is no immediate danger to be apprehended of the disappearance of wood and water from the Gaspé Peninsula, but it is surely the part of prudence to take precautionary measures in time, espe-

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cially as the territory in question is about to be opened up by a railway. Should the sources of the valuable rivers already mentioned become denuded of forest growth, the natural result would be disastrous floods in the spring, owing to the too rapid thaw of the exposed snow, nearly dry streams in summer, the carrying away of the soil from the declivities in immense quantities by the freshets, and finally the transformation of the whole country into a desert waste.

In these reserves the Government exercises a stricter surveillance over all kinds of fish and game, which consequently increases with great rapidity.

The waters of the Laurentides National Park contain the finest specimens of "*Salmo fontinalis*" in existence, some of which attain to a weight of nine pounds.

Special measures are taken in these preserves to protect the forests against fire and the game against poachers. Fishing with the fly is the only kind permitted and the carrying of firearms is prohibited in the close season.

In order to popularize the rivers of the parks, free permits of admission are issued to tourists who desire to visit them without intending to fish or hunt.

Publicity

During the last few years our fishing and hunting territories have been very much in demand. The part which the province has taken in the American expositions, and the publicity given in newspapers and brochures have brought us thousands of tourists.

There is still much to do however.

It is my intention to come to an understanding with the railway and navigation companies, for the purpose of having them do more in the future than in the past to advertise our sporting territories. They are the most largely interested in bringing here the greatest possible number of sportsmen.

On its side the fish and game department will neglect nothing that can be done to popularize our province, by means of maps, brochures, etc.

New Method of Leasing

We have now under lease vast territories which have been let at relatively insignificant figures. When these leases were made there was the excuse that it was necessary to make our province known. Circumstances now have changed however, and each time that the renewal of a lease is submitted to my approbation, I have increased the price, and neither

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new leases nor yet renewals are approved unless I have a detailed report of the value of the location from the sporting point of view, and that of facility of communication, etc.

The minimum price of hunting territories has been increased from one dollar to three dollars per square mile.

Another reform that I intend to put into practice will consist in advertising in the sporting papers and reviews our fishing and hunting territories, and to adjudge them to those who offer the most for them.

By these means we shall appreciably increase our revenues and see no more of our vast territories leased at ridiculous prices.

Increase of Revenue

Let us suppose for an instant that the fish and game of this province were controlled and managed by a private company instead of by the State! What an enormous revenue would such a company derive from it!

I can never hope to sufficiently convince the honorable members of this House of the importance of the capital represented by the department which the Prime Minister has confided to my care. Let us see what sources of revenue it offers to us.

1st. The incorporation of clubs.

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- 2nd. The lease of lakes and rivers.
- 3rd. The lease of hunting territories.
- 4th. Licenses for seine-nets.
- 5th. Non-resident licenses.
- 6th. Cold storage establishments.
- 7th. Penalties and confiscations.

Incorporation of Clubs

This revenue is insignificant, since the government charges only a fee of \$50.00 for incorporation.

Lease of Fishing and Hunting Territories

Our province is, I believe, the only State on the continent which has adopted this policy of leasing fishing and hunting territories. As I have already said, it possesses this advantage that it aids us in the protection of our fish and game.

It also gives us the largest part of the revenue of the fisheries department.

As a matter of fact our hunting leases brought us in last year the sum of \$11,790.55, and our fishing leases \$45,769.38.

I find however, that these amounts may be largely increased.

Our principal lessees come from among our friends on the other side of the line 45. They come from as far as Georgia to hunt our moose

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and caribou or to fish for our salmon and our trout.

Our facilities of transport which are improving and extending every year, increase at the same time the number of our sportsmen.

How can it be otherwise?

They enjoy in this province enormous privileges.

They lease for a fixed sum our well stocked waters and immense hunting territories; they employ guardians and during the whole continuance of their lease they enjoy the whole benefit of their territories, even to the exclusion of the residents of this province.

I understand that in the past these gentlemen have been able to enjoy their immense advantages for a comparatively insignificant price; because my predecessors have taken these means to make our province and its many resources known abroad.

But now that it is known and that it profits by the era of progress which the policy of our distinguished leader, Sir Wilfrid Laurier has inaugurated for it as well as for all the rest of the Dominion, foreigners are flocking to it from all sides.

Every day our province is unveiling to them the secrets of its riches; and a great number of tourists who come to us every summer, make a pilgrimage to, the old city of Champlain

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leaving it for the trip to Lake St. John and the River Saguenay, or to the valleys and forests of the Matapedia and of Gaspé.

We have therefore arrived at that stage where it becomes us to so shape our policy as to profit as much as possible by the enormous capital, in the shape of resources, which Providence has entrusted to us.

Permit me therefore to place before the House a table which I have had expressly prepared for it from the official documents of the department, showing the extent of the territories which we have leased, as well as the prices of the respective leases.

List of Leased Territories

Kippewa F. & G. Club.

Hunting Territory; 522 square miles, price	\$830 00
Fishing Territory, all the lakes and riv- ers included in this territory	277 00

John Loughrin.

Fishing Territory, all the lakes and riv- price	176 00
Fishing Territory, Lake Manawin and the waters included in limits 346, 347, 348, 470, 471 and 219.....	176 00

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Wawashekechee F. & G. Club.

Hunting Territory; 259 square miles, price.....	\$394 00
Fishing territories; all the waters in limits 329, 430, 145, 147, 374, 394 and 436	130 00

Laurentian F. & G. Club.

Hunting Territory; 356 square miles..	534 00
Fishing Territory, Lac La Peche, des Cinq rivieres, Wessoneau, Popelo- ganing, etc.	350 00

W. Russell Hamilton.

Hunting Territory; 247 square miles, price	600 00
Fishing Territory; Little Lake St. John, river Eternity	147 00

H. J. Beemer.

Fishing Territory; Rivers Metabet- chouan and tributaries, Grand and Little Peribonca, Mistassini and tri- butaries, Ouiatchouan and tribu- taries, Ashuapmouchouan and tribu- taries, part of lakes Ouiatchouan and Bouchette, and part of the shores of Lake St. John	380 00
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Bostonnais Association.

Hunting Territory; 70 square miles,
price \$ 70 00

Fishing Territory; Bostonnais river.. 50 00

Ste. Anne des Monts F. & G. Club.

Hunting Territory; 280 square miles,
price 420 00

Fishing Territory; the waters included
in their territory and river Ste. Anne
des Monts 1640 00

Squatteck F. & G. Club.

Hunting Territory; 375 square miles,
price 375 00

Fishing Territory; Lakes Squatteck,
des Aigles, aux Loutres, Eau Claire
and Green Brook 175 00

D. M. Barringer.

Hunting Territory; 170 square miles.. 180 00

Fishing Territory; the waters included
in his territory 50 00

McLachlin Bros.

Hunting Territory; 231 square miles,
price 202 00

Fishing Territory; the waters included
in their hunting territory 272 00

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Pontiac F. & G. Club.

Hunting Territory; 145 square miles, price.....	\$263 00
Fishing Territory; waters included in their hunting territory	103 00

E. C. Smyth, (Vermont).

Hunting Territory; 360 square miles, price	540 00
Fishing Territory; waters included in his hunting territory	180 00

Saxeginata F. & G. Club.

Hunting Territory; 250 square miles, price	300 00
Fishing Territory; waters included in their hunting territory	300 00

Triton F. & G. Club.

Hunting Territory; 195 square miles, price	400 00
Fishing Territory; Lac des Passes, rivers de la Croix and Batiscan....	400 00

Penn. F. & G. Club.

Hunting Territory; 195 square miles, price	350 00
Fishing Territory; upper part of Met- abetchouan river	250 00

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Tourilli F. & G. Club.

Hunting Territory; 355 square miles, price.... .	\$355 00
Fishing Territory; Ste. Anne & Tou- rilli rivers	100 00

St. Maurice F. & G. Club.

Hunting Territory; 127 square miles, price	235 00
Fishing Territory; river du Milieu & Wayamac	125 00

Metabetchouan F. & G. Club.

Hunting Territory; 170 square miles, price	170 00
Fishing Territory; Lakes Najouaou- alank, Naquagami & Kiskissink....	313 00

Caughnawaga F. & G. Club.

Hunting Territory; 431 square miles, price	579 00
Fishing Territory; waters included in their hunting territory	105 00

Bear Lake F. & G. Club.

Hunting Territory; 244 square miles, price	345 00
Fishing Territory; waters included in the hunting territory	50 00

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David Gillies Bros.

Hunting Territory; 239 square miles, price.....	\$239 00
Fishing Territory; waters included in the hunting territory	117 00

The above figures prove two things:

1st.—That the clubs are in possession of immense territories of our province.

2nd.—That the rental paid by them is very insignificant. The duty is therefore incumbent upon us to limit in a reasonable manner, the extent of the hunting and fishing territories under lease, and to ask an adequate price for their rental.

As I have already said, communications are more easy, the province is better known, and thanks to our new system there will be a more efficient protection of fish and game. I believe that it will be a wise and patriotic policy to require our sportsmen to contribute to the cost of protecting the fish and game and at the same time to add to the revenue of the province. *

I therefore ask the members of this House to aid me in this patriotic task, and by our united endeavours we shall be able to do something towards the augmentation of our resources, which at present are too insignificant to secure the prosperity that we desire in our good old

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province for the important works of colonization, agriculture and public instruction.

Fishing Licenses

Our revenue from fishing licenses amounted to \$4,884.59. It is a very small amount, but I admit, without any hesitation, that until such time as the important litigation on the fisheries question shall have been settled between our government and the federal authorities, we cannot count much upon the increase of this item, for the issue of special permits will be controlled, more than ever in our interior waters, to prevent the destruction of fish life in our magnificent rivers, streams and lakes.

The "Non-Resident" Tax

From the fees charged to non-resident sportsmen, which is one of the principal sources of revenue to the fish and game departments of the sister provinces of Newfoundland and of the United States, we receive very little revenue.

In a brochure published by the department of Agriculture at Washington, I find that the States of Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Maryland, Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota and Utah exact from non-residents a hunting license of \$25.00. In some instances a difference is made between non-residents of the State and

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foreigners, the charge to the latter being \$50.00, as in the State of Wyoming and the Territory of Washington. Other States charge license fees running from ten to fifteen dollars. The Government of Newfoundland only permits hunting on the island so far as non-residents are concerned, after the issue of a license that costs \$75.00.

Now let us examine the policy of our sister provinces in this matter. Manitoba exacts from a non-resident of the province a sum of \$25.00, and from a foreigner \$100.00, British Columbia charges non-residents \$50.00. So does New Brunswick. The western provinces collect \$25.00 for each hunting license, Nova Scotia \$30.00 and the sister province of Ontario \$25.00.

Nearly all those States and Provinces impose also a tax of \$1.00 to \$3.00 upon residents. Several of them also oblige the visiting hunter to pay certain fixed charges for the use of camps and also to guides. From this source their fish and game departments derive the best part of their incomes.

Now notwithstanding the fact that article 1415 of our Revised Statutes requires all those who are not domiciled in the province to pay a license fixed by the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council before hunting in it, we have only collected from this source the sum of \$2,561.00.

The reason is very simple. It is because the

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Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council, on the 1st of June, 1901, taking into consideration the sums paid to the Province by holders of leases, exempted the hunters of the province of Ontario and of the United States, who were members of hunting and fishing clubs in our province, from paying the license in question.

This Order-in-Council was based on article 1416 which says "Every such license shall be issued by the Minister or by other person designated by him, upon payment of fees according to the tariff established by the Lieut.-Governor in Council. The fee may be reduced if the license is issued to a member of any fish and game club which is incorporated under the laws of the Province, and has complied with the provisions of such laws; but on condition that such club is lessee of a hunting reserve in accordance with article 1417a."

Why was this exception given? It is, says the Order-in-Council, because these clubs pay a considerable revenue to the Province.

Now, in consequence of increased demands, better means of communication and the diminution of game and fish both in Canada and the United States, the value of our territories under lease has very much increased. I therefore believe that it is decidedly improper to any longer exempt the members of clubs from paying the license that our province imposes upon

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them, but that it is quite permissible to take advantage of the letter of the law which permits the Lieut.-Governor-in-Council to reduce the fee which may have been fixed, in favor of these club members.

Now in the course of last summer the Government fixed a fee of \$25.00 for a hunting license and of \$10.00 for fishing. I believe that it is only just that non-resident members of clubs should contribute their fair part, and like the others who have their domicile outside of the Province, pay us \$25.00 a year. We intend, however, to make certain reductions from this figure, to those of our lessees who hunt only upon their own preserves. With the assent of the Prime Minister and of my colleagues, I announced this policy at the Fish and Game Congress in Montreal, before the Ontario Commission at Ottawa and to a large number of sportsmen at Boston, Mass.

The Big Game Congress at the Montreal Convention, largely composed of non-residents coming from both the province of Ontario and the United States, confirmed this policy by a very explicit resolution.

Our American neighbors have expressed their entire satisfaction by naming the Minister of Fisheries of the Province of Quebec to the presidency of the North American Fish and Game Protective Association.

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And I echo the sentiments of the immense majority of the sportsmen of the province of Ontario in reading, with the permission of this House, an extract from an article in *Rod and Gun*, the most accredited sporting paper in Canada, as follows:—

“Mr. White of Pembroke showed himself irreconcilable and wanted to argue that the Province, having once made a bargain, was constrained forever from altering it, which of course would bring all government to an end. It may interest Mr. White to learn that in the old countries a man may not do as he pleases even on his own property. In England, not only gun licenses have to be taken out annually before a landlord may shoot over his own property, but men like the Duke of Devonshire, although they bring up birds artificially, and pay for protecting them, have further to pay the State for the right to shoot their own birds on their own lands.”

Some isolated recriminations are undoubtedly to be heard from certain irreconcilables of the sister Province, but they proceed only from those who spend the hunting season in the valley of Ottawa near the frontier. One of them has cavalierly published his complaints in the newspapers. I quite understand this manner of acting, for these gentlemen only consider their

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private interests, ignoring altogether those of the Province at large.

Mr. White, advocate, of Pembroke, has published in a number of Canadian and American newspapers, an open letter addressed to the Minister of Fisheries. Leaving aside certain passages which furnish opportunity for admiring the inherent arrogance of some of our Ontario fellow-citizens, his arguments may be resumed as follows:

1st. The lease gives to the lessee certain vested rights to hunt and fish on reserves without paying any license.

2nd. The imposition of a license fee on the non-resident will be a breach of faith on the part of the Crown, and more than that, spoliation and a confiscation.

3rd. Why not rather increase the price of existing leases as they come to expire?

4th. No country in the civilized world, at least in the British Empire, would perpetuate so monstrous an injustice.

Mr. White, whom I am told is an eminent lawyer, evidently forgot to study our statutes before inundating the American and Canadian press with his categorical pretensions. He has not even read his lease, for two of its clauses cut away the whole groundwork at a single stroke.

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I cite them textually:

"That the said Lessee shall, in the use and occupation of lands hereby leased, and in the exercise of his fishing rights, conform in every respect to the provisions and requirements of the Fishery Laws, Federal and Provincial, which are now, or may hereafter be in force and comply with all rules and regulations made or that may hereafter be made by the Governor General or the Lieutenant Governor in Council in relation thereto.

"It shall be lawful to His Majesty, represented as above, to terminate the present lease at any time by giving one month's notice to the Lessee."

Mr. White, in his quality of president of the Nekabong Club, has then signed a lease in which he obliges himself to conform to the laws enacted by the government of this province. In the same document he submits his possession to the regulations of the Province whether already passed or to be passed. Now our laws are promulgated by this Legislature and the regulations are fixed by Order-in-Council or by the Minister, as the case may be.

Mr. White knows, too, that the Lieut.-Governor-in-Council may, if he thinks fit, put an end to his lease. He has himself signed this clause.

Now when this lease was signed by Mr. White, article 1415 of our Statutes was in force just as it is to-day.

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"No person," says this article, "not domiciled in the Province of Quebec, can hunt therein unless he holds a license." This is our law.

The Lieut.-Governor-in-Council may, however, by order-in-Council, reduce the fee, if the license is issued to a member of a fish and game club incorporated under the laws of our province. There is the regulation.

Then in principle every non-resident pays, whether he be a member of a club or not, Mr. White like the others.

The Lieut.-Governor-in-Council may, as he thinks proper, impose a license upon non-residents or reduce it; and by the very terms of their leases, the lessees are bound to submit.

In imposing this fee, therefore, the province is not wanting in good faith towards lessees of hunting and fishing territories, but simply applying the law to them and asking them to conform to the provisions of their contracts.

But if we take Mr. White's particular case and if we carefully examine the circumstances under which he obtained possession of the territory at present occupied by his club, we find that he secured it by sublease from Mr. Poupore, the former member of parliament for Pontiac, before the passage of the Order-in-Council making an exception which dispensed non-resident members of a club incorporated in this province from paying a tax of \$25.00.

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There cannot then be any violation of promise given to Mr. White, since when he obtained his territory in 1901, the Order-in-Council which he invokes to-day was not in existence.

Mr. White forgets too, in his specious arguments, the true consideration of his lease.

For the trifling sum of \$120.00 per annum, his club possesses, for ten years, the exclusive privilege of hunting on a territory of 35 square miles in the townships of Waltham and Chichester in the county of Pontiac, and exclusive fishing rights in Lakes Germain, Nekabong, Jewel, Crockett, Deep and Two Islands, as well as in all the water courses and dead waters connecting these lakes, in a good number of lakes comprised in the hunting territory already described and in Lake Calumet. All these magnificent lakes are situated between lots 19 and 33 of ranges 9, 10, 11 and 12 of Chichester township.

Now Mr. White and the members of his club, although non-residents of the province have the right to demand the payment of a penalty by any resident of this Province who might attempt to hunt in this territory, which, according to the terms of his contract, the province reserves for him, for the moderate sum of \$120.

This is a consideration which residents have to pay just the same as non-residents. But it is necessary not to confound the price of this

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consideration with the amount of the license fee exacted from non-residents.

Suppose that the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council should impose upon the residents of the Province the payment of a license fee, those of them who are members of clubs would certainly have to pay for the right to hunt, in addition to the price of their lease.

Why, then, not the non-resident?

"But," writes Mr. White, "no country in the civilized world, at least in the British Empire, would commit such an injustice."

But Mr. White forgets, like so many others, that he has a beam in his eye, and that his own province makes residents of the Province of Quebec pay license fees even when they are members of clubs in the province of Ontario. Nevertheless, like Mr. White, these non-residents spend considerable sums of money in Ontario for the maintenance of buildings, etc.

The Government of this Province, like all other responsible advisers of the British Empire, is charged with the duties of the Crown and respects its contracts to the letter, but it is also a jealous guardian of its own rights.

I do not hesitate to say that ever since the confederation of the provinces, that of Quebec has set a good example to the others in this respect.

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Minorities are protected, and never have we taken advantage of the more or less ambiguous text of the British North-American Act to attempt to take from our fellow-citizens of different origins from us, the rights which belong to them by usage and by law.

Mr. White makes the remark that it would be preferable for the Government to increase the price of the leases as the present contracts expire.

I have taken a note of his suggestion and I assure him that when the lease of his club expires, the price will be increased sufficiently to afford him complete satisfaction.

Cold Storage Establishments

We only received from this source last year the modest sum of \$298. I believe that we are able to increase this amount by a more equitable system of charges.

The scale of fees to be asked will be based upon the relative importance of the cold storage establishments and on the quantity and species of the game stored therein. Large hotels and important clubs should pay us reasonable sums for the privilege of being able to serve game at all seasons to their guests.

All keepers of these establishments must, according to the new law, furnish to the fish-

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eries and game department, at certain fixed dates, a statement showing the quantity and kind of game stored there.

I therefore hope by these means to both increase the revenue from this source and also to make the charges more just and equitable.

Fur-Bearing Animals

From the earliest times in the history of European settlement in America, furs valued at a very large amount of money have been exported from our province. Every year hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of beaver, otter, mink, fox, lynx, wild-cat and marten skins are exported from our province to Europe and the United States by powerful trading companies.

The Hudson Bay Company, the Revillons, besides American and other important firms have established large trading posts in the province.

Thus the fur trade with the Indians and trappers of the province of Quebec furnishes incalculable wealth to foreign countries without contributing a cent of revenue to the province.

The Government is making a serious study of this question with a view to the obtaining of a legitimate revenue from this source. Why should we not derive a return from our fur-bearing animals just as we do from our forests?

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Canadian furs have materially increased in value during the last few years. A fine otter skin now represents a value of \$75.00, and the price of mink and marten has increased tenfold.

One of the amendments submitted to this House provides that before the first of May of each year, all companies, firms and individuals who carry on a trade in the skins of fur-bearing animals, must furnish a statement of the number and kind of the skins that they purchase and place upon the market.

We are adopting this reform in order to show the province the extent and the importance of this commerce, and upon the reports which will be thus furnished to us we shall base the policy which we decide to follow.

Peroration

I think that I have sufficiently proved how much our province stands in need of a more efficient protection of its fish and game. I also believe that I have been able to convince you that we can collect a much larger revenue than we do from our wonderful resources of fish, bird and animal life. This was also the opinion of the many distinguished people who made it their duty to take part in the fish and game congress which I called at the Windsor Hotel last December. I do not however conceal the fact that the just and rigorous application of this

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law will create many worries for the Minister and will give him much additional work.

I appeal to the members of this House for their valuable assistance in the important task which I have undertaken.

I specially thank the honorable members for Sherbrooke, Chateauguay, Beauharnois, Bonaventure, Two Mountains, Soulanges, Montmagny, Pontiac, and many others who have furnished me valuable information and aided me in the studies and researches undertaken by me for the purpose of improving our fish and game laws.

I remember that during my recent visit to Boston I had the honor of being received by a number of distinguished men of that marvellous American city. As I expressed my opinions respecting some of them my cicerone remarked with an expressive smile that there was a wide difference between a statesman and a politician.

Unhappily there are in this province, as elsewhere, men who find pleasure in taking advantage of the prejudices of others.

A section of the press has made itself the echo of these people and has assisted in spreading the miserable report that the Minister of Fisheries desired to deprive the settlers and the farmers of the province of their right of hunting and fishing within the limits of the province in order to reserve it alone for the benefit of

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foreigners, of English sportsmen and of rich men.

I declare upon the floor of this House that those who seek to arouse these shameful prejudices are proclaiming a false doctrine and declaring themselves dangerous demagogues.

If the motives which animate them are closely scrutinized it will be soon found that their only aim is to protect a chief caballer or some other elector who is engaged in inconsiderately depopulating our waters and thus depriving all his fellow-citizens of the opportunity of taking a few fish, as in bygone days.

No, the policy which we have undertaken to follow has not for its aim the protection of a few sportsmen; it will have the effect of preventing the unreasonable destruction of the fish and game wealth with which it has pleased Providence to endow our beautiful province.

It aims to preserve for everybody, for the settler as for the farmer, for the workman, for the city sportsman as for him who lives in the country, the healthy and restful pleasure which a hunting and fishing excursion has to offer and the opportunity, for years to come, of being able to procure fish and game at reasonable prices.

It must be remembered that the word "sportsman" is not applied alone to the foreigner who comes here in spring or autumn, and under the

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leadership of our guides visits the fish and game districts of the north or the south of the province as the case may be, to take a needful rest in our forests or by our lakes and rivers; it includes also the curé, the doctor, the merchant, the workmen of our towns and villages, all of whom deplore to-day the disappearance of so much of our fish and of our game, above all in the southerly part of our province.

Who will contradict me when I say that for forty miles around Montreal the game has almost completely disappeared, and that our rivers and streams do not offer more than a quarter of the fish which we were able to take ten years ago?

The professional fishermen and fishmongers are the first to complain. They find that the fishing has diminished in a surprising manner in Lake St. Peter, Lake St. Louis, Lake St. Francois, the Lake of Two Mountains, as well as in the upper part of the St. Lawrence, in the Ottawa, the River Jesus and the River des Prairies. They forget, unfortunately, that they have been the chief destroyers of the fish.

The settlers, too, who empty their superb lakes of fish by means of explosives, seines, nets, hoop-nets, night-lines, etc., fail to remember that they are killing the goose that lays the golden egg.

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For the poor bait of a few dollars they sell at an absurd price, thousands of pounds of trout, and forget that by this improvident transaction they are driving away from their section of the country all the tourists who would otherwise rush there every summer, buying their produce at more than remunerative prices and often dotting the country with rich summer homes, thus increasing the municipal valuation of our colonization parishes and assisting our national expansion; while by the payment of their taxes they contribute to the cost of the country roads and aid in the construction and in the maintenance of our school houses,

Colonization is aided to such an extent in some instances by these visiting sportsmen, that the expenditure of these latter is the main support of the settlers who guard the summer homes and the preserves of foreign anglers or clubs, who are engaged as guides and who find a ready market for their poultry, eggs, butter, vegetables, etc., at their own door, which is often many miles from railway communication of any kind. Some of the best guides in this province earn as much as two and even three dollars per day from visiting sportsmen.

A resident of Lake St. John district testified at the Colonization Congress at St. Jerome, that the opening of the tourist season in that part of the country makes a complete revolution in the

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market. He said that within the first fortnight of that season, such products as butter, eggs, vegetables, chickens and meat of all kinds gained from 20 to 25 per cent. in value. Settlers did not hesitate to say that they had made a great deal of money since the establishment of clubs and big hotels in that part of the province, and some of the speakers at the Congress, who read papers in the interest of colonization at large, expressed the belief that the money earned from sportsmen was not only a very great aid but even essential in some districts to the success of new settlers without means, and particularly in sections of the country where industries had not yet penetrated. The ready money so obtained enables the settlers to tide over the first years of their struggles upon new lands, and also to avoid the deadly credit system which too often enables greedy speculators to lead colonists into debt from which there is no escape until their lands fall entirely into the hands of their creditors.

By far the greater part of the money spent here by sportsmen comes from the pockets of foreigners, and is so much money brought into the province from other lands, to find its way into the hands of guides, guardians, farmers and canoemen, as well as into those of merchants, and hotel and railway men, who are amongst our largest employers of labor, paying

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out in wages the wherewithal for the purchase of farm and garden produce.

Most assuredly then, I am justified in claiming that the due protection of our fish and game is most intimately connected with the success of the colonization movement.

I have before me a statement showing the progress made in recent years by the nine municipalities of the north-west of my county (Terrebonne), which, as is well known, is situated in a district which annually attracts a large number of sportsmen. The municipality which has since been divided into the parish and the village of Ste. Agathe, had a total population in 1890 of 1,304. In 1905 it had more than doubled, reaching the figure of 2,693. The value of its taxable property increased during the same period from \$166,890 to \$619,910, an increase of no less than \$453,020. The population of the entire nine parishes referred to increased from 7,223 in 1890 to 11,273 in 1905, and the value of the taxable property, in the same period, from \$870,394 in 1899 to \$1,763,957.

How can any figures be more convincing than these?

Let us therefore all join hands for the protection of our national riches.

And let us make of this question, as of so many others, a subject for the education of the people of the province.

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Let us emulate the progressive spirit of our American neighbors, and as in our sister provinces, so amend our fish and game laws as to render the application of them both easier and more efficacious.

But practical and economic considerations are not the only ones that call upon us to protect the wild life of our forests and our waters. There are moral considerations that are both weighty and convincing.

An American authority on the subject was perfectly right who said "Animal, bird and fish life has a right to exist, and if man has any Divine right beyond that which accords to all living things, that of protecting himself and his belongings from undue molestation and destruction, he has not received from the Creator the authority to relentlessly pursue and destroy the lives of birds and dumb creatures, regardless of their utter extinction. And though he be the king of creation, he is not warranted in abusing the authority with which he has been invested by the Divinity."

Moral and material considerations alike point us to the path of duty. Pursuing it, we may enjoy the satisfaction of a self-approving conscience and the sincere conviction that we are contributing to the present well-being and future prosperity of our dear province of Quebec.

HON. MR. PREVOST'S SPEECH

So, too, shall we best follow in the footsteps of our ancestors, who preserved for us the marvellous wealth of fish, bird and game life which we are to-day enjoying; and thus, by respecting the memory of the generation of yesterday, may that of to-day fulfil its duty towards that of tomorrow.

The Hon. Minister resumed his seat amid loud and long-continued applause.



FISH and GAME CONGRESS

HELD at the WINDSOR HOTEL, MONTREAL, on December 13th-14th, 1905, at the call of HON. JEAN PRÉVOST, M.P.P., Minister of Colonization, Mines and Fisheries of the P. of Q.

The following is a brief synopsis of the proceedings of the Fish and Game Congress held at the Windsor Hotel, Montreal, on the 13th and 14th December, 1905, in response to invitations issued by the Hon. Jean Prevost, Minister of Colonization, Mines and Fisheries, to sportsmen and others in both the provinces of Quebec and Ontario and in the United States, who are interested in the subject of fish and game protection in the Province of Quebec.

Those Who Were Present

Amongst those present at the Convention were the Hon. Jean Prevost, Minister of Colonization, Mines and Fisheries, Hon. Lomer Gouin, Prime Minister of the Province of Quebec, Hon. Senator Casgrain, Hon. Senator Thibaudeau, Hon. Senator Cloran, Hon. Senator Tessier, Hon. J. Israel Tarte, ex-Minister of

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Public Works, J. H. Bergeron, M.P.P., Hon. Richard Turner, M.L.C., Hon. Edward B. Garneau, M.L.C., Hon. Mr. DeVarrennes, M.L.C., Hon. W. A. Weir, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Quebec, Messrs. David Gillies, M.P.P., Achille Bergevin, M.P.P., George Smith, M.P.P., J. O. Mousseau, M.P.P., W. Walker, M.P.P., F. A. Gendron, M.P.P., Dr. J. L. Lemieux, M.P.P., P. S. Mackenzie, M.P.P., E. A. Panet, M.P.P., Managing Director Tourilli Fish and Game Club, E. Goff Penny, ex-M.P., Arthur Plante, ex-M.P.P., Dr. Lalonde ex-M.P.P., Hon. Dr. Girouard, M.L.C., State Senator Allds of New York, chairman of the Legislative Commission on Fish and Game, Messrs. Knapp of the Legislature of New York, Ferd. Chase, Adirondacks, Geo. A. Stevens, Lake Placid, N.Y., and manager of the Bear Lake Fish and Game Club, Paul Smith, Adirondacks, Hon. Nelson W. Fisk, ex-Lieutenant-Governor of Vermont, Hon. H. G. Thomas, Fish and Game Commissioner, Vermont, C. H. Wilson, Glens Falls, N.Y., Andrew Irving, Ogdensburg, N.Y., Robert E. Plumb, Detroit, Mich., F. S. Hodges, Boston, Mass., General F. G. Butterfield, Derby Line, Vermont, Hon. Walter C. Witherbee, Port Henry, N.Y., President of the Bear Lake Fish and Game Club and Vice-President of the Triton Fish and Game Club, Dr. Geo. L. Porter, Bridgeport, Conn.,

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President of the Bostonnais Fish and Game Association, Mr. F. N. Benham, Bridgeport, Mr. L. F. Brown, New Haven, President of the Nonantum Fish and Game Club, Mr. J. C. Chamberlain, New Haven, President of the Metabetchouan Fish and Game Club, General W. W. Henry, U.S. Consul, Quebec. Dr. S. Desjardins, M.P., St. Therese, Geo. E. Drummond, Vice-President of the Laurentian Fish and Game Club, Montreal. J. George Veith, Secretary-Treasurer of the Laurentian Club, W. H. Parker, Managing Director of the Laurentian Club, G. H. Henshaw, St. Hyacinthe Fish and Game Protection Club. H. R. Ives, director of the Laurentian Club, Oliver Adams, Ontario Fish and Game Protective Association, Toronto, A. Kelly Evans, Secretary-Treasurer Ontario Fish and Game Protective Association, Toronto, S. Dufault, Deputy Minister of Colonization, Mines and Fisheries, Quebec, L. A. Boyer of the Shawinigan Club, Montreal, Geo. Boulter, of the Winchester Club, Montreal, C. A. Douglas, Ottawa, Jovial Fish and Game Protection Club, Alfred A. Thibaudeau of the Beauharnois Fish and Game Club and the Chapleau Club, L. P. Morin, W. A. Moreau, Dr. N. Paul Fournier and G. H. Henshaw, all of the St. Hyacinthe Fish and Game Protection Club, J. Chatelain of the Thurso Fish and Game Club. Thurso, P.Q., Hector Caron, Superintendent of

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Fish and Game in the Province of Quebec, Percy Baker, Superintendent of the Restigouche Salmon Club, Matapedia, P.Q., M. Mowatt of the Riparian Association, Matapedia, P.Q., Hon. Dr. Reaume, Minister of Public Works and Fisheries, Ontario, Hon. F. R. Latchford, ex-Minister of Public Works and Fisheries, Ontario, U. Emard, president of the Sakaiganing Fish and Game Club, and L. Jos. Tarte, Secretary-treasurer of the same, C. E. Dunlop, President and S. M. Baylis, Secretary-treasurer of the Kanevon Fish and Game Club, Dr. F. L. Lockhart, Vice-President of the St. Maurice Fish and Game Club, Geo. Perrault, and Dr. J. H. Bourdon, of the Canadien Fish and Game Club, J. Cunningham, Gatineau Fish and Game Club, Lt.-Col. Ibbotson and J. Stevenson Brown of Montreal, representing the Mattawin Fishing Club, L. O. Armstrong of the C. P. R., and director of the Canadian Camp, W. R. White, K.C., of Pembroke, Ontario, President of the Nekabong Fish and Game Club, W. J. Wood and Dr. A. A. Smith of Cornwall, Ont., President and Secretary-Treasurer, respectively, of the Bourbonnais Fish and Game Club, C. E. E. Ussher, G.P.A. of the C.P.R., Montreal, W. E. Davis, H. G. Elliott and H. R. Charlton of the G.T.R., A. H. Lindsay of the Intercolonial Railway, H. J. Lyons and Herbert B. Locke of the Roberval Fish and Game Association, J. G.

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Scott, manager, and Rene Dupont, special representative of the Quebec and Lake St. John Railway, Quebec, Peter Mackenzie, Hudson Bay Company, Colin Rankin, Mattawa, J. D. Guay, Theo. Lachance and W. Gauthier, Chicoutimi, J. D. Dubord, Beauport, P.Q., Louis L. deMartigny, Chas. Giguere, Contrecoeur, L. T. Marcoux, Roberval, J. W. Belisle, Inspector of Fishing and Hunting of the Province of Quebec, N. E. Cormier, Aylmer, Chief Fish and Game Guardian, W. C. J. Hall, Superintendent of National Parks, Quebec, D. McManamy, P. N. Boucher, W. E. Loomis, R. H. Fletcher and T. M. Craig, Sherbrooke, S. J. Osgood, Cookshire, William Little, Westmount, R. W. Reford and F. F. Rolland, Montreal, John Tweedie, Papi-neauville, Archie Laurie, Quebec, Alderman I. H. Stearns and Alderman Ames, Montreal, A. Champoux, D'Israeli, P.Q., E. S. Leetham, Gatineau Fish and Game Club, Ottawa, N. McCuaig, provincial game warden, Bryson, P.Q., Joseph X. Lavoie, Percé, P.Q., W. J. Cleghorn, Montreal, Secretary of the Province of Quebec Association for the Protection of Fish and Game, C. A. Douglas, Herbert P. Douglas, J. C. Brennan, J. N. Brownlee, E. A. Ruit, A. H. Belliveau, Henry Ayles, K. C. Ruggles Wright, John L. Curlbert, Captain Ernest J. Chambers, W. H. Fraser and H. McLaren, Ottawa, J. George Garneau, Quebec,

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H. Constantineau, Bedford, P.Q., E. N. Cusson, and Alf. Fortier, Nomingue, P.Q., J. A. Dubeau and S. E. Capping, Joliette, Moise Hebert, Beauharnios, Chas. Deguise, K.C., Quebec, E. T. D. Chambers, Secretary-Treasurer of the Sportsmen's Fish and Game Protective Association of the Province of Quebec and of the North American Fish and Game Protective Association, Quebec, Dr. Prevost, St. Jerome, Dr. Perrigo, Dr. John T. Finnie, J. E. Deslauriers, Jos. Riendeau, E. Carufel, Leopold Globensky, E. A. Robert, Henri Loudin, R. Sampson, J. Lanouette, Dr. T. A. Brisson, J. H. Rainville, Paul Rainville, G. Perrault, G. Boivin, W. Germain, James T. Tobin, E. W. Dowling, G. P. Browne, C. A. Lockerby, G. W. Dawson, J. P. B. Drouin, William E. Cochrane, A. A. Wilson, J. B. Sparrow, Chas. Meredith, A. J. Dawes, F. E. Meredith, K.C., W. J. White, K.C. and Dr. Smillie, Montreal, Felix Turcotte, Phileas Corriveau, W. M. Dobell, Quebec, Angus W. Hooper, Montreal, D. I. Millar, Sault Ste. Marie Ont., A. L. Deseve, Magog, P.Q., Baron d'Halvyn, Armand Lalonde, Lt.-Col. Labelle, Lt.-Col. Mackay, Captain Clovis, St. Louis, Rene Beauset, Dr. Marsolais, O. Champagne, P. W. St. George, L. J. Pelland, C. W. Leprohon, M. Lesage, Dr. J. H. Fortin, Pierre Lafrance, P. W. Archambault, R. Deschamps, E. Cadieux, Henri Galarneau, J. O. Pelland,

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George Robertson, George Côté, H. Comtois,
Alex. Archambault, Louis Boisseau, O. Dostaler.

President's Opening Address

The Hon. Jean Prevost called the meeting to order, upon taking the chair, on the morning of the 13th December, 1905, and was greeted with loud applause upon rising to declare the Congress open.

In doing so he spoke as follows:—

GENTLEMEN:

The Fish and Game conference is now open.

When I became a Minister of the Crown, the first duty that I set myself was to inspect my province.

I am perfectly amazed at its incalculable natural wealth.

The fertility of its soil, its luxuriant forests, its rivers, lakes and streams, the richness of its fauna,—of its fish and game,—have stimulated in me the determination to turn it to the best possible account, maintaining, at the same time, a prudent reserve, while shaping a logical and progressive programme.

Our forests, which Autumn clothes in harmonious garb of brilliant red and emerald green are still peopled by large quantities of big game: the bear mirrors his bulky form in our azure lakes; the moose, the caribou and the deer

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proudly toss their elegant antlers which rival the graceful spread of the neighboring trees, from which they would almost appear to have been stolen; myriads of our feathered game plaintively warble forth their love songs in the resinous branches of our sapins or in the waving reeds of our crystal streams.

The salmon describes its graceful curves while frolicking in our foamy cascades; and his little cousin, the trout, in our tranquil summer evenings bespangles the surface of our lakes by its elegant leaps, with the ever increasing circumference of a multitude of rippling circles.

While, however, we are legitimately proud of our magnificent hunting and fishing opportunities, we must not forget the lessons taught us by the experience of other countries, where the valuable fish and game of bygone days have vanished with the vanished years. We look in vain to-day for a single herd of buffalo of any large proportions, where, within the memory of many of us, hundreds of thousands of this noble game roamed the great western prairies. The sea otter and the fur seal of the Northern Pacific, both of which existed in countless thousands but a few years ago, are now threatened with the same practical extinction as that which has overtaken the American bison. The same thing may be said of prairie chickens and wild turkeys.

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Where now are we to look for the enormous flocks of wild pigeons which in almost every part of the province were wont at times to darken the very heavens in their flight?

The noble elk, or wapiti, which once roamed the forests of Lower Canada, has long deserted its eastern home.

Not a salmon now ascends many of the inland streams of either Ontario or Quebec, out of which they were once netted in enormous numbers. And how many of us can recall the brook, near the village school, out of which it was so easy on our truant days, to entice the speckled trout "with spools of thread for fishing lines and bended pins for hooks," but which have now become all but completely fished out, or rendered uninhabitable for *fontinalis*, by reason of depleted water in consequence of forest destruction, or because of the contaminating influences of saw-dust and other mill refuse?

If we are wise we shall profit by those experiences. Thank God, we have still at our disposal much of the very best fishing and hunting of the continent, if not of the entire world. It is not yet too late to secure its efficient protection and to pass down to those who are to come after us the rich heritage of fish and game life which is so abundant to-day in our inland woods and waters.

The aboriginal inhabitants of the continent,

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improvident as we are accustomed to consider them, so well understood the principles of fish and game protection that up to the coming of the white man, the beaver and the salmon, the elk and the moose, the bear and the marten were everywhere abundant, though supplying all the requirements of the many Indian nations of hunters and fishermen. Each hunter respected his neighbor's fishing and hunting rights and protected his own by the same careful selection of game and fish, in trapping and spearing, which is displayed by a provident stock farmer when marketing or slaughtering his surplus cattle. He would no more think of trapping all the beavers of a colony than a rancher would of killing off his cattle and running himself completely out of stock.

There is much reason to fear that in our day all this has been changed for the worse. It is true that there *are* sportsmen who *are* protectors as well as hunters and fishers of the game and fish, but unfortunately there are a great number of poachers, pot hunters and so-called sportsmen who are little better than fish and game hogs and who slaughter indiscriminately wherever the opportunity offers. To prevent this undue waste of fish and animal life is the duty of the government, in whom, as representing the people, is vested the ownership of fish and game, as far as they can be said to be owned at

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all. In public lands and waters they are no more the property of private individuals than is the timber which grows there. All are alike the property of the State, which it is the duty of the government to hold and administer and protect in the public interest and for the public good.

There is also a moral side to this question. It has been well said that animal, fish and bird life has a right to exist, and if man has any Divine right beyond that which accords to all living things, that of protecting himself and his belongings from undue molestation and destruction, it cannot be urged that this right gives him the authority to relentlessly pursue and destroy the lives of birds and dumb creatures regardless of their utter destruction. If man is given authority over every living thing, it cannot carry with it any greater authority than the right to use so much thereof as is needed for his best good, and without permitting any possible danger of extermination.

If all this life was created for the good of this and former generations, then it was for the good of *future* generations also and we should be held responsible for its protection and maintenance.

How then shall the government of the Province of Quebec best discharge the important duty of protecting its fish and game, which is

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imposed upon it both by moral considerations and by those of public interest?

We have the experience of the past to guide us to some extent, and I am sure that you will frankly agree, with me, that this experience is far from a satisfactory one. It is my earnest desire, Gentlemen, with your assistance, to so improve the existing system of protection, that there may be a constant and steady increase in the supply of our game and game fish, instead of the decrease which is reported from time to time, from various parts of the country. You gentlemen, from our cities, who are sportsmen, and you also who come here from the neighboring states to enjoy the luxury of our fishing and hunting, spend large amounts of money for transportation, guides, supplies, outfits, camps, etc., and you are entitled to consideration and to the best sport that can be assured to you by the action of the Government in properly protecting our fish and game.

Several Possible Reforms

Several possible reforms, with this object in view, have occurred to me, and some of these I have already resolved upon. You are aware how many and how loud have been the complaints against the system of licensed netting in some of our inland waters. It is my intention

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to put an end at once to this threatened depletion of some of our most beautiful lakes by prohibiting the issue of any more netting licenses in our inland lakes; while the commercial netting in the larger rivers of the province will be curtailed as far as circumstances will permit.

For certain offences against the fish and game laws the penalties prescribed by the existing laws are far from sufficient. For such offences as dynamiting fish in our waters, I am quite convinced that the penalty should be a term of imprisonment without the option of a fine.

The province is in absolute need of a better and more efficient system of fish and game protection. For some years past upwards of one hundred fish and game guardians are supposed to have looked after the proper observance of the fish and game laws. A few of these are members of our excellent Montreal and Quebec fish and game protective associations and others, who have given their services gratuitously to the cause which they have so much at heart, and who have rendered it valuable aid. But the majority of this large army of so-called guardians have done virtually nothing at all to warrant their appointment as such and the annual payment of salaries varying from \$25 to \$150 each. Some eight or nine thousand dollars is thus largely frittered away upon men, most of whom render no return whatever for their ex-

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penditure. It is my intention to divide the province into some six or eight hunting and fishing districts, with suitable men in charge of each, to whom salaries will be paid commensurate with the work which they will be called upon to perform.

It is but reasonable that non-resident sportsmen, who come here to take the fish and game belonging to the people of the Province, and whom we are always very glad to see here, should contribute something, in the form of license fees, towards the protection of such fish and game by the government. The members of the Government fully recognize the benefits resulting to the people of the province by the expenditure of money in it by non-resident sportsmen and although it is of course quite true that there is nothing of philanthropy and no intention of benevolence in such expenditure, which is solely for the purpose of procuring enjoyment and sport, yet I am particularly desirous of doing all that can reasonably be expected, to encourage these welcome holiday seekers from the neighboring Republic and sister Provinces to come to this province for their annual vacations, and to ensure them good sport and an enjoyable time while here.

The revenue of the Government from the licenses and leases of non-resident sportsmen is not what it might be, and you do not need to

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be told how much more efficient the protection of our fish and game might be made by a material increase in the amount of money at the disposal of the department for this purpose. This matter is now engaging my attention.

I have also under consideration the propriety of collecting a tax upon the export of furs. Our fur-bearing animals are just as much the property of the Province as our fish and game, and there seems to be no good reasons whatever why those who hunt them for their skins for commercial purposes, and those who make it a lucrative business to export their skins, should not contribute something towards the cost of protecting them.

It is very much to be regretted that the present laws do not appear to be effective in preventing the wholesale slaughter of deer for market purposes. Some of the railways in the Eastern Townships, and in other parts of the Province as well, have been carrying deer by the carload to Montreal, a dozen or more carcasses having been shipped, it is said, by one individual. The State of Maine, and the provinces of Ontario and New Brunswick, have found a means of preventing this ruinous practice, by the establishment of what is known as the tag and coupon system. All hunters' licenses under this system, have attached to them a certain number of coupons corresponding in num-

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ber to the limited number of heads of big game that a hunter is permitted by law to kill in one season. He can ship no big game or portion thereof, without it has one of these tags attached; for no express or railway company will accept such shipment. Moreover the law compels the transportation companies to cancel the coupons at the place of shipment, thus preventing them from being used more than once. Suggestions for the adoption of a similar system in this province have been made on several occasions, and they appear to be well worthy of careful consideration.

Another question that may repay some thought is that of the registration of guides, which has been successfully accomplished by some of the neighboring States and Provinces.

In response to the general invitation addressed to sportsmen to forward any suggestions for the better protection of fish and game to my department of the government, many thoughtful recommendations have been made, some of which appeal to me very strongly. A number of these are exactly in line with the reforms which it is my intention to introduce into the administration of my department. Others would be very desirable if the government had only the means to carry them out. There are naturally very many which we shall be unable to touch upon for want of time, in the two days

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which is all that we can at present devote to the congress. To all who have offered suggestions of any kind in answer to my invitation, I hereby return my sincere and hearty thanks, assuring them that all their recommendations shall receive mature and careful consideration.

In order to save time and avoid confusion in this Congress where such a variety of topics may be suggested, it has been necessary, of course to prepare some form of procedure. In the form of a skeleton programme which has been placed before you, it will be observed that the time at our disposal has been divided as nearly equally as possible between questions affecting (1) our big game, (2) our feathered game, (3) our game fishes (salmonidæ) and (4) our coarse fishes and fur-bearing animals.

There has been a good deal of correspondence and other work to be attended to in advance of the Congress, and for this reason, an organization, in advance of our sittings, was essential. Before mentioning the active officials named by the government, let me say how pleased I am to be able to inform you that Mr. Andrew Allan has accepted the honorary presidency of the Congress and that Messrs. F. L. Wanklyn and L. J. Ethier have consented to act as honorary vice-presidents. For secretaries I have appointed Mr. E. T. D. Chambers, secretary-treasurer of the North American Fish and Game Protective

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Association, and Mr. Chas. Deguise, K.C., of Quebec.

It will be your duty, gentlemen, to complete the work of organization by the appointment of the standing committees, to whom all proposed resolutions not of a purely routine character, will be immediately referred, before any discussion occurs upon them. The idea to be kept in view is that all debate will take place upon motions for the adoption of reports of committees, since by any other course we should never accomplish anything more than mere talk. I have also thought it desirable that all speeches should be limited to ten minutes.

I now leave in your hands the task of completing the organization of the convention by the appointment of the Standing Committees. As soon as these are named it will be in order for resolutions to be handed in, which will be immediately referred to appropriate committees, before which, those interested in them may of course appear. When all the resolutions that may be before the Chair have been handed in and referred to Committees, it is proposed that this Congress should adjourn till two o'clock this afternoon in order to permit the Committees to prepare recommendations based upon the resolutions submitted to them." (Applause).

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Committees Appointed

A nominating committee consisting of Hon. Nelson W. Fisk, Mr. C. E. E. Ussher, Mr. H. G. Elliott, Mr. A. Bergevin, M.P.P., Mr. George Smith, M.P.P., Dr. Finnie, and Hon. E. B. Garneau, was chosen to strike standing committees. The following were recommended and accordingly appointed.

Big Game—Dr. Perigo, E. A. Panet, M.P.P., E. Leitham, J. G. Garneau, H. G. Elliott, C. E. E. Ussher, Dr. Peltier, M.P.P., W. C. J. Hall, W. E. Lomas, J. D. Guay.

Feathered Game—J. B. Sparrow, W. G. Ross, F. E. Turcotte, H. Caron, Chas. Meredith, Jean Champoux, Dr. J. T. Finnie, Hector Champagne, E. A. Robert, Oliver Adams, J. H. Rainville, Paul Rainville, Geo. Perrault and Arthur Plante.

Game Fish—I. H. Stearns, W. E. Davis, Rene Dupont, L. O. Armstrong, W. H. Parker, A. Laurie, T. S. Hodges, J. G. Garneau, Gen. Henry, Hon. R. Turner, J. Stevenson Brown, Hon. E. B. Garneau, T. L. Marcoux, W. J. Code, C. A. Douglas and John Culbert.

Coarse Fish—Gen. Butterfield, F. B. Allds, Chas. Wilson, E. J. Hebert, Dr. J. E. Bourdeau, R. Sampson, H. G. Thomas, J. E. Deslaurier, A. Thibeau, W. H. Knapp, Hon. Jules

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Tessier, J. O. Mousseau, M.P.P., C. E. Dubord,
A. Kelly Evans, H. R. Charlton and E. Coff
Penny.

Fur-bearing animals—Thomas Fortin, W.
Price, J. E. Deslaurier, G. Boulter, H. A. Price,
A. H. Lindsay, Crawford Ross, W. R. White,
D. Gillies, M.P.P., J. A. Gendron, L. E. Boyer,
W. C. J. Hall, C. A. Dubord.

The Convention then adjourned till the after-
noon.

2nd SITTING:—WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON

The President called the Convention to order
at 2.30 P. M.

Dr. Perrigo presented the following report
from the Committee on Big Game:—

Report of Committee on Big Game

“Your Committee heartily approves of the
expressed intention of the Hon. Minister to
appoint an adequate staff of efficient game ward-
ens, sufficiently paid, and also to increase the
bounty on wolves.

That the division of the province into zones,
one and two, be abolished, except that climatic
conditions make it necessary to have different
regulations in effect north of the height of land.

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"That no change be made in the open season for moose, adopting the same dates for the whole province as are now in effect in that part of the province known as zone No. 1.

"That the open season for caribou, entire province, be September 1 to December 31, in each year.

"That the open season for deer in what is now known as zone two, be the same as now in effect in zone one; with no change in season in that part of the province now known as zone one, and that the Hon. Minister be authorized by law to shorten or entirely abolish the open season in certain districts in the province, as may be necessary, owing to the scarcity of game in such districts.

That the tag system used in Ontario be adopted in this Province.

That no permits be issued to hunt out of season for any purpose, and that the killing of additional caribou, moose or deer be not allowed.

"That a hunting license fee of \$25 be charged to all non-residents, whether or not they be members of incorporated clubs or hold leases of hunting territory.

"That the penalties for infractions of the law be largely increased, and in cases where fines are imposed a portion of the fine to be retained by the Government except that where prosecu-

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tions are instituted by protective associations or by holders of leased territory, the whole fine to go to the association or holder of leased territory prosecuting.

"That the words "or kill" be eliminated from section 1401a of the present law, which reads: "Proprietors, possessors and farmers may, at any time chase away or kill any animals protected by this section, causing or threatening to cause damage to moveable or immoveable property."

"That the hunting or killing of big game by use of "jack lights" be prohibited."

Hon. E. B. Garneau moved the adoption of the Report, seconded by Mr. E. A. Panet, M.P.P.

The consideration of the report was taken up clause by clause.

Dr. Finnie thought the open season ought to be confined to the months of October and November. Game taken in September usually is soon spoiled. No true sportsman would object to a later beginning on the ground that it is too cold.

The Non-Resident License

Mr. Wright, of Ottawa, protested against the tax of \$25 for residents of Ontario, although he admitted Quebec sportsmen had to pay their tax if they wished to hunt in Ontario.

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In reply to some objections on the part of non-residents respecting the proposed license fee of \$25, the amount was defended by the chairman of the committee and other resident sportsmen. In other provinces, it was pointed out, the fees were much higher. In New Brunswick it is \$50, in Newfoundland \$100. A strenuous opposition was, however, maintained by several members of clubs, who thought undue weight should not be attached to the direct revenue that would result from this fee, as compared to the large amounts annually left indirectly by the alien sportsmen. Mr. H. A. Hutchins, K. C., representing the Mastigouche Fish and Game Club, considered the Government should not insist too firmly on this fee.

Mr. Joseph Tarte, a member of the Saskai-ganing Club, said the outside clubs had appropriated so many of the districts favorable for hunting that his own club and many others composed of local sportsmen, were required to undergo a great expense in reaching their leases for the season's hunt.

Mr. Aylen, K. C., of Ottawa, thought a discrimination should be made. Mr. Dawes, of Lachine, and Mr. White also expressed their opinions. Mr. Dawes favored the imposition of a license fee on non-residents. He had to pay it in Ontario. Mr. White considered the time was now opportune for having reciprocity be-

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tween the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec in this respect.

Hon. Mr. Rheaume told the convention very plainly that he would never consider reciprocity in this matter unless first there were uniformity in laws. When Quebec protected its game as Ontario does, he would be prepared to talk business. It is useless, however, to think of reciprocity when Ontario has a close season at the same time that Quebec has an open season. He pointed out that the lumber camp must be watched. At most of these, illegal destruction of deer and moose was constantly going on.

Hon. Mr. Prevost in reply stated that under the present conditions it would be impossible to have uniformity of laws in the two Provinces. Here we have a system of clubs. He could not cancel the charters of these 150 clubs. The seal of the Province is affixed to these contracts, and it is out of question to think of breaking the contracts. • On certain points, however, there can be uniformity. There ought to be a conference between the ministers of the different Provinces to come to some agreement respecting furs. In the last close season 6,000 beaver furs were secured in the Province of Quebec and taken to Manitoba. When he tried to reach the parties there he was told "Hands off! You have no jurisdiction here."

Mr. Andrew Irving, Gouverneur, N. Y.,

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thought the game laws of Quebec were ideal. They give to any one a privilege of hunting and fishing so long as he conforms to the Provincial laws. But the law is not properly enforced.

Mr. W. R. White, K.C., of Pembroke, Ont., contended that it was a breach of faith to charge a license fee to non-resident lessees of hunting and fishing rights, and made violent opposition to the proposal.

Hon. Mr. Prevost replied, saying amongst other things that the law regarding leases as laid down in article 1417b which he cited, clearly specifies that such leases are "subject to the regulations and restrictions that may be established." The contracts entered into by the Crown with holders of these leases must be and would be respected to the letter in every case, and there was nothing in the license fee recommended by the committee and approved by himself that could by any possible stretch of imagination be construed as unfair to the lessees. The extent of some of the territories leased to private individuals and clubs was simply absurd. Many of these lessees had never seen the full extent of their territories. As to the inadequate prices they paid, he cited the cases of men who lease lakes eight or ten miles long for five to ten dollars, while large lots of hunting territory have been let for \$1.00 to \$1.50 per mile. He asked if this was reasonable, or if there was

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anything unreasonable in calling upon these lessees who simply paid such trivial rates for exclusive tracts of country, to contribute by license fees which were charged to those who controlled no special exclusive rights, towards the protection of the fish and game which they came here to take. He asked those who had taken part in the debate to be perfectly frank with him as he was frank with them, saying that if they would give him the necessary income he would protect the fish and game for them.

The report was then adopted.

The Bounty on Wolves

It was also resolved on motion of Hon. E. B. Garneau that the bounty of five dollars per head upon wolves be increased.

Mr. Achille Bergevin, M.P.P., moved, seconded by Mr. George Smith, M.P.P., that in the opinion of this Congress, a conference of the Ministers of the different provinces of Canada, having charge of the fish, fur and game interests, should take place at their earliest convenience. Carried.

Before the adjournment, Hon. Mr. Gouin, Prime Minister, who had been present during much of the proceedings, briefly addressed the Congress, before leaving it. He thanked those present for the deep interest they were taking

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in the proceedings, and for having rallied to the call of his colleague, the Hon. Mr. Prevost, Minister of Colonization, Mines and Fisheries. "I thank and congratulate you," he said, "upon the interest you are taking in this matter, and I thank and congratulate the Hon. Mr. Prevost, also, for the splendid work he is doing, and for the life and energy which he is throwing into this work, as well as into the colonization movement. We are anxious to do the best we can for the province. We have forest wealth, fish wealth and game wealth, and are endeavoring to administer it for the best interests of the Province. We are surely not too exacting when we ask our neighbors to pay, when they come here, what we have to pay when we go into their territory. If we ask the same we are surely not to blame. We wish to leave the province better than we found it."

The Congress adjourned till eight o'clock.

3rd SITTING:—WEDNESDAY EVENING

Mr. G. W. Ross reported from the Feathered Game Committee in favor of the following recommendations:—

Clause 1.—"That if the Government cannot see their way to put a license on all guns, the

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committee recommends that the possession of guns, decoys or other implements of shooting or hunting at a time and in places where the game birds or animals above named are found, shall be *prima facie* evidence of pursuit thereof with intent, to catch, kill or destroy the same, and that this clause be considered to be a suggestion to the government to enact something to this end.

Clause 2.—“That the carrying of guns of a calibre No. 8, or larger, also automatic guns, be prohibited.

Clause 3.—“That it be forbidden to pursue wild duck with yachts or boats propelled by sail, steam or other mechanical power.

Clause 4.—“That the sale of woodcock, be prohibited the same as partridge, viz., to 1908.

Clause 5.—“That each woodcock or partridge found in the illegal possession of any person shall constitute a definite offence, and the fine shall be \$5 for each bird, and in the second offence the minimum fine shall be \$100.

Clause 6.—“That game found in cold storage warehouses, private or public, one month after the close season shall be confiscated by any warden, deputy warden or inspector, and such game shall be given forthwith to charitable institutions; that no person shall sell, expose for sale or buy any animal, bird or fish included in the

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definition of game or fish until after a lapse of fifteen days from the end of any close season, under a penalty of \$5 for each offence, and each bird, game or fish bought, sold or exposed for sale shall constitute an offence.

Clause 7.—“That the shooting of ducks in spring be entirely prohibited.

All the clauses of the report were adopted with the exception of number six, which was struck out at Hon. Mr. Prevost's request.

Some opposition was made to clause seven, but it was adopted after considerable discussion.

Mr. Chambers moved, seconded by Dr. Finnie:—

Resolved, That this Convention professes its admiration for the amendment of the act of Congress, passed May 25th, 1900, known as the Lacey Act, in such form as to prohibit under penalty of forfeiture of goods and imprisonment of the offenders the bringing into the United States of any fish or game, furs and fur bearing animals in violation of the laws of the State or Country in which the same shall be killed or in which any such fish or game, furs and fur bearing animals shall be unlawfully had in possession under or by the laws of the State into which any such fish or game, furs and fur bearing animals shall be brought into the United States.

And further it is the sense of this Convention

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that it would be to the mutual benefit of this and the neighboring Provinces and States if reciprocity of action could be had along these lines, and that it is highly desirable that the initial steps in this direction be taken by the Hon. Minister of Colonization, Mines and Fisheries of the Province of Quebec. Carried.

Hon. Mr. Prevost expressed his pleasure at the presence of Hon. Mr. Latchford, Minister of Public Works and Fisheries of Ontario, and Mr. Latchford briefly replied.

The Convention then adjourned till the next morning.

4th SITTING:—THURSDAY MORNING

The Congress met at 10 A. M., when papers were read by Mr. E. A. Panet, M.P.P., on the benefit and work of fish and game protection clubs, by Mr. E. T. D. Chambers, for Mr. Lorenzo Prince, on Fish Protection and by Dr. Porter on the benefit of fish and game protection clubs, deprecating the placing of additional burdens upon them.

In the course of the debate following the reading of these papers, Hon. Mr. Prevost quoted from official reports to show that the State of

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Maine realized some \$350,000 from license fees, etc., paid by sportsmen. It was absurd to think that all the richly endowed Province of Quebec received as revenue from its valuable assets of fish and game was some \$65,000, including the sums received from netting licenses in the St. Lawrence. Yet some of the individual fish and game clubs were given territories under lease, larger than the kingdom of Belgium. It was simply unreasonable that all the privileges given by this province should produce so small a return. Foreign sportsmen enjoy the best fishing and hunting grounds of the province, and as Mr. L. J. Tarte had said on the preceding day, when a resident of the province desired to lease a territory, he had to spend a great deal more than the \$25.00 license fee asked these non-resident sportsmen, in extra travelling beyond the reach of railways to find any good territory not leased to American or Ontario sportsmen. The Government gladly welcomed these non-residents and leased territories to them on the same terms as they did to their own people, but it was surely only right that they should be ready to contribute to the protection of the fish and game of the province, and he concluded that the extra \$25.00 license fee in their case was nothing but reasonable.

Mr. L. O. Armstrong presented the following

Report of the Game Fish Committee

"That this committee heartily approve of the Minister's expressed intention to bring about a rigid enforcement of the law as to netting and the use of explosives and also recommend the enactment of severe penalties for infractions of the laws and that no permits be given for netting trout or ouananiche water.

We suggest that all fishing in all inland waters shall be done by hand lines only.

Our committee would recommend that all netting for salmon within the estuaries of rivers be prohibited. That the minimum penalty for spearing salmon or netting at all should be \$50 or imprisonment in default.

This Committee would welcome any action that might be taken to limit the quantity or weight of fishes, (excepting salmon), which any angler should be allowed to take in one day.

That the following be the minimum fines for illegal fishing of trout and ouananiche, particularly netting, spearing and set lines: for first offence, \$10 and confiscation of tackle; for second offence, \$50 and for the third offence imprisonment, without the option of a fine and that members of any club violating this provision shall be expelled.

That having nets, spears and set lines, etc., at

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or near lakes or rivers where game fish are found be *prima facie* evidence of illegal intent.

That the Government make due provision for the enforcement of the laws re the raising of salmon nets.

That special provision be made for the enforcement of the fish and game laws in districts where lumber camps are established, and that during the close season such districts be efficiently policed.

That the Quebec Fisheries Act be amended to harmonize with the Federal Fisheries Act.

That stake nets in the Lower St. Lawrence are destructive in the extreme, and should not be permitted within one mile of the mouth of Salmon rivers.

That it is advisable that the sale of speckled trout (square tailed) be entirely prohibited from the 15th day of October to the second day of May of each year.

That, if not already provided for, regulations be passed to prevent the pollution of fishing waters by mill or other refuse of a deleterious character, such as pulp, sawdust, bark, etc.

The report was adopted.

Moved by L. O. Armstrong, seconded by Dr. Porter.

"That this Convention respectfully urges up-

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on the new Minister the necessity of a more rigorous enforcement of the law regarding the construction of fishways in dams, than has prevailed in the past." Carried.

The Congress then adjourned till 2.30 P.M.

5th SITTING:—THURSDAY AFTERNOON

At the opening of the sitting, papers were submitted by Dr. J. H. Bourdon, upon the evil effects of seining in Lake St. Louis, and by Dr. J. A. Bigonnesse on the protection of our lakes, rivers and hunting territories.

Mr. C. H. Wilson presented the following

Report of the Coarse Fish Committee

and moved its adoption:—

"Your Committee on Coarse Fish beg to submit the following report:—

That this Committee desires to place on record its entire approval of the Hon. Mr. Prevost's expressed wish to prevent, for the future, netting of fish in inland lakes—while the commercial netting in the rivers of the province will be curtailed as far as circumstances will permit.

That this Committee recommends to the Government that on all inland waters the number

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of guardians of fish be increased, and adequate salaries be paid them.

That this Committee recommends to the Federal Government that the close season for Maskinongé, Bass, Wall-Eyed Pike or Doré shall be uniform, and further recommend that the close season for these fish shall be from January 1st to June 15th.

That this Committee recommends to the Government that the closed season for Sturgeon shall be from May 15th to July 20th and that the size limit be 42 inches.

That this Committee recommends to the Government that there be a size limit to the taking of the following fish:—

Bass, 10 inches.

Rock Bass, 6 inches.

Wall-Eyed Pike or Doré, 15 inches.

Barbotte, 10 inches.

Barbue or Channel Catfish, 18 inches.

Yellow Perch, 8 inches.

Maskinongé, 24 inches."

A long discussion occurred upon the first resolution endorsing the Minister's policy for the abolition of netting in inland waters.

Mr. Bergevin, M.P.P., energetically denounced the practice of seining which he said had almost ruined the fishing of Lakes St. Louis and St. Francis. He had seen there hundreds

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of seines, two and three acres long each, stretched out to dry in the sun, and asked how it was possible to maintain fish in waters that were so netted. He insisted upon the prohibition of all kinds of netting.

Dr. Emery Lalonde supported the stand of Mr. Bergevin and said that the Lake of Two Mountains was being destroyed like the others mentioned. He asked that night lines be also abolished.

Messrs. Riendeau and W. H. Parker and Dr. J. E. Bourdon supported Mr. Bergevin, and so did Mr. Chambers.

Mr. J. O. Mousseau, M.P.P., made an appeal to the Minister to permit the taking of eels as heretofore in his county, and showed that this method of fishing did not destroy other fish.

Hon. Mr. Prevost spoke very energetically and forcibly on this question. He emphatically stated that under his administration, no license should be issued for seining in the inland waters of the province. He thanked and congratulated Mr. Bergevin for his courageous denunciation of the evils of seining. He could not understand how any sincere and intelligent man could attempt to make cheap popularity for himself by pretending to appeal in the interests of the poor against a matter of such vital importance to the province of Quebec. For the sake of pleasing ten or twelve voters, some people seemed ready

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to sacrifice everything to be found in our woods and waters. He spoke of the demagoguery of some people on this subject of fish and game protection and declared that he would never attempt to make capital out of such affairs. The public could be depended upon to recognize who were really working in this matter in their interests. He referred to the condition of affairs he had found at Lake St. John, where despite the thousands of dollars that Mr. Beemer was spending to plant young fish in the waters from his hatchery, a few netters were continuing the work of destruction. He had put an end to this shameful condition of affairs and when he did so, an attempt was made by those who ought to know better, and who were determined to protect the netters if possible, to elicit the sympathy of the populace for them. He had been insulted and attacked in certain newspapers for what he had done, but the papers had been compelled to retract and he was determined to go on in the same way, and to do for other localities what he had done for Lake St. John. He roundly rated those who sought to create dangerous prejudices in this affair by claiming that he was working only for the rich sportsmen, showing these demagogues that the farmers were equally interested with the rich sportsmen in the protection of fish, and that many of them fished with rod and line just as

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the city sportsmen did. The paltry consideration of a few votes would never deter him from doing his duty.

Hon. Mr. Prevost was loudly applauded upon resuming his seat, and said that so far as Mr. Mousseau's suggestion was concerned, he saw no objection to the spearing of eels, so long as the form of spear used possessed no danger for other fish.

The first paragraph of the report was then adopted.

On the second resolution, Mr. E. T. D. Chambers pointed out that it was unreasonable to ask for both a greater number of guardians, and higher salaries. There was now a regular army of these guardians, but most of them did nothing at all, because there were too many of them for the government to be able to pay them adequate salaries. He advocated fewer guardians instead of more, but the payment of proper salaries.

Hon. Mr. Prevost pointed out that he would be most willing to fall in with the former suggestion for the increase of guardians were it not for the limited funds at the disposal of the government for the purpose. He explained that the plan now under consideration was to reduce the number of wardens, but to increase their salaries to such a point that they would be able to devote their entire time and interest to

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the protection of game. His idea was to have the province divided into six or eight districts with one man in charge of each, with a change of district every year.

The paragraph in question of the report was then amended and passed, to read as follows:—

“That this Convention recommends a better system of fish inspection, which it believes would be best accomplished by the division of the province into six or eight districts, with suitable men in charge of each, to whom salaries will be paid commensurate with the work which they will be called upon to perform.”

All the other clauses of the report of the committee were adopted with the understanding that the recommendations relative to close seasons for certain kinds of fish would be forwarded to the federal government, within whose province this matter of close seasons lies.

Fur-Bearing Animals

Mr. L. A. Boyer, Secretary of the Committee on Fur-bearing animals then presented the report of the Committee, which was adopted, with the exception of one paragraph recommending that there be a close season for two years for otter and mink. This recommendation was struck out at the request of the President of the Congress, Hon. Mr. Prevost.

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The report of the Committee, as adopted, was as follows:—

“The Committee after due consideration have decided to recommend that section No. 1, relating to beaver remain as at present, viz. close season until 1903. That the section relating to marten, pekan, fox and raccoon remain as at present.

The Committee recommend that the section relating to hares be amended and that the close season should be from the 1st day of February to the 1st day of October.

We also recommend that the close season for bear be from the 1st day of May until the 31st of October; and that the close season for muskrat remain as at present.

The Committee recommends that the bounty on wolves be increased.

That this Committee fully approves of the recommendation of the Minister that the trade that now exists in our fur-bearing animals should be made to contribute in a substantial manner to the revenue derived by the province from Game licenses.”

Mr. Gaston de Montigny remarked that he was sorry that the congress had not had the time to take up the important questions of pisciculture and of the raising of fur-bearing animals. He also drew attention to the devastation made

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among our fur-bearing animals by the Hudson Bay Company, which contributed nothing to the provincial revenue, and would probably evade any attempt to reach it by shipping its furs out by way of Hudson Bay. He thought it was time that it ceased to exist.

Votes of Thanks

Mr. W. H. Parker moved, seconded by Mr. R. E. Plumb of Detroit, "That the thanks of this Conference are due and are hereby tendered to the Hon. Mr. Prevost for having invited the friends of fish and game protection in the province of Quebec to offer their suggestions on this occasion; also for the many valuable reforms promised by him, as well as for his able, courteous and dignified conduct in the chair. That this Convention prays Divine Providence that Hon. Mr. Prevost may long be spared to occupy his present official position and to carry out his promised reforms."

The resolution was put to the convention by Mr. Mackenzie, M.P.P., amid great enthusiasm, and was unanimously adopted, after it had been warmly supported by Mr. A. Kelly Evans of Toronto, Mr. Arthur Plante, ex-M.P.P., and others.

On motion of Messrs. Chambers and Panet, thanks were voted to the Manager of the Wind-

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sor Hotel, Mr. W. S. Weldon, for the use of the hall for meeting place, and to the railways for reduced fares.

Hon Mr. Prevost thanked the Convention for the resolution of thanks tendered him, and all those who had attended in response to his invitation. He also thanked the sportsmen of Ontario and the United States for their presence, and the journalists for their excellent reports of the proceedings, and declared the Convention at an end.



THE MINISTER BANQUETTED

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At the close of the Convention, the Annual Banquet of the Province of Quebec Fish and Game Protective Association was held at the Windsor Hotel, presided over by Dr. John T. Finnie and Hon. Jean Prevost being the guest of honor.

Commenting upon this function next morning, the *Montreal Gazette* said :

"In direct contrast to last year's affair, when the principal speech of the evening had been directed in criticism of the provincial Government, the forty-seventh dinner of the Province of Quebec Association for the Protection of Fish and Game was devoted to eulogy of the present administration, and particularly of the efforts being made by Hon. Mr. Prevost to reform the evils which for so many years the association had striven to remove."

