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Game and Inland Fishery Protection Service.

REPORT OF SECRETARY,

FOR
1894.

*Mr. President and Council of Game and I. F. P. Society of Nova
Scotia:*

GENTLEMEN,—

The efforts of your Society to enforce the Game Laws of the Province have not in any way been relaxed through the past year. Since my last report we have secured a number of convictions, which we never would have been able to have obtained, had you not offered a reward of \$50.00 to any person who would provide evidence that would convict the culprit for killing moose or caribou contrary to the laws. There was also \$20.00 offered for small game, which was but once claimed and paid.

The past hunting season has been most favorable for the protection of moose; during the calling time the nights and mornings were too windy, and since then it has just been the reverse; when snow came it was generally followed by rain and frost, making bad hunting; notwithstanding a number were killed, but not nearly so many as if the weather had been more favorable. But few moose were snared in comparison with former years, owing to the vigilant lookout that was kept on the snarers by our officers. In some localities there were a few snares seized, and in one instance the offender was caught in the act of skinning the unfortunate animal. These unlawful hunters are finding out that it is unprofitable business, losing their snares and time, besides running the risk of being caught in the act.

I beg to call your attention to what I consider would be a great boon to the preservation of our game (I would except rabbits) viz., that game should not be an article of commerce. By prohibiting the sale, it would tend more to increase all varieties of game than any law that can be put on the statute book.

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It will be seen that the work in which the Society is now engaged is a great drain on its funds; therefore, I suggest that you make a strong appeal to the Provincial Government for further assistance, as we are now completely tied up for funds to carry out the law as it should be, and as our large game has so perceptibly increased, it would be criminal for the want of a few hundred dollars to let them diminish. To prove how much more plentiful moose are, there was one yarded this winter between Otter Lake and Nine Mile River, not more than seven miles from the city. Mr. John Mason, St. Margaret's Bay, informs me that a yard of six were seen near Ingram River, as well as numerous signs. He also reports a herd of caribou near Indian River—incidents that have not occurred for the last thirty years.

Caribou are almost extinct in the Western Counties, but are quite numerous in the eastern part of the province and in Cape Breton, quite a number having been killed.

The few pheasants that were imported by the Society in the spring of '93, have largely added to their numbers and are spreading; I have not heard of one having been shot or otherwise destroyed; the country people take much interest in their welfare.

I would advise the purchase of a few hens, as there are more cocks than should be.

Your Council have made arrangements with a gentleman in Kentville, who is about importing a number of birds from England, for the purpose of suppling the Society, or persons who might require them, with eggs at the rate of \$2.00 per dozen, which is much cheaper than they can be imported from England, and being fresh would yield a much larger percentage of birds. A gentleman writes from Kentville that the pheasants put out there have extended over a large area, and from what information he can glean from the neighboring sportsmen, there are quite a number of birds about Kentville. He only knows of one having been shot, and he thinks by accident, as it was left on the road side.

The reward of \$100.00 offered by the Society for the conviction of Henry Day, of Jeddore, for snaring, has never been claimed.

COMMISSIONER ARCHIBALD, Sheet Harbor, is pleased to report that there were but few violations of the Game Laws in his district. Last February two Indians killed a cow moose near the shore at Sheet Harbor. He had them convicted and the necessary papers made out for their committal to jail; he advises that they be held over them rather than to put them in force, and they can be used when occasion requires.

Mr. ARCHIBALD says that Mr. Warren, of Neudie Quoddy, found a fine buck moose in a snare with pole attached. The animal had evidently carried the pole from some distance from where he was caught, and the owner of the snare was unable to follow the trail. When Mr. Warren came upon the poor beast he was alive, but reduced

to a skeleton and his bruises full of maggots. Seeing the state he was in he put him out of his agony. The owner of the snare is well known, but positive proof is wanting.

Mr. ARCHIBALD states that two red deer were seen at Sheet Harbor this fall and that shot by Mr. Gladwin was no doubt one of them. He does not give Mr. Gladwin the credit for ignorance. Moose are fast increasing in his district. He only knows of twenty having been killed the past season. As to their being all bulls, that is best known to those who shot them. He considers the law, with regard to cows, simply a farce, the carrying out of which is next to impossible. He estimates there are five cows to one bull in his district. Caribou are slowly multiplying, he only knows of two having been killed.

Partridges are more numerous than for many years at Sheet Harbor. They never have any lack of rabbits. He knows of seven bears having been killed. Otters, minks, wild cats and martens are fairly numerous, the latter until a few years past had become almost extinct. Mr. Archibald thinks that otters are well able to take care of themselves.

AGENT DANIEL SMITH, Smithfield, Guysboro, reports moose and caribou plentiful; he also says numbers of young moose in his district are destroyed by bears; a neighbor of his in one day's tramp saw where nine calves had been killed by bears, he having found their skins. He does not know of any having been unlawfully taken. He sent the Society fourteen rope snares; he also found several chain snares which he buried, they being too heavy to carry. He does not say how many were killed in his section.

Mr. W. B. HARLOW, Agent, Caledonia, Queen's County, has pleasure in stating that the Game Laws are beginning to show their good effects in his part of the Province and that large game are steadily increasing. He found but few snares this fall. He sold two licenses for large, and two for feathered game. He says that those who have taken licenses from him do not object to the fee, as it keeps out a certain class that would overrun the country and be no benefit to it. He is glad to be able to say that the people generally are most law abiding, but complain bitterly with regard to the law prohibiting the killing of cow moose. He has not heard of any person having seen the red deer that were put down to the westward of his section; he thinks Indian Gardens would be a perfect spot for a few red deer and they would be protected by all classes, and that Commissioner Crooker would look after them.

Mr. HARLOW finds partridges scarce owing to the quantity of skunks which destroy the eggs and chicks. He thinks that beaver and otter will fast add to their numbers during their three years close season.

Mr. W. S. CROOKER, Commissioner, Brookfield, Queens, states that he has been engaged in the lumber land business in different parts of his county, and has a good opportunity of knowing what is going on; and was the greater part of his time in the woods up to the 15th March, and found moose in abundance and no appearance of their

having been disturbed, notwithstanding there was a good crush for logging. He thinks that with Mr. Harlow's assistance, they have in a great measure stopped snaring. Since last September he has been continually in the woods and sees moose and signs of them wherever he goes, but very few traces of caribou. Partridges are scarce which he attributes to the skunks. He believes that the law regarding the close season for beavers and otters has been strictly adhered to by the trappers. Mr. Crooker complains that a number of men who have hounds go into the woods to hunt wild cats, thereby disturbing the game, and driving the moose out of their haunts.

WILL FAHIE, Agent at East Rawdon and surrounding country reports moose rapidly increasing. In Grand Lake woods there are about 30 moose, western side of Beaver Bank road 10, Nine Mile River woods 5, Kennetcook 35, numbering about 80 in all. He took up four snares the eastern side of Beaver Bank road. There was one moose shot in Grand Lake woods this fall. He is of the opinion that if the open season did not commence until the 1st November, there would be no more snaring, as they are about done running by that time. The old hunters tell him that they see more signs of moose now than they have for the last twenty years. Rabbits and Partridges were unusually plentiful, woodcocks scarce. The number of rabbits snared at Beaver Bank, Mount Uniacke and Grand Lake were about 4,000 pairs. One man snared 1,150 pairs. All partridges that come in the way of these snares are picked up.

DAVID RUMLEY, Agent at Liscomb Mills, Guysboro, reports having seen a herd of caribou of about fifty. One moose was killed by an Indian on 17th September. Mr. Rumley killed one on Christmas day and saw seven others. On the 12th December one very large bull moose, and six Caribou were killed by the Indians. They told Mr. Rumley that they had found a cow moose that had been shot and was decomposed. Mr. R. destroyed a number of snares. He is much annoyed at not having had any licenses sent him.

ALBERT BIGMY, Commissioner, Wentworth, Cumberland Co., reports moose numerous, but few were killed in first of the season, and the law has not been violated as much as formerly. It was reported to him that a cow moose was shot by an Indian at head of River Phillip, but he could not obtain satisfactory evidence to convict. He writes that more partridges have been taken this year, than ever known before, owing to the time for shooting them commencing so early; he thinks that they should not be killed before the 1st or 15th October, and end 15th December; also that the open season for moose and caribou should be from 10th October to 1st February. He thinks that the commissioners should be consulted when any alterations in the law are to be made.

DAVID FREEMAN, Agent, Kempt, Queen's County, states that he has kept a vigilant lookout for poachers in his section; he visited a piece of woods where he had reason to believe that they were at work,

and succeeded in finding seven snares; three were set for the leg, and four for the neck. As he was many miles from home and alone, he could do nothing more than destroy them. Moose are fast multiplying in that quarter. He has almost put a stop to dogging; whenever there is a crust, he takes one course, and his assistant another, and as dogs can be heard a long way off, their owners can be easily detected. During the calling time there were only three moose shot, owing to bad weather; later on there were six killed. The weather throughout was anything but good for hunting. No caribou have been taken this year, and are becoming a rare animal in Queen's County. Partridges are not as plentiful as last year. There is no scarcity of hares. Mr. Freeman was called upon for two licenses, but none having been sent him, he was unable to supply them; a third party called for one, and, supposing from a letter he had just received from me, that licenses were on the way, he took the \$10.00 and gave the stranger a permit to hunt, and mailed the money to me, which was paid into the Provincial Secretary's Office by the Chief Game Commissioner.

JOHN DALY, Agent, Digby, received 11 red deer from New Brunswick, 5 bucks and 6 does; one of each sex was injured on the journey by rough handling and died from the effects. One pair were sent to Yarmouth and the others were put out in Digby County. They cost, landed at Digby, \$15.25. The Society paid \$81.10, the balance being made up by Mr. Daly and his friends. Mr. Daly has the thanks of the Society as well as all sportsmen for the labour and trouble he has had. A fine buck was seen in October, about a mile from Digby; he swam across the Basin about 4 miles to Granville, and was seen landing by some fishermen; not finding company he returned to his old quarters 10 days later. Mr. Daly says he is satisfied that the does are quite contented, as they have been seen by the Indians at different times with their young, not more than six miles from where they were put down. He thinks that if the Game Society would assist him he would be able to get about 8 or 10 does more to add to what we have already. Mr. Daly remarks that bull moose are a rare animal in his part of the country; he was told by a man who was hunting about the latter part of November, after a light snow, that he saw 14 moose, and only two of them were bulls, one of which he shot. At the same time another hunter, in a different locality, saw a large number of cows and shot two bulls. He brought an action against three men for snaring a moose on the 28th October. One made off to the States, one was fined \$50.00, and the other was discharged, as the witness could not swear positively to his being the right man. The one convicted has appealed; the case will be tried in February, in the County Court. The above was the only case of snaring brought to his notice this fall. Mr. Daly writes that there have not been so many moose killed this year as last. He thinks that any person shooting a moose should be compelled to produce the head before a Magistrate or Agent; as it is, he is sure that there are many cows killed. Mr. Daly wishes to call

your attention to the fact that the trout fishing in his County is fast being destroyed by Indians, who catch tons of these fish and sell to middlemen, who ship them in ice to Boston. He hopes you will take action in matter. Woodcock were about as numerous as usual, but did not stay so late this fall as last.

MR. JOHN BOWER, Agent, Shelburne, reports that large game in his county are fast adding to their numbers. This he considers due to the officers of the Society being always on the alert in seeing that the Game Laws are carried out; he is pleased to say that there has been only a suspicion of one moose having been snared. He only found six snares set this year; infringements of this kind are diminishing year by year. Partridges were more plentiful this fall than for the last two years. Wild geese are beginning to stay about our rivers and lakes more than they formerly did. Woodcocks and wild pigeons are almost a thing of the past in Shelburne. Mr. Bower states that the Clyde River has been cleared of all obstructions, after having been closed for the last thirty-five years. It is literally teeming with salmon, gaspereaux and trout. Mr. Bower strongly recommends that the Society should petition the Dominion Government to stop the exportation of trout. Parties come over from the adjoining counties, set their nets in the head waters of the rivers, and make a clean sweep of most of the fish; then ship them to Boston. He also suggests that there should be a close season of three years for bull moose, or while the close season for cows lasts.

C. R. KELLEY, Agent Yarmouth, during the last year sold to aliens six large game and two feathered game licenses amounting to \$200.00. He had two sportsmen brought before a magistrate for hunting wild fowl without first obtaining a license; as they pleaded ignorance of the law, they were discharged upon paying for their licenses and costs. He had two natives brought before the court for shooting duck before the 15th September; they each paid \$5.00 and costs. Mr. Kelly also prosecuted an Indian for killing more than two moose; he was convicted and sent to jail. Mr. K. states that he has kept a strict watch with good effect in the vicinity of Kemptville and Rockingham, where in years past there has been a great deal of poaching done. In the lower and southern part of the county, and the country between Argyle and Barrington, many complaints are made against persons who come from Oakley Park and set snares from the foot of Great Pubnico Lake and eastward of the Clyde. He put two reliable men in this section; they found a great many snares set, but failed to get sufficient evidence to convict the guilty parties. Other persons reported to Mr. K. that when hunting they had destroyed a number of snares. Mr. K. is now prosecuting a man for snaring a cow moose, and he thinks there is no doubt that he will be convicted. There has not been so many moose taken this year as last, partly on account of the close season for cows. Mr. Kelley was informed by some hunters that they had found two cow moose shot, and left in the woods, no doubt by some one who fired

at them in mistake for bulls, and were afraid to bring them out to the settlement. He is not aware of any dogging having been done in his county last spring. He does not think there are any caribou in Yarmouth County. The Red Deer that were purchased by a few local sportsmen from Mr. Daly, were put out near Rockingham, Yarmouth County, and are reported as having been seen at different times and are doing well. Otters and Beavers are scarce, but will no doubt increase during the three years close season. Mr. K. strongly recommends that the snaring of rabbits should be abolished, as many persons leave their snares set during the close season, and by so doing pick up the few partridges left to breed. Game taken in this way is not fit for human food, as they are strangled, and numbers are left to rot in the snares, or to be eaten by wild animals and birds. The case which has been pending in the courts for some time against S. W. Marling for snaring moose, has been settled in the County Court, and judgment obtained against him.

GEO. W. FRASER, Agent, Lower Caledonia, Guysborough, says that moose have had a hard time of it in this section, with snares and unlawful hunters. He destroyed many snares this fall; he knows of only one moose having been caught in that way; he followed the offender for two days, but failed to catch him. Moose are abundant in his part of the country; and there are many more cows than bulls. Mr. Fraser was in the woods on the 21st December, not one mile from his home, and started three from their yard.

JOHN H. CONDON, Agent, Walton, Hants Co., states that he only found where one snare had been set this fall, but that had been taken up, the offender hearing that he was in the woods. No moose have been taken during the last season. There was quite a number of woodcock in the latter part of October and no scarcity of partridges and hares.

L. D. SUTHERLAND, Agent, Lorndale, Colchester Co., reports that on the 19th September, while looking for snares, he found a dead moose with a rope on his leg; it was decomposed, he destroyed two other snares the same day. Partridges were not so numerous this season as last. Martens, minks and otters hold their own in his neighborhood. He asks if it would be possible to put a stop to fishing through the ice in April in his district, as by so doing the trout fishing is being fast destroyed.

A. F. HALIBURTON, Agent, Baddeck, C. B., not having any licenses, had to give a tourist a permit to shoot. Mr. Haliburton says he has reason to believe that numbers of strangers who come there violate the Game Laws; he has been trying to get persons in outlying districts to assist him in carrying out the Game Laws, and hopes to succeed better hereafter. He heard of snares being set, but had no funds to employ men to go to the hunting grounds to look after them.

EDMUND JENNER, Agent, Sherbrooke, Guysboro' County, reports partridges and the close season well observed, snipe scarce, woodcock

bred in large numbers around Sherbrooke. There are a great many moose between St. Mary's and Ecum Secum River. Mr. C. Pye shot two one afternoon within a few miles of his house. Others have also killed their allowance of both caribou and moose; the former are returning to this part of the Province. Mr. W. R. Cameron saw two pheasants near the head of St. Mary's River early in the season. It was reported to Mr. Jenner that a number of moose snares were set between Indian Harbor and Country Harbor this fall. The moose are beginning to return to this district in which they were extinct a few years ago. Mr. Jenner thinks there should be an agent appointed at Country Harbor. He also thinks that if the reward offered by the Society were published in the Eastern Chronicle and Gazette it would be the means of picking up some of the depredators. He does not approve of the law relative to cow moose, nor to the close time for otters, as far as Guysboro and East Halifax are concerned; they are very numerous in the streams of that vicinity and destroy vast numbers of salmon and trout. Very few salmon were taken with the fly and the nets did nothing in most cases. The trout fishing was good; he killed over seven hundred trout in the Gaspereaux and St. Mary's Rivers. The dam on the former is badly constructed and should have a fish way put in at once. Mr. McQuarrie, Dominion Fishery Inspector, gives all the assistance possible to Mr. Jenner in keeping the streams open during the time the fish are running. Mr. Jenner has been informed that an impassable dam had been placed on Indian River, near Beckerton. This river is one of the finest trout streams in Nova Scotia.

Mr. Jenner considers that game is increasing in his County, and if snaring and dogging could be stopped, moose would be very plentiful in a few years.

COMMISSIONER DONALD ROSS, N. E. Margaree, C. B., sent his report but it has gone astray. The following is from one of his letters. He made several searching visits to the different barrens and did not find a single violation of the law. Caribou are very numerous, and moose are slowly increasing. He is of the opinion that his district is without doubt the best hunting ground in the Province for the first mentioned game. Twenty-six caribou and one moose were killed this season. There were a great many partridges and woodcock in the vicinity of Margaree.

DR. C. W. BLISS, Amherst, reports as follows: Since the 5th February last, which was practically the end of the open season for moose and caribou at that time, much interest has been shown in the work of the Society, both in Cumberland County and in the Province generally. General satisfaction is expressed among sportsmen, both at the shortening of the season for moose and caribou to the 15th January, and also the prohibition of the killing of cow moose. Last year, at this time, I knew of 11 cow moose being killed in the County, this year

only two, the first out of season (September 1); the offender was convicted in two counts and two more are awaiting him. It was a cow moose,—snared,—out of season,—and having in possession out of season; 4 counts in all. The second cow was, I believe, a cow snared by an Indian. This case has not yet been pushed by the Society. We are gathering evidence in several other cases of suspected breaking of the law, notably one for dogging a wounded moose in a cruel manner. This case will soon be on. It is much to be regretted that the law does not allow a fine or a long term of imprisonment at the option of the court. In the case above mentioned the man was worth nothing and the whole number of days in jail would not amount to forty. The State of Maine is now following our example and a law is to be passed prohibiting the killing of cow moose (see St. John "Sun," Jan. 2, '95). What the Society wants is more money, as the rewards must be paid and most of the offenders are too poor to pay the fines. We have secured three convictions for the year and will convict, I am sure, in the dogging case mentioned. I have had 8 snares taken set, and a number of others were destroyed and 5 removed by the owners at one place upon their hearing of the approach of the Society men. The past season was most favorable for snaring on account of the scarcity of water. The calling season was very favorable for the moose, being windy nearly all the time in this County. Very few moose have been killed so far. There has been no snow until the past four days. Of course cows have been killed in the county; but the new law has undoubtedly saved the lives of many at the hands of sportsmen. The owners of dogs used for illegal hunting are well known, and they are being watched by those they little suspect. These men are all well to do and will enrich the Society if we can catch them. It is all a question of money in this County at least. Given enough money, the moose can be almost absolutely protected.

A little monthly publication, *Fin, Fur and Feather*, of Amherst has done much to inform every one interested, of the Game Laws, and to aid the Society in many ways.

Grouse were plentiful and large numbers were killed. Hares are unusually numerous and have had a warm time of it with their white fur and no snow on the ground to protect them. The protection of the blue winged duck and teal will prove the means of greatly improving sport. Snipe were conspicuous by their absence, the past season being too dry for successful boring operations. Woodcock we have none worth speaking of, except in the vicinity of Pugwash.

BRANCH SOCIETY.

J. R. RUGGLES, Lockport, reports as follows,—The move made here in regard to protection of Game, by the formation of a Branch Society in June last, has done much to prohibit illicit killing. I placed the large posters in every store and public office here and sent

them to all outside places to be posted up. The small cards containing the Abstract of Game Laws I handed to all persons in outlying sections, who were known to me as sportsmen, and also to as many others as possible. The effect has just been what I anticipated when I wrote you about this matter last spring. Each man is now watching to see that his neighbor gets no advantage over him in the matter of game. In only one instance have we reason to suspect that moose have been illegally killed. In regard to this case we cannot as yet get information sufficiently definite but hope to. The party is an old transgressor and very careful to cover his tracks. We suspect it to be a case of snaring, not a new offence by this party. The usual amount of meat openly exposed in market here has been wanting this season as the result of our movement. Only in the one instance referred to was moose meat reported to be in market out of season, and then the matter was kept so quiet by those who bought, that it was a long while before any report of it became public. These parties were fined \$5 each for shooting snipe out of season. With these exceptions not a single case of infraction of the law in regard to game has come to our notice. In previous years partridges were offered for sale here during the entire winter. As to the quantity of game in this vicinity, I may say that moose were never known to be so plentiful. Nearly every party of hunters were successful in getting one. Partridge and hare have been decreasing for several years past. Trout have been less plentiful in some of our best lakes in recent years than formerly, owing to fact that large quantities have been taken through the ice every winter. We hope to put a stop to this. All known offenders will be duly notified that an infraction of the law in this particular will lead to trouble. No applications for licenses were made to me last season, and it is just as well because no blanks ever came to hand in answer to my applications therefor. I trust you will forward me some in due time this season.

CHAS. CLARKE, Agent, Lake Jolly, Digby County, reports as follows: There have been 25 moose killed in his section, the greater number of them by *still* hunting. He notices that there are a great many young moose. Snaring in his district has been most effectually stopped by keeping a sharp watch; but the Game Laws are openly violated by persons living back of Weymouth, and numbers of snares are set each year in the vicinity of Uniacke and Lower Wallace Lakes. He sent men in the woods twice this season and secured 20 snares. He learns from parties who have been in the woods back of New Tusket that snaring is carried on there to an alarming extent, and he thinks more thorough measures should be taken to stamp out this nefarious practice in that locality. He also thinks that the change made last year confining the killing of bulls only a mistake, as it is next to impossible when still hunting to see enough of the animal to tell its sex, and the shooting of so many males will leave a great many barren cows. He recommends a close season of three years, strictly enforced, thereby the

future of the moose would be assured. Mr. Clarke saw when cutting hay on the south side of Lake Jolly numerous signs of the red deer and their young, and later on, several have been seen looking sleek and fat, showing that they had wintered well. He thinks that if this number could be supplemented by as many more does we would soon have a good showing of this attractive game. Partridges seem to be dying out. Mr. Clarke would like to get a few settings of pheasant's eggs, as he thinks that Bear River is a most perfect place for them. Bears and otters very scarce. Martens extinct. He trusts that the legislation passed at the last session of our Local Legislature, incorporating the Rossignol Land Co., may forever prove inoperative, as it sounds the death knell of large game in western Nova Scotia, should the Act be made operative.

COMMISSIONER PRITCHARD, New Glasgow, reports as follows:—The Indian is now the greatest obstacle there is to contend with in carrying out the Game Laws. John Cope, Indian, brought out of the woods last winter the carcasses of 15 moose, the majority of which I have every reason to believe he had killed himself on the borders of Halifax and Guysboro' Counties. He evaded the law by taking with him several Indians consisting of men and boys. John Martin, Indian, brought out 5 carcasses in the same way. I succeeded in obtaining the testimony of the witness against him, but it was so vague that I failed in obtaining a conviction. The former, John Cope, I had no substantial evidence against. I obtained convictions against two men, Hudson and Hallett, of Country Harbor, in Guysboro' County, for hunting and killing moose out of season, but with a great deal of labor and expense which might partly have been avoided had the constables done their duty. The accompanying letter of Mr. Jenner will explain. The reward of \$50.00 was claimed by Mr. Geo. W. Fraser, your agent at Lower Caledonia, and paid by me to him for information.

From my own observations and reliable testimony of others, I am able to report that moose are as plentiful in this district as they were the season before last, but at least two-thirds of them are cows. I called your attention to this fact in my last report. The decrease of the bull moose in this district I wish particularly to bring under your notice. Very few moose were killed in this district last season with the ball or by the snare, save by the Indians, and the law in reference to the cows was not to my knowledge violated. I have received valuable assistance in enforcing the law from Mr. Jenner, your agent at Sherbrooke, and from Mr. Geo. W. Fraser, of Lower Caledonia. I have also to acknowledge the courtesy of several sportsmen who have informed me of the locality of snares.

Partridges were more numerous last season than they have been for 20 years in this district. The destruction of these birds was very great last fall. It appears to me that the opening season is too early by a fortnight than it should be, as the birds bagged in September are

far too small for sport, and consequently the slaughter by boys is enormous. On the 1st of October they would be pairing off and the coveys would be scattering.

A financial statement of the Society will be given to you by the Treasurer, copies of which will be laid on the table for your examination.

There has been \$1928.00 disbursed since your last annual meeting, leaving a balance to your credit in the bank of \$215.43.

GEO. PIERS,
Secretary.