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# THE CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST.

No. 4

MONTREAL, APRIL 15th, 1881.

VOL. I.

## OUR SUCCESS.

When this journal was issued in January, it was with a sanguine anticipation that it would be well received by our Canadian people, among whom are many true sportsmen and students of Natural Science. We have not been disappointed; the list of subscribers has steadily increased, and we have now several of the most intelligent men in the Dominion supporting it. The periodical is therefore a success. We have a clear path before us, and our promises will be fulfilled.

## THE MINGAN RIVER.

Mingan is an old Hudson Bay trading post, in bye-gone days the most important and remunerative belonging to the Hudson Bay Company. A short distance east from the store houses, the good old river enters saltwater; one may say almost opposite the west point of the Island of Anticosti. Correctly speaking, the river has but two pools; yet, when there is a good run of fish, with proper management, three rods may be employed with comfort. There is no house near the pools; the surroundings have, therefore, wild charms to a stranger, and these arise principally from its historic associations as a camping-ground and retreat of British military officers from the Garrison of Quebec. Between the coast and the falls, the river takes the form of a crescent. A tributary enters it on the left, called the "Manitou," having a pool and fall of ten feet. Doubtless, salmon pass through this branch to their spawning-beds. At the base of the "Manitou" falls, we caught sea and brook trout, and it was here that we obtained the knowledge that *Salmo fontinalis* visited the sea. When Mingan was visited by us in 1868, the river was leased by Sir Greville Smyth, of England. The following occurs in our note-book:—

Arrived on July 16th, and was hospitably received by Peter Mackenzie, Esq., in charge of the post. The river, although narrow, is pretty as one follows it inland. It has abundance of sand-banks at its mouth; a grand estuary where the best of sea trout fishing can be had at this season. A tributary called the "Manitou" enters it about half-way from its entrance to the sea, and the fishing-pools are of easy access.

The gentlemen then fishing it, were almost daily tormented by Indians representing that they had nothing to eat, consequently they were supplied with as much food as Sir G. Smyth and his party could spare. But the supply of salmon given to them by the anglers was not considered sufficient to satisfy the Indians in camp at Mingan. One of the crafty aborigenes circulated a report among the tribe that he had seen a white man gaff a salmon in the whirlpool at the base of the falls. The report took well among the hungry Indians, and they at once determined to follow the white man's example. They notified the fishery guardian of their intention, and, on the following Sunday, a number of Indians entered their canoes to proceed to the falls where they speared several fish before the guardian could prevent them. The whirlpool of the Mingan is an extraordinary pot or round hole at the base of the fall, where a great force of water is kept in a continual circular motion. In this pot or whirlpool, in July, innumerable salmon circle, each awaiting its chance to leap to the first lodge. Here then, with spear in hand, did the Indians take their sweet revenge, procuring all the fish they required. The Mingan Indians should not then go to the pool for salmon, they were allowed by the Government the privilege to net trout near the mouth of the river. However, this grant appears to have been disregarded by them. They had trout

nets, but were too lazy to use them; they always prefer the spear.

The Labrador Indians state that the country in which they reside belongs to God and themselves. They are, therefore, suspicious of strangers occupying the rivers. These people come down invariably to the south coast in summer to trade off their furs, and attend the mission. They return to their hunting grounds in August and September.

#### MIGRATION OF SHAD.

In the March number, we gave a query, asking for information as to the distance Shad has been seen in inland waters. We are told that this fish has been taken in Lake Ontario, near Hamilton. Some of our readers may have been puzzled regarding the question, but our object was to show that if Shad migrated annually from the salt water to Lake Ontario, therefore there cannot be any obstacle in the way of Salmon bred in Ontario from reaching the sea.

#### THE GEOLOGICAL MUSEUM.

In 1877, the Hon. Mr. Mills, then Minister of the Interior, introduced a Bill in the Commons of Canada, "To make better provision respecting the Geological Survey of Canada, and for the maintenance of the museum in connection therewith." The Act was carried by the late administration. The removal of the Geological Survey from Montreal to Ottawa was then decided by sec. 6, as follows:—"The Governor in Council may, whenever he thinks fit, direct the removal of the Geological Museum, and the officers and others connected with the Geological Survey Branch of the Department of the Interior, to the City of Ottawa." This is now being carried out by the present Government. Referring to sections 2 and 3 of the Bill it will be seen that a new feature appears—viz: Zoology—in fact the Hon. David Mills specially framed it (Dominion Statutes, 1877, chap. 9, p. 49) to

include all branches of Natural History, in order to form a museum of a National character, useful for reference to all interested, and likely to prove beneficial to the general public of the Dominion. It will therefore be seen that the intention of the Government in removing the Geological collections permanently to Ottawa, is to establish near the seat of Government, a museum similar to that of the Smithsonian Institution, Patent Office and Department of the Interior at Washington, in the United States. This is doubtless a correct view of the matter. If Mr. Mills' Bill is legally and thoroughly carried out, Montreal will certainly lose the benefit of the Survey collection, but in future, as a National Museum, the Dominion as a whole, will be fully compensated. It would be well, however, for the Government to consider the propriety of presenting duplicates of minerals and fossils from the Surveys Collection to the new museum of McGill University, where the citizens of Montreal and interested visitors could have an opportunity of examining them.

#### QUERIES.

Among the wild ducks occurring in the Dominion are three species belonging to the genus BUCEPHALUS, viz: Barrow's Duck, or the Iceland Golden-eye, (*B. Icelandica*, Baird); The common Golden-eye, (*B. Americana*, Baird); [The second species has its white cheek-spots almost circular, while the cheek-spots on *Icelandica* are pyriform,] and the Butter-ball or Buffle-head (*B. albeola*, Baird). Barrow's Golden-eye nest in trees, entering a hole like the wood duck. A nest of the Iceland or Barrow's duck was found in a tree at Missisquoi Bay, in the Province of Quebec; it contained nine eggs. Can any of our readers give us information regarding the nomenclature of the common Golden-eye and the Butter-ball? We notice that the Michigan Sportsman's Association have lately placed the above ducks under the old genus FULIGULA.

In a published list of birds found on the Island of Newfoundland, by Henry Reeks, F.L.S., occur two Western ducks, viz:—the Gadwall (*Chaulelasmus streperus* Linn), and the baldpate (*Mareca Americana* Gmelin). The latter is stated to be a common summer migrant. To our knowledge the former has not yet been shot in the Province of Quebec, and the latter is extremely rare. We would be thankful for further information regarding their occurrence in Newfoundland.

How many species of Black Bass occur in the Province of Quebec? Agassiz described a Black Bass from Lake Superior which attains a large size, averaging from fifteen to thirty pounds. We think he named this species *Huro Vulpus*, and it was at one time common in Ashbridge's Bay Marsh, near Toronto.

#### WOODCOCK GROUNDS.

We have always found it difficult to procure correct information regarding the best woodcock covers in this Province. Sportsmen who know of good localities which they visit annually, keep quiet on the subject. There are, doubtless, many excellent woodcock grounds within a day's trip from Montreal, and it is our intention when they are discovered, to give the lovers of this kind of sport, the benefit, that they may visit them in proper season. We have been informed that there are several good covers on the south side of the St. Lawrence, viz: La Prairie and Lacadie. On the south side of the Richelieu, at Rouville, St. John Baptiste and St. Pie. That the springs where woodcock occur in the latter region, embrace a circumference of twelve miles. Now, gentlemen, do not be jealous in regard to this matter; give us information that we may be led to localities where good sport can be obtained.

#### MESSINA QUAIL.

An order has been sent from this city for 200 Messina or migratorial Quail. On their arrival it is intended to release the birds in the neighborhood of Lachine.

What became of the Quail which were brought to Quebec and Montreal last year for acclimatization? We are anxious to hear from those interested in their introduction.

## Correspondence.

### "THE BARRED OWL."

To the Editor of THE CANADIAN SPORTSMAN AND NATURALIST:

DEAR SIR,—Referring to the article under above heading in January number, the following statement may not be uninteresting to your many readers:—The Barred Owl, *Syrnium nebulosum*, has been taken this winter in and adjacent to this city in unusual quantities. So much so that, that mythical personage yclept "the oldest inhabitant" fails to recall to his or her memory anything like it. The cause of the same occurrence in such abundance in the vicinity of Montreal, you say, may possibly be on account of the House Sparrows, which have multiplied greatly of late; but as we have none of the last mentioned birds in this province, and as this has not been considered by any means a severe season, some other reason must therefore be assigned. The above owl is found here every winter, more or less.

Mr. J. H. Carnall, taxidermist, of this city, has had in his store, this winter, "at one time seventy-five" Barred Owls, and has put up since last November over "one hundred skins." The greater number were captured in the months of November and December last. Can any of your readers account for this phenomenon? In addition to the above Mr. C. has mounted 22 Great Horned Owls, *Bubo Virginianus*; 9 Snowy Owls, *Nyctea nivea*; 12 Saw Whet Owls, *Nyctale Aculia*; 2 Long Eared Owls, *Otus Wilsonianus*; 1 Richardson's Owl, *Nyctale Richardsonii*, and several Hawk Owls, *Surnia ulula*. So you see STRIGIDAE have been well represented. About a fortnight ago *S. nebulosum* was seen in King's Square, situated in the centre of this city.

I am, yours truly,

R. ROWE.

St. John, N.B., March 7, 1881.

The above is from an esteemed friend, a sportsman and a lover of Natural History; one who has an acute eye when viewing Ornithological or other objects. When he says that

the European Sparrow does not occur in St. John, and that the season "has not been considered by any means severe," we believe him. The Barred Owl, however, visited several Canadian cities during the early part of the winter, and they were seen killing House Sparrows in the city of Montreal. We advance three reasons in order to account for the unusual occurrence of STRIGIDÆ in cities. 1st. It may have been a prolific year, commonly called a "metropolis year" of the species. 2nd. The severe weather in the northern woodlands would probably prevent an extraordinary number of the birds from obtaining food. 3rd. The introduction of the Domestic Sparrow having induced other rapacious birds, such as the Shrike, &c., to remain with us during winter, leads to the supposition that FALCONIDÆ and STRIGIDÆ would visit the cities to have their share of the importation. We are at a loss to account for the occurrence of the Barred Owl in such numbers in the city of St. John. It occurs to us that a prolific year and want of winter food of those bred on the Northern coast of the Lower St. Lawrence, would cause them to make their flight to more southern localities, consequently crossing the range of the latter city.—Ed.

#### RARA FELIS.

There was trapped last week in the Township of Dummer, within a few miles of the Town of Peterboro', a very rare animal—rare, at least, as far as this County, or perhaps, I may say as far as this Province, is concerned, viz: a red Lynx. It is a male, and judging by its teeth, at least six or seven years old. Its measurements are as follows: Length from ears to insertion of tail, 30 inches; height to shoulder, 20 inches; breadth of forehead 5 inches; length of tail, 6½ inches. Weight 30 lbs. The neck is immensely muscular, but the eyes, claws, and teeth are not so large as those of the Canadian Lynx, *Felis canadensis*. The color is reddish fawn, mottled with brown, with wavy stripes on the inside of the legs; a dark stripe along the back; tip of tail black; throat white; with whitish spots at back of either ear. The man on whose

farm the animal was trapped, had noticed its spoor, very different from the tracks of the Canadian Lynx, for four or five years past, and had shot at it last year, one of the buck-shot being found in the body after it was killed. I saw it soon after it was brought into town, as well as after it had been flayed. It was in excellent condition, quite fat. It had recently killed two sheep, and had probably lived during the winter months on hares (*Lepus Americanus*) which abound in the neighborhood; occasionally, perhaps, varying its menu with *perdrix au naturel*, or a stray squirrel or other small rodents.

VINCENT CLEMENT.

Peterboro', March 21, 1881.

NOTE.—The above is probably the American Wild Cat, *Lynx rufus*, an animal not known to occur in the Province of Quebec. About twenty years ago, it was more abundant in Western Canada. We are sorry to learn that this rare quadruped has been flayed, as the specimen would be quite an acquisition to any Canadian Museum. If the skull is not lost we would be glad to examine it.—Ed.

#### DEERS HORNS, &c.

SIR,—Thank you very much for being so kind in answering my inquiries relative to my Buck Heads. I am not, however, satisfied for the following reasons:—I understand you to say that no deer can be a Royal buck, but an old animal. Now, being a Taxidermist, in my practice, I have found five heads with the same kind of horns, and I am fully satisfied that one of them was not more than three and a half of four years old. Then the ears are smaller and broader between the eyes, than in *Cervus Virginianus*. Besides my buck has a slight elevation on the nose, at the juncture of the bone and cartilage which I have never noticed in *C. Virginianus*. I wish to tender my thanks for your insertion of the Ontario Game Laws; I feel satisfied that Ontario sportsmen will be glad to see it. I notice that you mention a Gos Hawk having been shot at St. Laurent on the 28th Feb. On the 16th March, I received a very handsome specimen which I have set up. They are not plentiful here; merely showing themselves occasionally. Can you tell me, has a Hawk the power of reasoning? I sometimes think they can reason to a certain extent. I have a tame Sparrow Hawk which is in the

habit of hiding its surplus food ; it always hunts it up when in need of it again. I also possess two great Horned Owls and they also hide their food when satisfied, returning to it again when hungry. Watching the movement of these birds led me to think that they must be able to reason in a small degree. I hope to be soon able to send you an electrotype of my Deer head, so that you can insert it at the head of my advertisement.

I am yours, &c.,

R. B. SCRIVEN.

Gravenhurst, Ont., }  
25th March, 1881.

NOTE.—Mr. Scriven is just the kind of man we want to hear from periodically. His questions are so far interesting and in order, as they invariably lead to the advancement of our knowledge of Natural Science. In regard to the Deer horns, our answer was given in harmony with his description and drawing. We could not answer otherwise, as all the North American *Cervidae* are described. It may be possible that the heads in his possession are those of a supposed deer called the Little Moose, said to occur in the northwestern forests. We have no knowledge of the animal excepting from correspondence. We do not believe birds can reason. They are doubtless provided with acute instinct, and the hiding of food when not required by them is a force of habit derived from the stability of the species through ages past. The crow family possess it to an extraordinary degree ; they not only hide their surplus food but steal and hide every light article they place their eyes on. For instance the European Jackdaw and our Blue-Jay.

SIR,—I see in your March number a letter, signed "Hammerless Greener," in which he states he has made an extraordinary pattern with 2½ drams of powder and ½ an ounce of shot ; but he does not say anything about the penetration. For the last five years I have fired upwards of ten thousand shots at Pettit's Pads, and lately at a Force Gauge made on the same plan as the "Field Gauge" used at the London Gun Trials of 1879, excepting I use a pendulum (3 feet long) with a circular plate 5 inches diameter, instead of a 10 inch plate, attached to a platform suspended by four rods.

I have tried 2½ drams of powder (C. & H's No. 6) and ½ an ounce of No. 6 Newcastle Chilled (270 pellets to the ounce) with three 12 bores by W. W. Greener. I send you the average of 12 shots with the above charge, and also the average of charges that suit my guns best, so that your correspondent can compare them. I always fire from a rest in which the gun is held, the recoil being taken by a leather breeching passed round the heel plate:

Hammerless Gun, 30 inch barrels, weight 8 pounds.

Charge.	Pellets on Gauge, 5 in. diam.	Force per pellet.	Final velocity, ft. per sec.	Pattern, 10 in. circle.	30 in. circle.
2½ dr's p'r, ½ oz. s.t., 4	4	2.12	572	8	97
3½ " " 1 " " 14	14	2.41	651	55	222

No. 2 Gun, 30 inch barrels, weight 8 pounds 10 ozs.

2½ dr's p'r, ½ oz. s.t., 2	2	1.95	526	11	63
3½ " " 1 " " 10	10	2.37	610	43	204

No. 3 Gun, 28 inch barrels, weight 7½ pounds.

2½ dr's p'r, ½ oz. s.t., 7	7	1.80	486	16	71
3½ " " 1 " " 8	8	2.23	602	47	198

Out of the thirty-six shots fired, four balled with No. 3 gun, and one with No. 2 gun. Throughout the trial the pattern was very uneven, being in clusters, appearing as if the shot had balled on leaving the gun and separated a few yards in front of the target. According to my experiments a force of 2.40 is equal to about 30 sheets of the pad. Could "Hammerless Greener" suggest any other charges, etc., I would be most happy to give them a trial at my force gauge and report the result through your columns, providing you would kindly grant me space.

Yours truly,

12-BORE GREENER.

Lachine, P.Q., April 5, 1881.

### INSECTIVOROUS BIRDS.

ARE THEY BENEFICIAL TO THE FARMER AND FRUIT GROWER.

SIR.—In the Eleventh Annual Report of the Entomological Society of Ontario, the President, Wm. Saunders, in his annual address, states his conviction that but comparatively little help is got from birds in keeping in subjection injurious insects, and having examined the contents of the stomachs of a large number of birds, he has only found occasionally an injurious insect therein. He mentions the swallows, *Hirundinidae* ; kingbird, *Tyrannus Carolinensis* ; pewee, *Sayornis fuscus* ; night-hawk, *Chordeiles popetue* ; yellow warbler, *Dendroica astica* ; red start, *Septophaga*

*ruticilla*; red-eyed and yellow-throated vireos, *Vireo olivaceus*; and *V. flavifrons*; woodpeckers, PICIDÆ; blue bird, *Sialia sialis*; cat-bird, *Galeoscoptes Carolinensis*; brown thrush, *Harporhynchus rufus*; sparrows, FRINGILLIDÆ; cuckoos, COCCIDÆ; nuthatch, *Sitta Carolinensis*; chickadee, *Parus atricapillus*; kinglets, SYLVIDÆ; meadow-lark, *Sturnella magna*; Baltimore oriole, *Icterus Baltimore*; wren, *Troglodytes adon*; black-birds, ICTERIDÆ; and especially the Robin, (*Turdus migratorius*) as a great fruit thief, destroying a far greater quantity than it would eat, therefore, should not be protected by legislation. I trust the above extract will induce readers of the *Canadian Sportsman and Naturalist* to give their experience respecting the usefulness of insectivorous birds to farmers, fruit-growers, and gardeners.

E. D. W.

Montreal, March 28th, 1881.

The above-named birds are all insectivorous, but the question regarding their being beneficial to agriculture is a matter which we have always contended, was overstretched. Mr. S. A. Forbes, an American naturalist, has examined the stomachs of 150 birds of the Thrush family, with quite unexpected results. "Forty-one of these were Robins; thirty-seven Cat-birds; twenty-eight Brown Thrushes; eight Alice's Thrushes; six Swainson's Thrushes, and one Wilson's Thrush. They were shot in various months from March to September and during four successive years. The number of specimens is, of course, too small to allow conclusive generalization; but as no equal number of specimens has been previously studied with equal care, it will probably be fair to state some of the result as hypotheses, more or less probable, but requiring verification by further study. The most fruitful peculiarity of the method used was the careful estimate, for each specimen (after a critical microscopical examination of the contents of the stomach), of the relative amounts of all the elements of the food, and the subsequent averaging of these ratios for the species. By this means I determined the hitherto unsuspected fact that the family is inordinately destructive to predaceous beetles (HARPALEINI), seven per cent of the food of the 150 specimens consisting of these highly beneficial insects. When we remember that one predaceous insect must destroy many times its own bulk of other insects during its life, we see the importance of this fact in respect to the economical value of these birds. Between the TURPIDÆ,

and other families, I can make only the following crude comparison. Of the 150 Thrushes examined, forty-six per cent. had taken CARABIDÆ, while of 194 birds of other families whose stomachs insects were found, less than five per cent. had eaten these Coleoptera. The worst sinner in this respect was the Hermit thrush; while the Alice thrush and the Wood thrush had eaten comparatively few. Curiously the ratio of CARABIDÆ continued undiminished during the fruit season when the total of insect food fell away very rapidly. For example, the Cat-birds ate in May, June and July, eighty-seven per cent., sixty-four per cent., and eighteen per cent., respectively, of insect food while the CARABIDÆ for those months averaged seven per cent., six per cent., and ten per cent. the corresponding fruit record standing nothing, thirty per cent. and seventy one per cent. The following genera were distinguished among the CARABIDÆ *Scarites*, *Dyschirius*, *Platynus*, *Eucarthus*, *Pterostichus*, *Amarax*, *Brachylobus*, *Geopinus*, *Agonoderus*, *Anisodactylus*, *Bradycellus*, *Harpalus*, and *Stenolophus*. The absence of all, or nearly all, the specially protected genera is noticeable (unless the obscure colour of many is reckoned a special protection.) A single Cicindela (*C. lecontei*) was found in the stomach of a Cat-bird. It is further interesting to notice the apparent specific difference in the food of allied species, occupying the same ground at the same time and drawing their food from the same sources of supply. The Robin and the Cat-bird differed materially in the number of ants and myriopods destroyed, the former eating very few of either (one per cent. and two per cent. respectively). The Brown thrush departs from all the other members of his family in his fondness (?) perhaps it is stern necessity which forces him to this miserable shift, for insects and fragments of grain picked from the droppings of stock. Twenty-eight per cent. of the food of those shot in April was derived from this source, and another eight per cent. consisted of carrion beetles (STREPTIDÆ). This bird was further distinguished from the Robin (as is the Cat-bird also), by the absence of the larva of *Bibo albipennis* Say which made over half the food of the Robin in March. It is important to recall, as throwing light on the question of fixity of food habits over large areas, that Professor Jenks, now of Brown University, found nine tenths of the food of a large number of Robins whose stomachs were examined by him in Massachusetts, in March and April, 1858, to consist of this same larva."

The above particulars and conclusions will serve to give some idea of the interest and promise of this subject, if it is studied with as near an approach to the strict scientific method as the circumstances will permit.

#### ILLEGAL FISHING.

I would draw attention of the Montreal Fish and Game Protection Club to the illegal netting and angling for Black Bass (*H. nigricans*), which takes place at Beauharnois, in the mouth of the River St. Louis; also, in the vicinity of the islands in Lake St. Louis, during the close season, between the 15th April and 15th May. At this period fish swarm in these localities and fall an easy prey to the poachers. If this infraction of the Game Laws could be stopped, Montreal sportsmen and others would have good Black Bass and Doré fishing, easy and inexpensive to reach. Minnows for bait can be caught in large numbers in the mouth of the River St. Louis. E. D. W.  
Montreal, 15th March, 1881.

#### PROPOSED CHANGE IN THE QUEBEC GAME LAWS.

Sir,—That the Fish and Game Protection Club of the Province of Quebec is becoming a "terror to evil doers" is apparent from the fact that a close search at the commencement of the close season for Deers, Hares, &c., and for Partridges resulted in the discovery of but one piece of venison and one small lot of hares. I am glad to say that all the respectable Fish and Game dealers in the city are working in harmony with the Club, a state of affairs that did not at one time exist. The Club intends petitioning the Legislature at its next session for the following alterations in the Game Act, viz: Close season for Deer and Moose to commence on 1st January, instead of 1st February; for Black Duck, Wood Duck and Teal, to commence 1st April instead of 1st May; for Partridges to commence 1st January, instead of 1st March.

H. R.

NOTE.—At this instant we avoid comment on the above alterations. Quebec sportsmen will doubtless be careful that the close seasons are in accordance with the natural history of the animals mentioned. Our object is to harmonize the Game Laws of Quebec and Ontario which we have had in view from the first issue of the SPORTSMAN, &c.—ED.

Sir,—With regard to the paragraph in your last number headed "Fish and Game Club Beware," I think you must have overlooked the fact that trout had been in season in this Province two months before the article in *Forest and Stream* was published, hence the exportation of trout to Vermont referred to was not illegal. As regards the district whence the trout were said to have come, I may state that the supervision of the Fishery Department is so perfect that nothing is left for the Fish and Game Club to do. Of course it is utterly impossible entirely to stop poaching in a wilderness so vast.

H. R.

NOTE.—We have a decided objection to netting Brook Trout during any season; this alone led to our remarks.—ED.

#### GAME LAWS.

##### PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

It is unlawful to hunt or kill:—

Elk, commonly called Moose, Virginian Deer, Caribou or Reindeer, and Arctic Hare from the 1st February to 1st September.

Ptarmigan, Ruffed Grouse, (Partridge) Spruce Grouse, Sharp-tail Grouse, Woodcock or Wilson's Snipe from 1st May to 1st September.

Wild Swan, all kinds of Geese, or wild ducks of any kind from 1st May to 1st September.

The same east of Three Rivers, from 15th May to 1st September.

It is unlawful to catch:—

Pickeral (Doré) or Pike Perch, Maskilongé, and Black Bass, from the 15th April to 15th May.

Salmon (with nets) from 1st August to 1st May. Do. (with the fly) from 1st September to 1st May.

Brook Trout (speckled) or River Trout, from 1st October to 31st December.

Salmon Trout and Lake Trout from the 15th October to 1st December.

Whitefish from the 10th November to 1st December.

##### PROVINCE OF ONTARIO.

It is unlawful to hunt or kill:—

Deer, Elk (Moose), Reindeer (Caribou), between 15th of December and 1st October.

Grouse, (pheasants), Prairie Fowl or Partridge between 1st January and 1st September.

Wild Turkeys and Quail between 1st of January and 1st October.



Woodcock between 1st January and 1st August.

Snipe between 1st of January and 15th August.

Water-fowl known as Mallard, Grey Duck, Black Duck, Wood or Summer Duck, between 1st January and 15th August. Other Wild Ducks, Swans or Geese, between 1st of May and 15th August.

Hares between 15th March and 1st of September.

The Ontario close season for fish is similar to Quebec.

#### FISHERIES DEPARTMENT.

Public attention is here directed to the following Fishery Regulation adopted by the Governor-General in Council, on the 23rd March:—

“Fishing with nets or seines is prohibited during a period of two years from the present date in that part of the River Ottawa and its tributaries, and the Lake of Two Mountains, fronting on the Counties of Jacques Cartier, Vaudreuil, Two Mountains, and that portion of the County of Argenteuil extending from Carillon downwards to the eastern boundary of said county.”

All well disposed persons are requested to afford the Local Fishery Officers whatever information and assistance they can towards enforcing this Regulation.

Every person guilty of a breach of the same is liable to forfeiture of fishing material and fine not exceeding \$20, and imprisonment in default of payment.

Complainants will receive one half the fines imposed and be paid for their costs and attendance as witnesses.

Mr. G. N. Hyde is Game-keeper to the Argenteuil Fish and Game Club, not W. Gaherty as stated in our last number.

We have received the March number of the *Canadian Poultry Review*. It is published by James Fullerton, Strathroy, Ont. This meritorious and useful Magazine is devoted to all kinds of Poultry and Pet Stock. Its advertising columns exhibit evidence of support from all the Poultry fanciers in the Dominion.

#### OUR FOREST TREES.

**BLACK OR DOUBLE SPRUCE; *A. nigra*.**—A medium sized tree of dark sombre foliage, and very regular conical form. The wood is light and elastic, and is much used for the smaller spars of ships. A mast made of it shows no signs of decay after more than 30 years use. It is also much used for shingles. The popular beverage, spruce beer, is made from the young shoots of this tree.

**WHITE SPRUCE; *A. alba*.**—A tree of lighter green foliage and less spreading growth than the preceding. The wood is used for similar purposes; and when ground into pulp is employed in the manufacture of paper. From its tough roots the Canadian Indians make the thread with which they sew their birch bark canoes.

**BALSAM FIR; *A. balsamea*.**—A beautiful tree of deep green foliage and regular form. Its beauty is increased by its large and numerous cones of a soft purple color. The valuable Canada Balsam is gathered by puncturing the rough bark. The wood is of little value, and the tree is short-lived.

**LARCH; *Larix Americana*.**—All of our other cone-bearing trees are evergreens, but the Larch drops its leaves at the approach of winter. It is a slender tree of medium height. Its wood is very compact, heavy, and durable, and is especially prized by ship builders, who know it by the name of Hacmatack.

**WHITE OAK; *Quercus alba*.**—A noble forest tree, of widely spreading form in open situations. Its name is derived from the whitish bark. Next to the white pine, it is the most valuable of our trees. It furnishes the best ship timber, and is largely used in the manufacture of wagons, agricultural implements, casks, common chairs, and baskets. The bark is valuable to the tanner.

**RED OAK; *Q. rubra*.**—This tree attains its greatest perfection in New England, and is especially abundant in Massachusetts, where it sometimes even rivals the White Oak in size and majesty of form. In general utility it is far inferior to the white oak. Even for fuel it is of little value, and the bark is almost worthless.

**BEECH; *Fagus*.**—This tree is remarkable for the density of its shade and the smoothness of its bark. It grows rapidly and reaches a height of 80 to 100 feet. The compact, heavy wood is used for plane-stocks and saw-handles. The sap wood is firmer and more durable than the heart. The fruit is a rich, oily nut, eagerly devoured by swine, squirrels, and partridges.

(To be continued.)