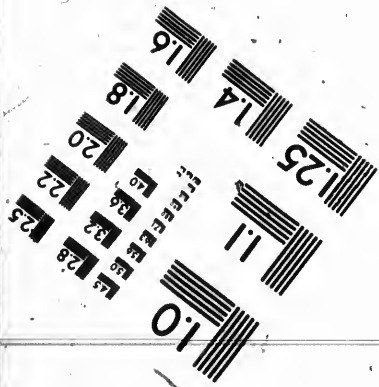
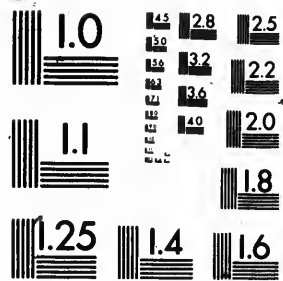


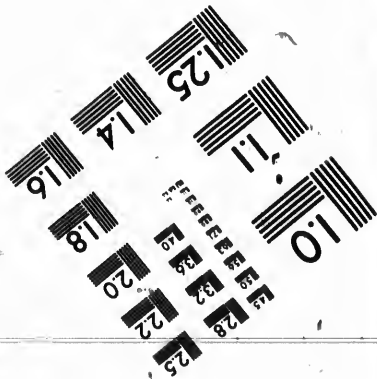
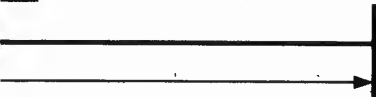
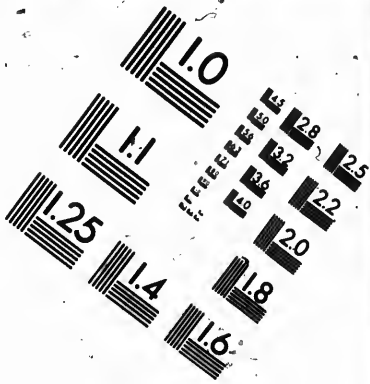
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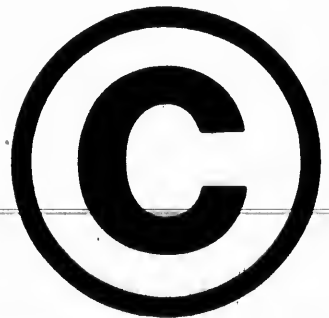
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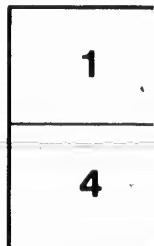
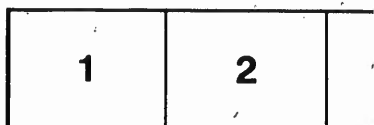
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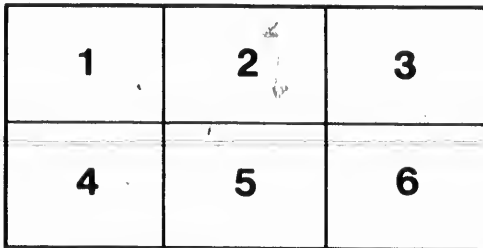
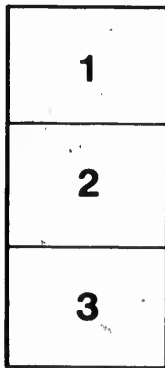
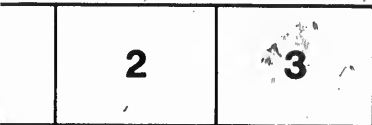
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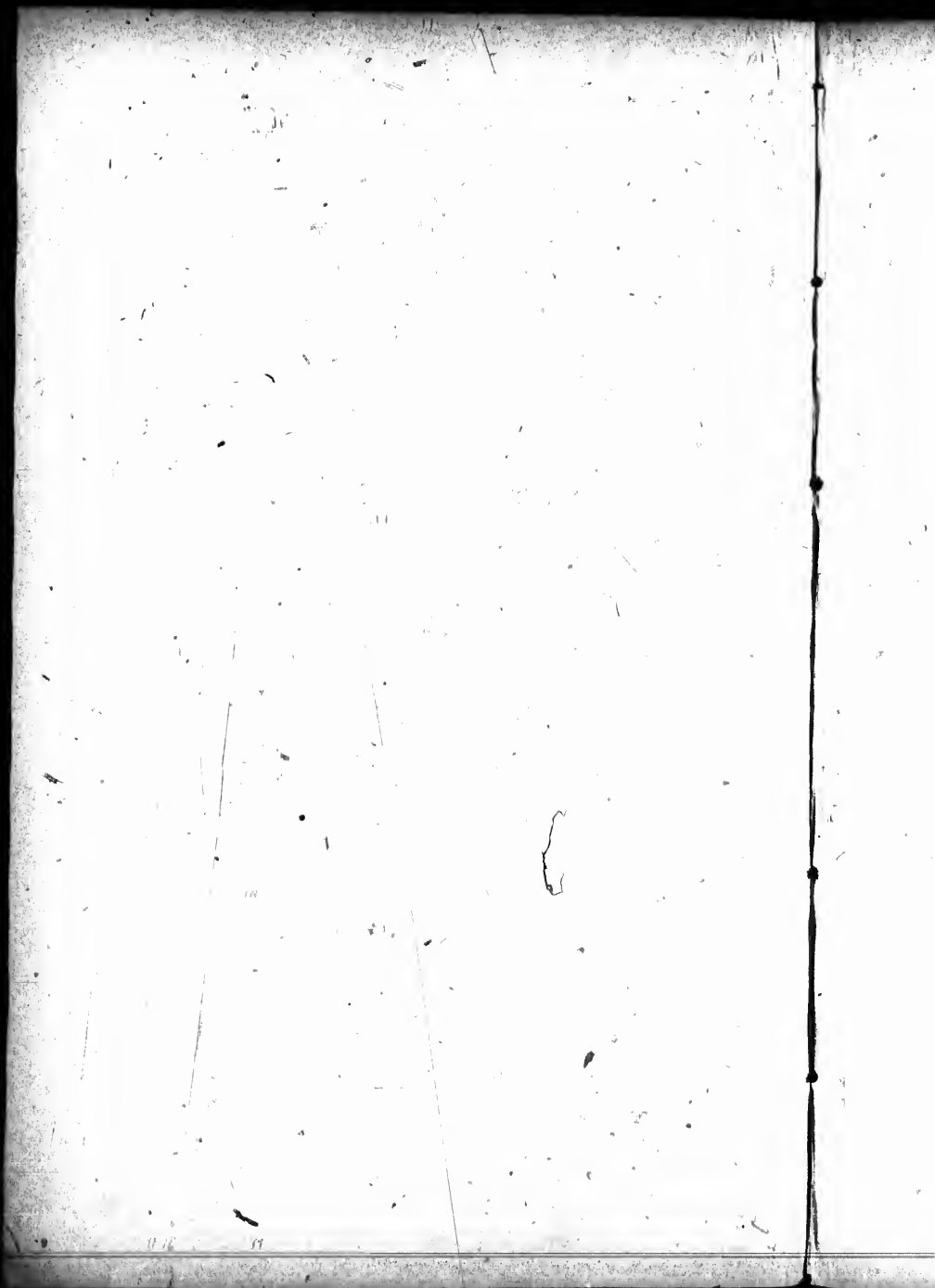
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REPORT, CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS
OF THE
FISH AND GAME
PROTECTION CLUB OF LOWER CANADA.

ORIGIN OF THE CLUB.

Several gentlemen of Quebec taking a deep interest in the preservation of the fish and game of Lower Canada, which have been known for many years to be rapidly diminishing in numbers and quantity, assembled on the 19th January, 1858, for the purpose of devising means of saving from further destruction these valuable articles of food, and of taking steps towards restoring that abundance which prevailed in former days.

At this meeting several appropriate resolutions were passed, and a temporary committee appointed, to organise the Society and frame a code of rules.

The report of this committee which had been drawn with much care was submitted to a meeting convened for the purpose of receiving it on the 3rd March following, highly approved of, and unanimously adopted, as well as a constitution which had been also prepared. The code of rules framed, was ordered to remain over during a fortnight for the perusal of the members, and for the consideration of the permanent committee then balloted for and elected. The latter made their report at a subsequent meeting, and the rules were unanimously adopted as the By-Laws of the Club.

R E P O R T

of the Committee appointed at the Meeting on the 19th January, 1858; That the Fish and Game of Lower Canada have within the last twenty years diminished greatly in numbers; Rivers which were formerly resorted to by Salmon when about to spawn are abandoned; Lakes which at one time, were celebrated for their Trout, now yield but small return to the fisherman, and grounds which a few years since swarmed with Game are now deserted.

Under these circumstances, it became the duty of your Committee to enquire into the causes which have produced these results, and also if possible, to discover the means by which the abundance of former days might be restored.

There can exist no doubt that the decrease in numbers of the Salmon tribe is owing to the facts that on their way to and from, and during their stay at the spawning grounds, they are subject to unceasing persecution and destruction, they are netted and speared without mercy, and but few of those that return to salt water, but bear some marks of man's ingenuity.

The young fry also, though too small to be a source of profit, still in their way down the rivers to the sea, are netted and destroyed in great numbers.

The Trout also are persecuted and destroyed in the same way during the spawning season.

Spring shooting has largely contributed to the decrease of game in Lower Canada. In addition to the fact that a covey or brood of young is destroyed by the killing of the parent bird, it must be borne in mind that other birds are driven from their nests by fright and in all probability lay no more eggs during the season. Wounded birds also are unfitted for incubation, and thus whole nests are destroyed.

Your Committee are of opinion that the readiest and most effectual way of laying the axe to the root of these great and growing evils, would be to punish severely the receivers of game or fish killed out of season. Market Hucksters are the chief parties who profit by the illegal acts of the pot-hunter, and if it is impossible for the latter to obtain a market for his spoils, he will soon abandon his unprofitable pursuits.

Your Committee, therefore, would advise that immediate application be made to the City Council of Quebec, praying them to pass a By-Law enacting that all fish and game out of season be declared forfeited, and any Huckster having such game or fish out of season in his possession, should forfeit his license, in addition to the penalty imposed by Statute,—and further that the Clerks of the respective Markets be directed to see that the said By-Law be fully carried out, and be ordered to give immediate information to the Secretary-Treasurer of the Club of any offence coming under their cognizance under pain of a penalty of £ for each act of neglect or omission.

Your Committee would also advise that copies of the By-Laws and of the present Report should be sent to the different Cities and Towns of the Province of Canada, addressed to influential persons therein resident, who have manifested interest in the preservation of the game and fish of the country, and that a resolution be passed by which invitations be extended to all other portions of the province, to join in putting down the evils which have given birth to this Club.

Your Committee would also draw the attention of the Club to the wholesale slaughter of Moose and Deer of all kinds committed by the Indians on the shores of the River St. Lawrence.

The Acts of Parliament now in force do not apply to the aborigines of the country, and your committee would

be sorry to advise any interference with the just rights of any body of individuals, but the conduct and proceedings of the Indians are such, that it is utterly impossible for the Legislature if it has any regard for their true interests, to exempt them from the operation of the Acts applying to all others of Her Majesty's subjects.

It is a well known fact that immediately after the young Moose and Deer are brought forth, hundreds of the parent animals are mercilessly slaughtered by the Indians, solely for the sake of their skins. The carcasses are left to rot in the woods and on the borders of lakes. It never was the intention of the Legislature to countenance such proceedings, the exemption in favor of the savages was to allow them to kill for food, but when they thus abuse one of God's greatest gifts, and destroy life, solely for the purpose of procuring alcoholic liquor, leaving thousands of pounds of meat to decay in the woods, we are of opinion that their privileges, which now allow them a latitude of which they have shewn themselves unworthy, should be abolished, and that they should be brought down to the level of other citizens.

In fact the tenderness shewn, and the exclusive rights granted, act as incentives on the Indians, to persist in their present idle, useless and uncivilized modes of life.

In conclusion, your committee would duly impress upon your consideration, that Lower Canada possesses in her forests, rivers and marshes, if due care is shewn for their preservation, inexhaustible sources of profit and wealth, but that if the present state of things is permitted to exist any longer, the fish and game of the country will soon be numbered amongst the things that were.

Certified,

F. G. W. AUSTIN,

Secy. Treas.

CONSTITUTION.

1st.—This Society shall be called THE FISH AND GAME PROTECTION CLUB OF LOWER CANADA.

2nd.—The Society shall be composed of the original members enrolled at the meeting of foundation, and of such gentlemen as shall subsequently be elected by ballot.

3rd.—The Officers of the Club shall be a President, Vice-President and Secretary-Treasurer, and three members of the Club, who shall together form a Committee for the general objects and business of the Club.

4th.—The objects of the Club shall be the preservation of the Game and Fish of the Country, and the carrying out of any Acts of Parliament which now are or hereafter may be in force having reference to the same.

Certified,

F. W. G. AUSTIN.

Secy.-Treas.

BY-LAWS.

1.—There shall be a meeting of the members of the Club, for the purpose of electing a Committee, and receiving Reports, on the first Monday of the month of February in each year, when the retiring Committee shall present their Report and offer such suggestions as may occur to them, and the Secretary-Treasurer shall also submit a statement of his accounts.

2.—A general meeting of members for election of candidates, and for the filling up of any vacancy in the Committee, or for the consideration of any matter of interest, shall be called at the discretion of the Committee, at any time provided three days' notice be given.

3.—The Committee shall meet on the first Monday of

each month, to transact the ordinary business of the Club, but the President or Vice-President may call a meeting at any other time that business may require it.

4.—Three members shall form a quorum of the Committee, and five members a quorum of the Club, at a general meeting.

5.—It shall be the duty of the Committee to order the institution of all prosecutions by them deemed advisable, for offences committed against the Fishery or Game Acts, brought under their cognizance, and all such prosecutions shall be brought in the name of the Secretary-Treasurer of the Club for the time being in that capacity, but no prosecution shall be so instituted, or money expended for any purpose unless sanctioned by a resolution of the Committee.

6.—All candidates for election shall be proposed at a meeting of the Committee, and be balloted for at the next general meeting of the Club. The candidate to be declared-elected, if voted for by two-thirds of the number present.

7.—The annual subscription payable by each member of the Club, shall be four dollars in advance.

8.—It shall be the duty of each member of the Club, to reveal and declare to the Committee, or to some member thereof, any offence committed against the Acts for the preservation of Fish or Game, or against the Constitution or By-Laws of the Club, and the said Committee or the member thereof so informed shall be bound to attend to such declaration and take immediate action thereon.

9.—Any member of the Club concealing any offence committed against the Fishery or Game Acts, or any of them, or against the Constitution or By-Laws of this Club, shall on the same being proved before the Committee be admonished by them, and on repetition of the offence, shall be reported by the Committee after they

have given him one week's notice, at a general meeting of the Club.

10.—Any member so reported at such general meeting of the Club, shall be allowed full opportunity to defend himself, but on the offence being proved shall be liable to expulsion from the Club.

11.—No By-Law of the Club shall be altered, and no new By-Law made, except at a general meeting called for that purpose, of which one week's notice shall be given, the said notice to set out the proposed alteration or new By-Law, and it shall require the assent of two-thirds of the members present to effect the alteration, or make the new By-Law.

12.—Candidates after election shall only be considered as members of the Club, upon paying their subscription, signing the Constitution, By-Laws and following pledge:

PLEDGE.—I do hereby pledge myself on my honor as a gentleman to be guided by and observe the Constitution and By-Laws of the Fish and Game Protection Club of Lower Canada, and to the utmost of my power, give effect to the laws now existing or that may hereafter exist for the preservation of fish and game in Lower Canada.

NEW BY-LAWS.

1.—The Secretary-Treasurer is hereby authorized to offer and pay a reward of FIVE dollars to any one giving such information as may lead to the conviction of any offender or offenders against the Fishery or Game Acts, and that he do give public notice to that effect in such localities as he may deem necessary.

2.—With the view of inducing farmers, fishermen and others residing near fishing grounds and localities frequented by game, to abstain from killing fish and game

at prohibited seasons of the year, and for the purpose also of inducing them to give information against parties doing so, such farmers, fishermen and others may become EXTRA MEMBERS of this Club, upon signing the Pledge and By-Laws thereof; they shall not, however, be entitled to vote or take any part at the meetings of the same, but shall be entitled for affording such information upon conviction of the offender or offenders to half the penalty inflicted.

(Signed, J. W. DUNSCOMB, President. *

THOS. BLATHERWICK, Vice-President.

F. W. G. AUSTIN, Secretary-Treasurer.

CHAS. S. PHILLIPS.

J. B. FORSYTH.

J. C. PENTLAND.

JOHN GILMOUR.

J. D. STEWART,

PHILIP V. ROBIN.

HENRY C. AUSTIN.

R. PRICE.

WM. RHODES.

J. H. OAKES,

JOSEPH K. BOSWELL.

PAUL J. CHARLTON.

WILLIAM W. H. KERR.

J. P. ANDERSON.

ROBERT H. SMITH.

R. O'CONNELL, Captain, R. A.

M. A. HEARN.

LOUIS BILODEAU.

H. PEMBERTON.

CHAS. ST. MICHEL.

THOS. MENZIES.

A. BRENDON, Major, R. A.
J. W. B. FORDE, Captain, R. A.
C. A. DE MONTMORENCY, D. R. E.
WILLIS RUSSELL.
JOHN YOUNG,
JOSEPH BELL FORSYTH.
A. D. BELL.
C. FREMONT.
DUNCAN PATTON.
WM. MARSDEN, M. D.
A. WOODROUSE, 39th Regiment.
W. DARLING CAMPBELL.
JOSEPH ROBERTS.
T. J. LAMBERT.
WM. PATTON.

Certified,

F. W. G. AUSTIN,
Secy.-Treas.





