

GAME AND FISHERY LAWS.

CANADA.

Of late years much attention has been devoted to the enforcement of the Game and Fishery Laws of Canada, and the Acts relating thereto have been repeatedly amended in accordance with the suggestions of the Fish and Game Clubs of Montreal and Quebec, and the experience acquired by the officers of the Fishery branch of the Crown Lands Department. The close seasons in the two Provinces were once very divergent, but there is reason to believe that in a few years they will be made uniform, or as much so as possible.

The close season for Deer or Fawn, Elk, Moose or Caribou, in *Upper Canada*, begins on the 1st January, and ends on the 1st September. They are not allowed to be trapped or taken by any traps or snares whatever. The close season for Wild Turkey, Grouse, Partridge or Pheasant, is between the 1st February and the 1st September; for Quail between the 1st February and the 1st October; for Woodcock, 1st March and 15th July; and Wild Swan, Goose, Duck, Widgeon or Teal, 1st April and 1st August. The law also provides that no Beaver, Muskrat, Mink, Sable, Otter, or Fisher, shall be trapped or killed between the 1st May and the 1st November.

It is unlawful to fish for, catch, buy or sell the following fish in *Upper Canada* between the dates named:—Speckled Trout, 20th September and 1st April; White Fish, in any way, between 19th Nov. and 1st December, and by net between 30th May and 1st August. The close season for Bass, Pike, Pickerel (*dorée*), and Maskinongé, is regulated by Order in Council, to suit different localities.

The close season for Red or Grey Deer, Moose, Elk Reindeer and Caribou in *Lower Canada* is from 1st February to 1st September; for Woodcock or Snipe, 1st March to 1st August; Grouse, Partridge, Ptarmigan or Pheasant, 1st March to 20th August; Wild Swan, Wild Goose or Wild Duck of the kinds known as Mallard, Gray Duck, Black Duck, Wood Duck, Teal, Widgeon, or any other kind of Wild Duck, 20th May to 20th August; Muskrat, 10th May to 1st March.

It is also unlawful to fish for, catch, buy or sell any of the following fish between the dates named in *Lower Canada*:—Salmon, 31st July and 1st May, (fly surface fishing is, however, permitted between 30th April and 31st August). Trout or "Lunge," 15th September and 15th December; Bass and Pickerel (*dorée*), Pike and Maskinongé, 30th April and 1st June.

It is also unlawful to kill or snare any birds whatsoever, excepting Eagles, Falcons, Hawks, Wild Pigeons, Kingfishers, Crows and Ravens, in either section of the Province, between the 1st of March and the 1st of August in each year. This clause was added to the Game Law a few years ago for the purpose of protecting the insectivorous birds, and has already had the effect of greatly increasing their number. Several years ago scarcely a bird could be seen in the orchards near Montreal; but last spring and summer they were very numerous, and did much towards exterminating the hordes of caterpillars which were overrunning them.

The Fish and Game Clubs of the two cities named annually make valuable reports on the condition, &c., of the Fish and Game, and offer additional rewards from their own funds for the conviction of offenders against the provisions of the law.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

The New Brunswick laws provide that no moose shall be killed between 1st February and 1st May—penalty \$40.00; no herrings taken in their spawning grounds in the Bay of Fundy between 15th July and 15th October—penalty \$20.00; no salmon taken in nets later than August 31, or by the rod later than September 15th, or at any time between Saturday's sunset and Monday's sunrise.

NOVA SCOTIA.

Chap. 92 of the Revised Statutes of Nova Scotia provides that no person shall kill any partridge, snipe or woodcock between 1st March and 1st September under a penalty of \$2 for each offence. No one shall kill any moose or caribou between 15th February and 1st September, nor a cow-moose between 1st January and 1st September. The flesh must be carried out of the woods within three days if in September or October, and fourteen in the other lawful months. No one person may kill more than five moose or caribou in one season, nor shall any hunting party kill more than five at one hunt. No one is allowed to kill pheasants. No one may kill the otter, mink or muskrat between 1st May and 1st November—penalty \$3.00. It is altogether forbidden to kill the smaller kinds of birds: robins, swallows, sparrows, &c., and birds of song—penalty \$1.00 for each bird killed.

Chapter 95 provides that no salmon shall be taken in any river west of Halifax between 31st July and 1st March, nor in any river running into the Bay of Fundy or east of Halifax between 15th August and 1st March, nor in salt water later than October 20—penalty \$40.00. There are no laws respecting trout. There are enactments prohibiting spearing and regulating the netting of river fish.

PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND.

The game laws of Prince Edward Island prohibit the killing of partridges between 1st March and 1st October, and salmon in the fall.

NEWFOUNDLAND.

There is only one Game Law in this island, entitled "An Act for the Protection and Breeding of Wild Fowl and Game." It prohibits the killing, taking, purchasing, selling, or possessing of Partridges from the 20th February to the 25th August, and applies a similar prohibition in the case of Snipe, or any other wild or migratory birds frequenting for the purpose of incubation (except wild Geese), from the 1st April to the 20th August.