

GAME AND FISHERY LAWS.

(By EDWARD C. BARBER, Esq., Ottawa, author of "The Crack Shot," &c., &c.)

ONTARIO AND QUEBEC.

Since the last issue of the *Year Book* very considerable changes have been made in the Game Laws of the Provinces of Ontario and Quebec. The Fishery Laws of the Dominion have also been revised to some extent, and it is now believed that if sportsmen will respect the provisions of the Acts and aid in enforcing the penalty against the poacher for infractions thereof, game and fish will again become plentiful.

It is greatly to be regretted that the Legislatures of the different Provinces have not provided the means for carrying out their various enactments on the subject of the protection of game, and herein is felt the inconvenience of these matters being dealt with in detail by the various Provinces instead of by the Dominion. Had the Dominion Legislature been vested with the power of legislating upon the subject of Game as well as upon the Fisheries, the fishery overseers might have been made efficient aids to the different game clubs throughout the country. To those of Quebec and Montreal much praise is due for their efforts to protect game; but it is absurd to suppose that individual effort can stay the devastating hand of the pot-hunter. Much good would be accomplished if the municipalities could be induced to afford their aid.

IN ONTARIO, the close season for Deer or Fawn, Elk, Moose or Cariboo, extends from 1st Dec. to 1st Sept., not to be trapped; the close season for Wild Turkey, Grouse, Pheasant, Partridge, or Hare, is between 1st Jan. and 1st Sept.; for Quail between 1st Jan. and 1st Oct.; and for Woodcock from 1st March to 1st Sept.; and no Wild Swan, Goose, or any description of Duck is allowed to be killed between the first day of March and the first day of September. Neither is it to be trapped or taken by means of traps, snares or springs, or killed by any other method than by shooting. It is also unlawful to use sunken punts or batteries. No eggs of any kind of the birds above enumerated are allowed to be taken or destroyed at any time. No Beaver, Muskrat, Mink, Sable, Otter or Fisher, is to be taken or trapped between the 1st May and 15th November. There is also a clause protecting any particular kind of game that may be imported by parties desirous of breeding the same. The fine varies from \$2 to \$25 for each head of game illegally killed, and in default of payment offenders are imprisoned in a common jail for a term not exceeding 30 days.

Speckled Trout can be taken between the 1st January and 1st October, but only by angling by hand with hook and line. Whitefish or Salmon Trout are not to be taken by any means between the 19th November and 1st December, nor by means of any kind of seine between the 30th May and 1st August. The close seasons for Bass, Pickerel, Maskinonge and other fish, are to be fixed by the Governor in Council to suit different localities.

IN QUEBEC, the close season for Elk, Moose, Cariboo, Deer, Fawn or Hare, is from the 1st February to 1st September; for Grouse, Ptarmigan, Partridge, Woodcock or Snipe, between the 1st of March and 1st September. No Wild Swan, Wild Goose, or any kind of Wild Duck is allowed to be shot at, trapped or killed between the 20th of May and 1st September except in that part of the Province east of the Brandy Potts, where the inhabitants are allowed, for food only, to kill the same between the 1st September and 1st June. Neither is it lawful to kill any of the above between sunset and sunrise. All the game animals and birds mentioned in the Act, except Hares and Partridges, are protected from trapping. No eggs of any of the kinds of birds mentioned or any species of wild fowl are allowed to be disturbed, injured, or taken.

No Lynx, Wild Cat, Mink or Marten to be taken or killed between the 15th April and 1st November; no Otter between the 1st May and 1st November; no Beaver between the 30th April and 1st September; no Muskrat between 1st June and 21st October. Nor shall any person buy, sell, or have in his or her possession any unseasonable skin of any of the said animals.

Fines vary from \$1 to \$50, and in default of immediate payment the penalty is imprisonment in the common jail for a term not exceeding three months. No proceeding under this Act can be set aside by *certiorari*, an appeal only lying to the Circuit Court of the chief place of the district wherein the offence was committed. The jurisdiction is very summary and the general provisions very stringent. No kind of Trout (or lunge) can be taken between the 1st October and 1st January; Whitefish and Salmon Trout are not to be taken in any way between the 19th November and 1st December, nor by means of any kind of seine between the 31st July and 1st December; between 31st October and 31st December it is unlawful to kill Shad or Whitefish in Missisquoi Bay, Lake Champlain; Salmon cannot be fished for in Ontario and Quebec, or the river Restigouche, (N. B.,) between the 31st July and 1st May, except by fly-surface-fishing, which extends in Ontario and Quebec from 30th April to 31st August.

It is believed that much good has already been accomplished by the recent Act for the protection of insectivorous birds. By its provisions it is made unlawful to kill or snare between the 1st March and 1st August, any kind of bird whatsoever except Eagles, Falcons, Hawks, Wild Pigeons, Kingfishers, Crows and Ravens. This Act applies to both Ontario and Quebec.

NEW BRUNSWICK.

The law in this Province is very strict as regards Moose, the only game laws of the Province being those relating to the protection of Moose and Partridge. The close season only extends from