

GAME AND FISHERY LAWS.

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Very few alterations have been made in the laws since my last article on this subject, and indeed very few are desirable. Previously, the constant changes having created much trouble and annoyance. Parties in the country can hardly be expected to be thoroughly "posted up" when changes are frequent, and many of the contraventions of the Acts respecting fish and game are attributable to ignorance. Still there is a large body of men, poachers by instinct, whom nothing can deter from their nefarious pursuits but the vigorous enforcement of stringent enactments. The Legislature of Ontario at its last session while making some changes in the law, provided no means for their enforcement, while the Legislature of the sister Province of Quebec were amending (?) the statute, empowered the Commissioner of Crown Lands to appoint officers to carry out its provisions, and granted \$2,000 to defray the expenses incident thereto. I have not learned that any action has been taken by the Government in the matter, certainly no good results have appeared; indeed the gross violations of the law in some of the more remote parts of the country seem more bold than ever; it has come to my knowledge that early last spring a man holding an official position, and a magistrate to boot, with his sons turned out on the Sabbath and slaughtered deer out of season. No matter how zealous the game clubs may be they cannot check the evil without *efficient* aid from Government. The trouble, difficulty, and heavy expense, of bringing poachers to justice are too great to be overcome by individual efforts. This is a subject that will have to be dealt with energetically ere long, or we shall see our game grow scarcer year by year and in the more populous parts of the country become nearly extinct. Mr. Whitcher, the energetic and efficient head of the Fisheries Department, addressed a letter to the Editor of the *Ottawa Times*, bearing upon this subject and it is worthy the careful perusal and attentive consideration of every one who desires to see our game protected.

In ONTARIO, the close season for Deer or Fawn, Elk, Moose or Cariboo extends from 1st December of one year to 1st September of the year following, they are not to be taken by traps or snares at any time, nor shall traps be set for that purpose: for Quail from 1st January to 1st October; for woodcock and Snipe from 1st March to 12th August; and for wild Swan, Goose or any description of Duck from the 15th April to 15th August, nor shall any nets, traps, snares, batteries, night lights or suken punts be used in hunting them. Wild Turkey, Grouse, Pheasant and Partridge may be shot from the 1st September to 1st January, and Hares are exempted from 1st March to 1st September. No eggs of any of the above mentioned birds shall be at any time taken. No Beaver, Muskrat, Mink, Sable, Otter or Fisher to be taken or trapped between the 1st May and 15th October. 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 to be imprisoned in a common jail for a term not exceeding 30 days. Confiscation of game to follow conviction, and the game to be given to some charitable institution at the discretion of the convicting Justice.

Speckled Trout can only legally be taken by angling by hand with hook and line, and then only in the months of May, June, July, August and September. 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 30th May and 1st August. Gill nets for Salmon, Trout, or White Fish must have meshes of at least 5 inches extensions, and seines for White Fish of not less than 4 inches. Bass P. kerei, Maskinonge, and other fish may be taken at any time except from 15th April to 1st May. The Governor in Council may by order in Council vary this time.

The section of the Fishery Law forbidding the throwing of sawdust and millrubbish into streams frequented by fish, remains a dead letter. At Ottawa, the principal seat of the sawed lumber manufacture, the quantity thrown in is incredible.

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 and Snipe from 1st March to 1st September; for Wild Swan, Wild Goose, Wild Duck, Widgeon and Teal from 1st May to 1st September, west of Three Rivers and 15th May to 1st September, east of the same place. Neither is it lawful to kill any of the above birds between one hour after sunset and one hour before sunrise. No eggs of any of the kinds mentioned or any species of wildfowl are allowed to be disturbed, injured or taken. All the game animals and birds mentioned in the Act, *except Hares*, are protected from trapping. No Lynx, Wild Cat or Martin to be taken or killed between 15th April and 1st November. Mink from 15th April to 1st November; Otter from 1st May to 1st November; Beaver from 1st May to 1st September; Muskrat from 1st June to 21st October, except west of Quebec, while the time is from 1st May to 21st October. Fines vary from \$1 to \$50 and go to the informer, 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.

No Trout (or Lunge) to be taken between the 1st October and 1st January, except in Lake Memphramagog where the close time is only during the months of October and November. Trout are only