

THE SCARCITY OF GAME WORRIES THE SPORTSMAN

Efforts of Audobon Societies Aid to Preservation of Birds—May Take Bird Census—The Slaughter of Deer.

By Frederic J. Haskin.
Washington, Feb. 28.—The forest fish and game exposition now being held in Chicago has brought together a most unique collection of outfits for fishermen and hunters. There never has been so many devotees of the rod and the gun as there are today, and manufacturers and dealers are reaping a harvest from it. A Massachusetts authority estimates that there are 30,000 hunters and fishermen in the Bay State, and if the same proportion obtains in other states the number of "mighty hunters before the lord" in America must run into the millions.

Game Fast Disappearing.
The great problem confronting the American sportsman today, with respect to fish and game, is how to "eat cake and have it." They realize that the pot is being cut off from the supply below the danger limit. The quail and the pheasant are disappearing and in the effort of the sportsmen to restock the country with these game birds there has come a new industry—that of quail and pheasant raising. Young quail have been grown with only indifferent success, but pheasants are comparatively easy to rear. A Colorado corporation has been organized to raise and sell pheasants, and has been receiving orders from everywhere. Among the patrons of this corporation is President Diaz of Mexico.

To Take Bird Census.
The National Association of Audobon Societies of America is making earnest efforts to conserve the game of the country, and the protective laws that are on the statute books of nearly all the states are for the most part a result of its labors. It is now making an effort to have taken a bird census of the country, in order to get full details as to the destruction that has taken place, and the best methods of protecting the birds in the future. The association has issued a number of educational leaflets intended to interest school boys, one of which is entitled "The Alouatta Has Lost Caste." It includes a letter from ex-President Roosevelt declaring that Mrs. Roosevelt will not wear an alouatta, thus showing her disapproval of the slaughter of the beautiful birds which bear them.

Extinction of White Heron.
Another work of the association is the purchase of islands off the coast of Florida and Louisiana, and their conversion into havens of refuge for the millions of shore birds which inhabit those regions. The year 1908 saw the extinction of one of the most beautiful species of birds America has ever possessed—the white heron. Along with the great auk the white heron perished because of the love of woman for its beautiful plumage. It is said that over 1,000,000 robins are slaughtered annually in Louisiana alone, and the department of agriculture thinks that the eastward spread of the boll-weevil is to be traced directly to the destruction of these birds in the Mississippi country. It has been estimated that the annual loss from insects in the United States amounts to something like a half-billion dollars, and that a large percentage of this sum might have been saved by the protection of all soft billed birds.

Slaughter of Deer.
One of the greatest natural deer parks in the world is the Coudreepark in Louisiana. It has been over run this winter by a lot of hunters who shot the deer for their skins alone. More than 500 carcasses already have been found and this is known to be only a portion of them. The people of the community are up in arms over this pot hunter invasion, and it probably will result in some additional protective action by the Louisiana legislature. The other side of the game law question is shown in the experience of the farmers in Shelby and adjoining counties in Iowa. Here the game laws have been enforced so rigidly that 400 deer are running at large and annoying the farmers by their depredations. The bucks in some instances have become so ferocious as to attack school children. This splendid herd of deer has grown from a few animals which escaped from a private park in Avoca, Iowa, some 10 years ago.

Bison Are Few.
Out of the countless millions of American bison which roamed over this continent in the 18th century, less than 3000 now remain as somber sentinels of a dying species. A bison census taken by William T. Hornady two years ago showed 1141 in the United States, 836 in Canada and 136 in Europe. In addition to these there were 348 hybrid bison called cattaloos—a cross between buffalo and cattle. The last buffalo which is known to have associated with the great herds that roamed wild over the prairies of Canada, was Sir Donald, the veteran bull of the Banff herd. He was killed recently for museum purposes. This animal was captured in 1873 by James Mackay. All those which survive Sir Donald were born in captivity. In Alaska the caribou still roam wild, and herds containing 10,000 animals are frequently seen.

Record for Killing Whale.
For deep sea fishing the whaler St. Lawrence broke the world's record last winter by capturing 318 whales in a single season. Of these 241 were humpbacks, 46 sulphur bottoms, 10 fin backs and one sperm whale. With all this great catch there was not a single serious accident. The modern whaler uses the latest twentieth century methods in his work. He raises the dead whale to the surface with compressed air. An incision is made in the body and a connection established with the air pump. When the carcass is sufficiently buoyant the incision is plugged up with oakum and a buoy with a flag is attached; the carcass is then turned adrift until the day's work is over, when the whole catch is towed to the whaling station. It has been said that in the great packing houses everything about a pig is saved but his squeal; at a modern whaling station everything is saved but the spout.

Steel Trap for Fish.
A western inventor has patented a steel trap for catching fish. It is very much like the ordinary steel jawed fox trap, except that the jaws are perpendicular instead of horizontal. A hook is baited and the trap let down into the water; the moment a fish touches the bait the jaws close and the victim is held secure. Another inventor has patented a trap which catches the body of an animal as well as a leg. It consists of four upright pieces extending above the jaws of the trap.

When ex-President Roosevelt goes to Berlin he will find Emperor William a no less enthusiastic sportsman than himself. As a hunter the kaiser has had some exciting times, and nothing but his office has prevented him from tackling the big game of Africa. At his hunting lodge at Potsdam simplicity marks everything. The hunting horses are all English bred roans, and the dogs are English fox hounds taken across the Channel when they were pups. There are 70 hounds in the pack and the emperor personally has watched over their training. He has two sets of kennels, one of which is occupied every other day while the other is being thoroughly cleaned and disinfected.

Taming the Cheeta.
What the greyhound of this country is to the deer hunter, the cheeta is to the native antelope hunter of Africa. It is known as the hunting leopard. The only point where real skill comes into play in dealing with them is in capturing the adult animal. The young cheeta cannot be trained as a hunter. There are certain trees to which the older ones go to whet their claws, and around these trees are tied many nooses of deer skin. The leg of the cheeta is caught in one of these nooses when he begins his claw sharpening operation. He is then carried into camp and his training begins. This consists in his being bound and blindfolded, tormented and starved, kept awake when he wants to sleep and handled so persistently and roughly in other ways that he gives up in despair and becomes as abjectly tame as he formerly was wild.

When the training period is over, and he is to play the part of the hunting dog, he is taken into the field with a hood over his head. When fairly close upon the quarry he is given a sight of the game, and such a superb race ensues that one sportsman declared it worth a trip from Europe to Africa to see a single antelope caught in this way. The cheeta is perhaps nature's nearest combination of the cat and the dog. Its claws are only partially retractile, and it has so many canine characteristics that it sometimes is called the dog-cat. Very few of the American and English hunters who visit East Africa use the cheeta in their operations.

Big Game in North.
The North American big game is now to be found mainly in Canada and Alaska. The moose, in addition to being monarch of the Canadian woods, is the largest and most powerful species of deer now in existence. Like all other game it is now protected by stringent laws, and hunting is allowed for only a few weeks at the end of each year. The most popular method of hunting these animals is known as "calling." This is done by an Indian guide with a birch bark trumpet, who imitates the low of the cow. If this fails the call is changed to the subdued challenge of the enraged bull. To complete this deception the guide breaks off branches of trees and thrashes his horn against the bushes. What is claimed to be the biggest moose ever killed in Canada is one that was shot this year on the shores of Georgian bay. The spread of the horns is 58 inches and the length from hoof to hoof 15 feet, seven inches. It required six days for four men to bring the carcass 23 miles through the forest to the railway.

Tomorrow—The National Museum.
The drill in the "Athena" artesian well was hoisted to the surface after having struck a depth of 1602 feet, or two feet over the depth stipulated for in the contract, says the Press. Since the present artesian flow is at a depth of 390 feet, there has been no perceptible increase, neither has the volume of water decreased, but it has become warmer.

OBTAINS DIVORCE



May Buckley, the actress, in private life Mrs. Marie Martin, who has received an interlocutory decree of divorce from Charles W. S. Martin. The pair were married in an apple orchard, from which she gained the sobriquet of the apple orchard bride. The marriage was in Denver only a little over a year ago. Miss Buckley is well known from coast to coast. She charged her husband with cruelty, and he made no defense.

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NEW PLAN FOR ALLOTMENT OF FARMING LANDS

Homeseekers to Receive Application Cards at Public Hall to Be Presented at Land Office Within 10 Days.

Los Angeles, Cal., Feb. 28.—The largest available hall in Los Angeles has been engaged in which to conduct the initial steps in the Yuma Irrigation project "land lottery" tomorrow. The plan decided upon for the allotment of the Yuma lands is an entirely new one and representatives of the general land office at Washington are here to observe its workings with a view to its adoption in the future distribution of all public lands.

New Plan Saves Hardships.
Early tomorrow morning the several thousand persons desirous of filing claims will assemble in the hall hired for the purpose. Cards will be distributed to them by agents of the government, and on these the prospective claimants will be required to write their names and postoffice addresses. At any time during the next 10 days the applicant may appear at the land office in this city and, upon being identified by the card, may make application for any of the 173 farms that the government is to give away.

The necessity for the new plan arose from the anxiety of claimants to be first on the spot when allotments were made. As early as two weeks ago several hundred men and women had already formed in line before the land office here, with the evident intention of sticking fast to their posts until the day when the allotments were scheduled to be made. In order to prevent the hardships which must necessarily result from such an endurance test, Secretary Ballinger directed that the new plan be adopted.

The opening of the Yuma Irrigation project to homestead entry will mark the birth of a new agricultural district in the southwest, whose growth and development are certain to be rapid. The project, which has been completed by the government at an expenditure of about \$5,000,000, provides for the diversion of the Colorado river on both banks about 12 miles northeast of the town of Yuma. It will redeem 17,000 acres of an Indian reservation on the California side and about 75,000 acres of public land on the Arizona side.

Good Alfalfa Land.
The Yuma valley lands are especially adapted to the growing of alfalfa. When the alfalfa acreage is sufficiently increased, the valley is expected to become the feeding place for cattle in transit. Alfalfa is expected to become another profitable enterprise, as stock requires little food other than alfalfa. The climatic conditions are excellent for poultry raising and bees. The Yuma valley is destined also to take a prominent place among the horticultural districts in the southwest. Many delicious fruits, such as figs, apricots, plums, peaches, pears and olives, may be raised.

One hundred and seventy-three farms of 40 acres each are to be allotted by the government. The charges are as follows: Ten dollars per acre for the land, which amount is to be credited to the Indians who belong to the reservation; \$55 per acre, which represents the pro rata cost of the irrigation works; \$1 per acre for maintenance and operation of the system for 1910, total, \$66 per acre.

Easy terms will be made for the payments. One dollar per acre per annum is to be paid for the Indian lands, \$5.50 per acre per annum for the water right charges, and \$1 per acre annually for actual maintenance. No interest is to be charged on deferred payments. The entryman who selects a 40 acre farm, all of which is irrigable, will be required to pay at the time of filing the sum of \$300, and each year thereafter a like amount until the full charge of \$3000 is paid. In other words, a 40 acre farm will cost \$3000, with 10 years in which to make the payments.

CHEMAWA CELEBRATES 30TH ANNIVERSARY

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Chemawa, Or., Feb. 28.—The 30th anniversary of the establishment of the Chemawa Indian school by Major M. C. Wilkinson, U. S. A., was celebrated Friday night. The commodious chapel was decorated with flags and pennants of the school and the trophies won by the various athletic aggregations. The Stars and Stripes were saluted. National airs were sung and played by the school band and between 40 and 50 speeches were made by the pupils of the school relating their personal experiences and showing their gratitude for the work that Uncle Sam has done for them and their race.

Lost Mine to Be Worked.
(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Husum, Wash., Feb. 28.—The Lost

Mine, discovered 20 years ago by Amos White, about 30 miles northwest of Trout lake, and located again last summer by Elmer E. Wright and J. A. Winegardner of the White Salmon valley, will be worked this year. The gold mine contains free milling ore that assays \$500 to the ton.

HORTICULTURE IN KENNEWICK SCHOOLS

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Kennewick, Wash., Feb. 28.—If plans materialize, the Kennewick schools next year will probably have the distinction of being the only public schools in the state offering a thorough course in practical horticulture. The idea, which originated with G. M. Annis, clerk of the school board, last fall, was revived here last week by Prof. F. F. Nalder, assistant state superintendent of public instruction, who made a strong plea for

more practical courses of study in the grammar grades and high schools of the state. At the beginning of the present school year, a class in agriculture was organized as an experiment and the work has been so satisfactory that it is now the desire of the school board to broaden the scope of the study. The school board will ask the assistance of the Commercial club.

The Weston brickyard has received what is known as a Martin soft mud brick making machine which arrived from Lancaster, Pa., in the somewhat remarkable time of 17 days by freight. says the Leader. This machine will take the place of hand moulders, and has a capacity of 20,000 brick daily. It is likely that some hand moulders will be employed in addition, and that the yard will have as many men on its payroll as usual this year, as building prospects indicate an active demand for its product.

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