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THE FREDERICTON ROTARY

CLUB'S ANNUAL GAME DINNER

PROVED VERY ENJOYABLE

Fish and Game Protection Discussed by Experts
—Mr. Thomas F. Allen Tells of the Importance of the Salmon Fisheries to the Province
—Mr. R. W. Tufts Talks on Migratory Birds.

The Fredericton Rotary Club is a real live organization and is doing splendid work for the city and province. The club held its annual game dinner in the Masonic Hall last night with an attendance of about fifty, and it proved highly enjoyable. Fish and game protection were the appropriate themes selected for discussion by the after-dinner speakers. The case of the Atlantic salmon, the world's noblest game fish, was ably presented by Mr. Thomas F. Allen for thirty-four years superintendent of the Tobique Salmon Club, while Mr. R. W. Tufts of Wolfville, N. S., whose duty it is to enforce the Migratory bird law in the Maritime Provinces, gave an account of his work which proved very interesting. Several motion picture films depicting bird life were exhibited at the conclusion of the speech-making and were much enjoyed.

President R. B. VanDine presided very acceptably over the gathering with Mr. Tufts on his right and Mr. Allen on his left. Vice-president A. Sterling McFarlane held down the vice chair.

An Excellent Repast.

Game dinners are always high class and this one was no exception to the rule. It was well cooked and the service provided by Caterer Hosack was very efficient. During the progress of the meal the Rotarians of musical ways, led by Dr. Dakin, rendered Barney Google and other popular melodies in chorus.

President VanDine in calling the gathering to order stated that thanks of the Rotarians were due to the members of the Tabusintac Goose Club for having provided the material for the annual game dinner. He had been a member of the expedition and had been particularly impressed with the good work which had been done by Secretary Kinghorn and H. R. Babbitt. He was glad to see such a large number of sportsmen and anglers present. He was sure all were pleased to have with them as guests Messrs. Tufts and Allen, who would favor them with addresses during the evening.

Migratory Birds.

Mr. Tufts, who was introduced as the first speaker, gave a brief outline of the events which had led to the signing of the Migratory Birds Treaty by the Dominion of Canada and the United States. He went on to say that some people were under the impression that the United States benefited from the treaty at the expense of Canada, but he could assure them that there was no arguments to support that contention. As sportsmen they all realized that but for adequate legislation migratory birds would soon reach the vanishing point as was the case with the golden plover. In former times sportsmen harnessed a horse and drove many miles in search of game. If they failed to find it there was little time left to drive to another place. The horse and carriage had been replaced by the auto; the easily charged breech loader has replaced the old muzzle loader, and smokeless powder has taken the place of black powder. Along the sea coast fishermen, who hunt ducks during the winter season now use gasoline motors instead of the old fashioned rowboat. These and other changes which he could enumerate had put hunting on an altogether different plane, and it all had a tendency to reduce the number of game birds. The Migratory Birds Act had been adopted by the United States in 1913. Prior to that it had been difficult to get the States to adopt uniform game laws. The Migratory Bird law took the control away from the different states and vested it in the Federal Government. It was felt that the help of Canada, where the birds spent one half of the year, was needed and the outcome

was the Migratory Birds' Treaty signed in 1917. Great benefits had already accrued from the treaty, especially from a Canadian viewpoint. Market hunting by the aid of silken nets had been stopped in the Southern States and a stop had also been put to spring shooting. These had been potent factors in the protection of the birds. The enforcement of the regulations for the protection of migratory birds was part of his work. He also had to bring the matter before the school children. The law was quite new, and there may have to be some changes to meet local conditions. He had heard it stated that the shell or merganser duck was very destructive to fish. He had spent some time on the Miramichi and Nashwaak Rivers in New Brunswick investigating the matter. He had destroyed twenty-five of these birds and had forwarded their stomachs to Washington for analysis. It had been found that the birds had been subsisting on trout. Enquiries which had been sent out showed that fifty-five per cent of the people wanted these ducks exterminated, while forty-five per cent wanted them protected. Because of this difference of opinion no action was taken. It was felt that if the birds were unprotected the year around it would furnish an excuse for illegal shooting. If the birds were found to be destructive permits to shoot them at any season could be obtained. He would like to have Mr. Allen's opinion on the subject.

Destructive to Fish.

Mr. Allen said that he considered the merganser duck the most destructive agency so far as the fish were concerned to be found in the waters of Canada. He said that they fed on the eggs of salmon as well as on the par and smolt. When the water was high and muddy these ducks left the rivers and went to the lakes in search of young trout. Salmon, he believed to as their particular food. The kingfisher was also destructive to salmon. He thought that the Rotary Clubs should oppose any protection to the shell duck under the Migratory Birds Act.

Mr. Tufts said that to remove the protection from the shell duck would mean the redrafting of the international law, which was simply out of the question. If it was shown that shell ducks were destructive to fish permits for killing them would be issued and he thought that was all that was needed. Complaints had been made that herring gulls were destroying herring in the nets and permits had been issued to enable them to be killed. The people of Cape Island, Nova Scotia, complained because spring shooting was prohibited, but in nearby sections there had been no complaints. The people must realize that it was impossible to have a separate law for every place. The Migratory Bird law he believed was working satisfactorily and he felt sure that it was in the interests of conservation.

Mr. Allen's Address.

Mr. Allen extended his thanks to the Rotary Club for the invitation to be present and discuss with them some phases of the salmon industry. He had been superintendent of the Tobique Salmon Club for thirty-four years and having studied the salmon from nature was therefore in a position to speak from his own observation. He was not an entire stranger to the city of Fredericton as he had on several occasions appeared before committees of the Legislature opposing legislation which he considered detrimental to the salmon fisheries. The subject he had undertaken to present to the meeting was a big one, but he proposed to deal only with the commercial end of it. As all were aware the salmon was a sea fish which sought the headwaters of fresh water streams in order to deposit its

spawn. The reason it sought the headwaters of tributaries was that the waters there were purer and the fish were less likely to be disturbed in performing the functions of nature. The latter part of October was the time when the female salmon deposited its eggs. The first year the salmon eggs hatch as par, the next year they become smolt and the third year are ready to go to sea. After going out to sea they do not return for two years. The male fish return in the form of grilse but the female fish does not appear in fresh water until it is a salmon and is ready to spawn. It required six years to produce a salmon. It was customary for the salmon to start from the salt water in the spring and there were three runs in the course of a season. The small grilse would mate up and assist in the fertilization of the eggs of the female fish. In order to have salmon it was necessary to give them some protection, and see to it that fish which go out to sea are permitted to come back and spawn. The fish hatcheries maintained by the government were doing good work in propagating the salmon, but if they had to be depended on altogether there would be no fish.

The Tobique Salmon Club.

Mr. Allen went on to say that the Tobique Salmon Club had been organized in 1889 under a provincial charter, and he had been in its employ since 1890. Prior to that time the natives on the Tobique had been in the habit of spearing the salmon and even followed them to the headwaters. Often clotheslines were taken along and when room could not be found for the fish in the canoes they were towed down the stream. The founders of the club were F. W. Cram of the New Brunswick Railway and the late lamented W. T. Whitehead. During his first year with the club the members killed seven salmon by means of the fly, and in the following year the number taken was forty. The fish were so scarce between the years 1890 and 1895 that it was hardly worth while putting out a net along the St. John River. As the fish began to increase the nets began to increase, and there were now some 250 motor boats engaged in the salmon fisheries in the Bay of Fundy. The salmon fisheries would be of little value if the fish were not given protection. He wished to point out that the Tobique River was the main spawning ground for the Bay of Fundy salmon. A single fish deposited three thousand eggs, and the members of the club would be perfectly satisfied if the entire progeny of but one fish could be spared to return to the Tobique each year. The net fishermen in the St. John harbor and on the St. John River got ninety-five per cent of the benefit of the protection given to the fish. On the Tobique the club employed twenty-five wardens who remained on the job from spring until the fish went out to the sea in the fall. He had no hesitation in saying that the club had built up the salmon industry on the St. John River. The Federal government employed only five or six wardens along the St. John River, and he considered the number insufficient. A record was kept of all fish caught on the Tobique by members of the club, and the number taken during the present year was 328 salmon and 49 grilse. One net on the St. John River would take more fish in a season than all the members of the club, yet the latter paid between \$14,000 and \$15,000 each season for their sport. The members of the club did not visit the Tobique for the sole purpose of catching fish, for the country had other attractions and the members went there for recreation and a chance to escape from the noises of the city. The sum of \$1,300 paid to the New Brunswick government was only a portion of the cost of the fishing leases as many of the pools under lease were privately owned. Sufficient fish should be allowed to reach the headwaters to ensure their reproduction. If the members of the club were to discharge their wardens and vacate the Tobique the old order of things would soon be restored. His knowledge of conditions convinced him that the people of the province got ninety-five per cent of

(Continued on Page Four.)

WOMEN! DYE ANY GARMENT OR DRAPERY

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Each 15-cent package of "Diamond Dyes" contains directions so simple any woman can dye or tint any old, worn, faded thing new, even if she has never dyed before. Drug stores sell all colors.

A 300 Egg Hen

The first hen in the Dominion to make an official record of 300 eggs in a laying contest is a Barred Rock belonging to the Fredericton Experimental Station. This bird produced five eggs during the fifty-first week of the contest which closed yesterday and now has a total of 301 to its credit. The pen to which it belongs now has a total of 2430, which is a record for heavy breeds in a laying contest, not only in Canada but in the United States as well. In the Dominion laying contest at Ottawa last year a White Leghorn pen established a record for America with 2492 eggs, but 292 was the score made by the highest individual. Poultry fanciers all over America will sit up and take notice of the work being done at the Fredericton Experimental Station.



MAIL CONTRACT

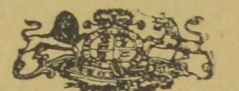
Sealed tenders addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon, on Friday, the 30th November for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails, on a proposed Contract for a period not exceeding four years 3 times per week on the route: Stanley Rural Route No. 4 from the Postmaster General's pleasure.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Office of Stanley, and at the office of the District Superintendent of Postal Service, St. John.

District Superintendent's Office,
October 17th, 1923.

H. W. WOODS,

Act. District Sup. of Postal Service.



MAIL CONTRACT

Sealed tenders addressed to the Postmaster General, will be received at Ottawa until noon, on Friday, the 30th November for the conveyance of His Majesty's Mails, on a proposed Contract for a period not exceeding four years 6 times per week on the route: Oromocto Rural Route No. 1 from the 1st April 1924.

Printed notices containing further information as to conditions of proposed Contract may be seen and blank forms of Tender may be obtained at the Post Offices of Oromocto, Upper Gagetown and at the office of the District Superintendent of Postal Service St. John.

District Superintendent's Office,
October 17th, 1923.

H. W. WOODS,

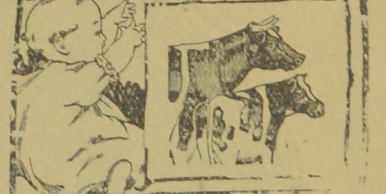
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Rummage Sale

The Auxiliary of Brunswick Street Baptist Church will hold a Rummage Sale, Saturday Oct. 27th at 10 o'clock in the Parish House, Westmorland Street.

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