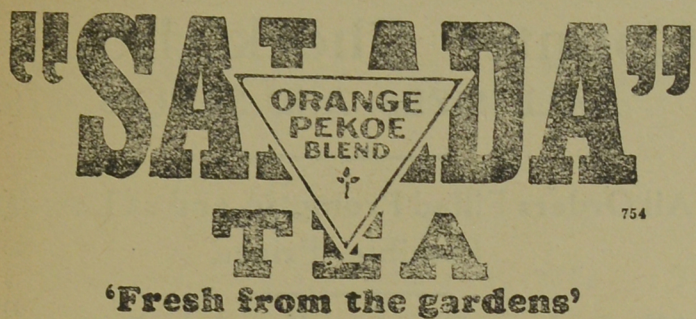


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MANY MATTERS DISCUSSED AT ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION

The Steam Trawler is a Menace to the Salmon Fisheries—Dumping of Garbage in the River Here is Roundly Condemned—Jack Miner Likely to Visit the City on Lecture Tour.

According to President H. G. Chestnut of the York-Sunbury branch of the N. B. Fish and Game Protective Association, salmon angling is doomed to become a lost art in New Brunswick unless some way is soon found to curb the stream trawlers which now operate along the Atlantic Coast. Where these trawlers get in their work, he said, very few salmon are left to find their way to the spawning grounds. Mr. Chestnut condemned the practice permitted by the civic authorities of allowing garbage to be dumped on the river bank at the west end, pointing out that it worked its way into the water and was very destructive to fish.

Other speakers at the meeting included Hon. C. D. Richards, Minister of Lands and Mines, who warmly commended the Fish and Game Protective Association on the work it was doing.

The meeting was scheduled for the Mayor's Office, but owing to the large attendance an adjournment had to be made to the city council chamber.

The meeting went on record as approving of the proposal to form a Dominion Fish and Game Protective Association and appointed the president as a delegate to attend a meeting at Ottawa of representatives of the provincial organizations and he was authorized to name a substitute in case of his inability to attend.

Treasurer Byard Simmons reported a cash balance on hand of \$165.76, and an expenditure of \$17 during the year. A committee appointed to audit the accounts reported that they had found them correct.

Work of the Year

The secretary reported on the activities of the organization during the past year. He stated that motion pictures of the wild life of the province had been exhibited at the Gaiety Theatre for the benefit of the school children of the city, and later the show had been repeated for the benefit of the York County councillors. The pictures used had been kindly loaned by W. H. Allen and Burton S. Moore. The secretary also reported that a net stand which had functioned at the lower end of the Hart's Island Pool for a number of years, greatly to the annoyance of fly fishermen, would disappear next season as the Department of Fisheries at Ottawa had decided against a renewal of the license. Correspondence with the authorities at Ottawa with reference to the Marysville dam was also read, and the Deputy Minister of Fisheries was quoted as saying that the engineers of the Department were considering the advisability of utilizing the present waste gates in connection with a new and larger fishway.

A New Menace

President Chestnut in the course of a very interesting address expressed the opinion that salmon angling as a sport was threatened by commercialism. A new menace to the salmon had made its appearance in the form of steam trawlers, which are operated near the estuaries of the rivers as well as out at sea. When a school of salmon was sighted it was scooped up, and few were allowed to escape to reach the spawning grounds. He quoted an article from the Canadian Fisherman in support of his argument. This magazine claimed that the catch by trawlers in 1929 had increased over the previous year, which meant that the fish did not ascend the rivers. He believed that it was only a question of time when the salmon would be gone. He quoted from a western paper which claimed that salmon sold at \$10 a pound were worth far more than those put in tins at ten cents a pound. On the Miramichi last season only grilse were able to get by the nets during the early part of the season, and it was not until after the nets had been taken up that adult salmon could be caught for hatching purposes. He was glad to note that the fishing on the St. John River last season had been the best in years and he attributed this to the fact that

the Bay of Fundy did not readily lend itself to the operation of steam trawlers.

The president in conclusion expressed the hope that some action would be taken with a view of putting a stop to the practice of dumping garbage along the river bank at the west end. He stated that the refuse cast into the river was destructive to fish life, and he believed it to be an illegal practice.

No Sunday Shooting

The president said that the parent association had asked for an expression of opinion in regard to Sunday shooting. He quoted from the game law to show that at present a fine ranging from \$25 to \$50 was provided.

Chief Game Warden Ritchie pointed out that Sunday shooting of big game had always been prohibited by law, and the only question was with reference to migratory birds. Quebec was the only province of the Dominion which permitted Sunday shooting and it was allowed in but six states of the union. The only New Brunswick branches that had voted in favor of it were those of St. John City and Madawaska.

G. E. Little expressed the opinion that if Sunday shooting was permitted the game would soon disappear. At present the game law was violated on Sundays and he often wondered how the guilty ones got by with it.

Must Protect Game

Hon. C. D. Richards thought that Sunday shooting would be simply opening the door wide for the slaughter of game. He pointed out that the game act did not deal with the question of moral responsibility as its object was the protection of game. Personally he was not in favor of Sunday shooting and did not propose to permit it. The regulations regarding seizure were applicable to hunting at all times. The department did not wish to be harsh but did want to protect the game.

Harry Moore asked for some information regarding trapping on Sunday.

Chief Game Warden said that trapping on Sunday was illegal but the law did say that a trap had to be taken up on Saturday night.

Mr. Moore expressed the opinion that a more extensive advertising of the game laws would be beneficial.

Mr. F. W. Barker, migratory bird inspector, expressed his hearty approval of the amendments made to the game act last session by the provincial government.

No Sunday Shooting

A resolution moved by Mr. Little and seconded by W. T. Chestnut that the branch go on record as being opposed to Sunday shooting was unanimously adopted.

Game Warden Manuel of Southampton said that he travelled about the woods a great deal, but only remembered hearing two shots fired on Sunday.

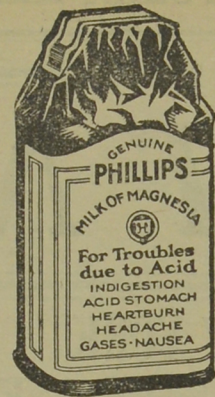
Dr. Morehouse said that was not his experience. He owned a camp near his home and had heard reports of guns all day Sunday. Deer and partridge were very scarce in the neighborhood at the present time.

The president pointed out that New Brunswick was a large province, rather sparsely settled, and there was bound to be some violations of the law. He did not know as there was anything to be done about it. He quoted statistics to show that there had been 404 convictions for violation of the law in Virginia during last year and probably not all were caught. He added that the migratory bird law was based on a treaty with the United States, and it seemed that all changes were made for the benefit of Americans. There was talk of reducing the bag limit on geese from 8 to four per day and on ducks from 25 to 15.

Chief Game Warden Ritchie said that the Department of Lands and Mines was always consulted with respect to changes in the act.

Hungarian Partridges

President Chestnut stated that he in conjunction with some friends were



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importing fifty brace of Hungarian partridges to the Province and planned to liberate them early in March in the southern section of the province. These birds had been transplanted in western Canada and had spread over a large territory. He had reason to believe that they would do well in New Brunswick, and they would breed faster than the local birds.

The Nashwaak River

Ald. Goodspeed said that when his ancestors settled on the Nashwaak 124 years ago it was regarded as one of the best salmon streams in the province. Industrial developments at Marysville had destroyed the fisheries. At present there was a dam across the river which had been built for power purposes but was not being used. He thought it would be of great benefit to the landowners along the river as well as to the city of Fredericton and the town of Marysville if the dam could be removed or provided with a proper fishway.

W. H. Allen said that on one occasion last fall he saw nine fish get by the dam, eight by means of the gate and one by the fishway.

The president in expressing his views stated that he believed that the first run of salmon went to Tobique and the later run to the down river tributaries. In the old days the Nashwaak was heavily timbered but not so today. Even if the fish entered the Nashwaak the angling might not be good except in high water. However, it would be wise to have the fish go up the river even for spawning purposes.

Raymond Currie said he thought salmon would go up the Nashwaak if it was possible for them to do so.

Byard Simmons said that in 1916, when the river was free of obstructions Mr. Mack had caught a salmon in the Nashwaak.

The Minister's View

Hon. C. D. Richards, said that his views in regard to the Nashwaak were rather in accord with those of the president. He thought that river was more apt to have a late run of fish as the early run went on to the Tobique. He could see no reason why the Nashwaak could not be made valuable for the later run of fish. Reference had been made to the conflict between anglers and commercial fishermen on the Miramichi. In respect to that he would say that no group had the right to a monopoly and it was desirable to find some reasonable grounds on which all could obtain the best possible results. Strong representation had been made to the department at Ottawa in regard to the alleged excessive net drifting in Miramichi Bay. He had been in Ottawa quite recently and with Mr. AcAvity had taken the matter up with Mr. Found, the deputy Minister of Fisheries. The matter had been discussed frankly and fully, and Mr. Found seemed to be conscious of the fact that conditions were not good. The deputy minister produced figures to show that the catch by drifters had actually decreased. He intimated that the habits of salmon had changed in recent years and said that a scientific study of the whole question was being made.

Hon. Mr. Richards assured the meeting that his department was deeply interested in the salmon fisheries, and was anxious to protect the set net fishermen as well as the anglers. In the St. John he considered that the province possessed a river which was proving a valuable asset. His department was trying to work out a plan to improve conditions for trout fishing. In regard to game law enforcement the province had a large area, sparsely populated, and there were violations, but he hoped to see the number reduced. They had a pretty good staff of game wardens,

which had been almost doubled since 1925. The advent of the motor car was partially responsible for the increase. The expenditure on game law enforcement had kept pace with the revenue.

The Minister said that deer were fairly plentiful in every section, but the same could not be said of moose. There had been discussion regarding the ten point law and he could say that it was favored by practically all of the guides. He did not believe that under the law any more undersized moose were killed and left in the woods, than had been the case before the change was made. A close season for moose was talked of, but would not be resorted to by the department if it could be avoided.

The Minister heartily thanked President Chestnut for having arranged for an importation of Hungarian partridges to the province. He thanked the Fish and Game Protective Association for the valuable work it was doing throughout the province.

A Wrong Theory

President Chestnut heartily thanked the Minister for his kind words. He thought that the theory of Mr. Found regarding the salmon fisheries of the Miramichi were rather peculiar to say the least and he did not agree with his statement that the salmon were changing their habits. Grilse and salmon work together in the Miramichi, and the grilse get up the river, but the salmon are caught in the nets. Each salmon river has peculiarities of its own, which had to be taken into consideration. For instance on the Upsalquitch the fish were small and readily got past the nets. He believed that the steam trawlers would eventually destroy the fish.

Jack Miner May Come

The president announced that Jack Miner, the famous conservationist, planned to visit the province in June, and would be available for a meeting in Fredericton.

The matter was discussed at some length and a committee composed of President Chestnut, Ald. Goodspeed, and F. W. Barker, was appointed to devise ways and means in connection with the matter. Mr. Barker said that the Men's Club of the Methodist Church might sponsor the meeting with the cooperation of the game association.

There was some discussion with the respect to the practice of dumping garbage on the river bank at the West End and the secretary was instructed to communicate with the city council with a view of having a change made. W. T. Chestnut and others pointed out that garbage thrown into the river had a detrimental effect on the fisheries.

Officers Chosen

The election of officers for the ensuing year resulted as follows:

Hon. President, Col. H. M. Campbell.

President, H. G. Chestnut.

Vice President, Lee McCutcheon.

Secretary, R. P. Allen.

Treasurer, Byard Simmons.

Additional members of the executive, J. M. O'Hallorhan, Harry C. Moore, Edward Hagerman and W. Harry Allen.

After some further discussion the meeting adjourned.

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