

MOOSE HUNTING SEASON IN PROVINCE OF NOVA SCOTIA HAS BEEN DISAPPOINTING

(Yarmouth N. S. Telegram.)

Wednesday saw the close of the 1928 open season for the shooting of moose and it also closed a season more or less disappointing to many hunters. Further it was the close of the first open season under the new arrangement, whereby no persons were allowed to shoot a moose during the calling season, while it is an open season when the moose will not come to a call, no matter how near perfection it may be. The guides in consequence, have to place their hunters at different points of advantage and then go into the thicket or swamp and drive out the animal to the slaughter. In other words, as one hunter remarked, it is just the same as herding animals into a yard then when all is set and in readiness, some person or persons go in and drive them out for the other fellows to shoot down. But as stated above it has been a hunting season of much disappointment, due to the fact that many thickets and swamps did not contain a moose for the guide or guides to drive to the slaughter. That is a fact which few can dispute and the question may be asked where are the moose?

We do not believe there was ever a season in the history of moose hunting in Nova Scotia, when those animals were so few as in the season just closed, and that condition did not pertain to Yarmouth County alone. We have heard the same report from hunters, who for years have gone into the Shelburne woods and rarely missed bringing out their animal, while

we have also heard similar reports from the northern section of Nova Scotia. This year the hunter went and returned and in some instances never saw an animal. That there is something very wrong is evident on every hand and we have heard some sportsmen say that a close season on moose is positively essential to propagate those lordly animals. Some hunters have gone so far as to say that there should be close season on moose for five years and if not for that period it must be for three at the very least. We believe they are right for the matter is a serious one. Whether or not it was the ten day's open season in December last for the shooting of moose, male or female, which did the mischief, is a matter for consideration but there is not a doubt that the damage done to Nova Scotia's moose in that brief period will take many years to overcome.

Then also is the question of open season. We are told by sportsmen, who have been following the game practically all their lives that to shoot moose in any other time than the calling season, is the meanest kind of sport. The moose in the calling season are alive and alert to any movement in the wild country and will spy or scent a hunter a long time before a hunter knows of the moose. The animal also, despite the fineness of the call, will be most cautious in his approach in response against any danger, so keen are their instinct. Out of the calling season, however, the moose is more or less docile, will not

heed a call and it is when in that state that he is driven to his slaughter. By that it can be seen that the open season, best, not only for the real sportsmen, but also for the better protection of the moose is as it existed prior to 1923, namely, opening on October first, and continuing for six weeks. Even in such seasons as there existed practically all the shooting was done in the first two weeks, which is about the end of the calling season.

In that connection it is necessary that the game laws of Nova Scotia, so far as the moose is concerned, should be revised. In that revision, let it be made, in all fairness to Nova Scotia, by Nova Scotians, who in the past have given both time and energy in the best interests of our game. We say let them be consulted. Let the matter be discussed in a fair and open manner and the opinions of our best sportsmen, regardless of their political standing, be given fair and conscientious consideration. That was the way game laws in years past were framed and no person can dispute the fact that they were the best ever. In those days Liberals and Conservatives met at the round table and weighed the matters fairly in the best interests of our wild life, and when those gatherings got to the point where it was time to act, they acted as unitedly as when in conference. That is what has got to happen again and the idea that because so and so always did such and such a thing, they will not do it now, has got to be entirely lost sight of. The game of this province is a great heritage handed down to us to protect and preserve and it is a thing of too great importance to the economic life of Nova Scotia to be played with. The moose is one of the greatest attractions of our wild life and if it is necessary for a close season in order to insure its

propagation, then by all means let us get down to business and urge for the same.

There are also other matters in connection with the game which demand some attention. Like road hogs which we so frequently hear of there are also game hogs, but we trust they are not so common as the former. Should they be, our wild life would very soon be in a most sorry plight and in a short time our game birds would be more or less extinct. We occasionally hear, and we are glad to say it is only occasionally, of an over zealous hunter bagging a few more of certain birds than the law allows and also occasionally hear of one having in the bag one or two birds which for a year or so are supposed to go unmolested. We say such reports are rare, but for the good of our game we would suggest that our game wardens keep their ears to the ground and should such a report come to their hearing, go after it and see just how far it is true. The game laws of our country are equally as important as any other and if it is a crime to break through and steal, it is also a crime to violate the statutes enacted for protection of our game.

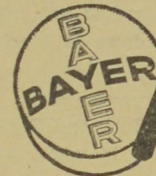
TIMBER WOLVES GET THE BEST OF HUNTER'S DOGS

Ottawa, Nov. 5.—Reports of wolves attacking and killing hunters' dogs was brought down from the Gatineau district by High Constable Achille Ricard, who had just returned from near Farrelton.

The dogs were the property of the St. Hubert Hunt Club, located between Farrelton and St. Pierre De Wakefield, and were used to round up deer



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at this season's hunt. Saturday, two of the dogs were found in the bush two miles from the camp, horribly mutilated about the throat and body, and a third one was dying from similar wounds.

Investigation showed the animals had actually been fighting with wolves. Bits of hair and fur, resembling that of the Canadian timber wolf, were

lying about the battle ground and clinging to twigs and bushes.

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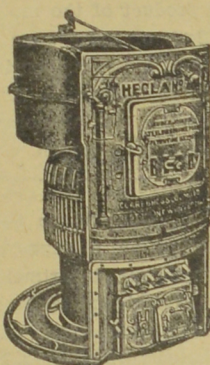
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