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The pine cone : July, 1920. 1920

[s.l.]: New Mexico Game Protective Association, 1920

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OUR PLATFORM:

1. We stand for vigorous and impartial enforcement of the game and fish laws.
2. We stand for federal control of migratory birds and prohibition of spring shooting.
3. We stand for co-operation with stockmen in a vigorous campaign against predatory animals.
4. We stand for an adequate system of Game Refuges.
5. We stand for such an increase in game and fish as will furnish legitimate sport for every citizen.
6. We believe in public ownership and development of important wildfowl breeding and shooting grounds.
7. We stand for a non-partisan State Game Commission with broad regulatory powers, and authorized to employ an expert State Game Warden at an adequate salary.

"Seemeth it a small thing unto you to have fed upon good pasture, but ye must tread down with your feet the residue of your pasture? And to have drunk of the clear waters, but ye must foul the residue with your feet?"

—EZEKIEL, 34-18.



As the cone scatters the seeds of the pine and the fir tree, so may this little paper scatter the seeds of wisdom and understanding among sportsmen.

Six Rules For Sportsmen:

1. **Be a Real Sportsman.** There is more honor in giving the game a square deal than in getting the limit.
2. **Make Sure It's a Buck.** If you can't see his horns—she hasn't got any.
3. **Help Enforce the Game Law.** Game and fish are public property and only a game-hog will take more than his fair and legal share. Violations should be reported to the nearest Deputy Warden, Forest Ranger, or Game Protective Association.
4. **Respect the Ranchman's Property.** He regards the man who leaves his gates open, cuts his fences, chases his livestock, or shoots near dwellings, as an outlaw. Put yourself in his place.
5. **Be Careful With Your Campfire and Matches.** One tree will make a million matches; one match can burn a million trees.
6. **Leave a Clean Camp and a Clean Record.** Unburied garbage, crippled game, and broken laws, are poor monuments for a sportsman to leave behind him.

G. P. A. PROPOSES REORGANIZATION STATE GAME DEPARTMENT

Prominent New Mexicans and Eastern Leaders Endorse New Bill to Be Presented to Legislature — Well Paid Warden, Working Under a Non-Political Commission, Main Feature of New Plan—G. P. A. Solicits Advice and Suggestions From All Interested Citizens

By far the most important happening of the recent sportsmen's convention at Santa Fe was when forty of the leading sportsmen and leading politicians of New Mexico sat around a table together, and in a friendly spirit, discussed and reached a tentative agreement on the biggest question confronting New Mexico sportsmen today—the unshackling of the New Mexico Game and Fish Department.

Everybody knows that in order to meet the steadily increasing drain on our game and fish supply, the State Game Department must perform more constructive work and assume a more aggressive leadership than has been possible in the past.

Not everybody realizes that under its present organization, such constructive work and aggressive leadership is made nearly impossible by the limitations placed upon the Game Warden's authority, tenure of office, and method of selection by the game law itself. Until that law is changed, it is not only useless but unjust to expect from the state game department that full measure of service for which the public pays and to which it is entitled.

The present game law cripples our Game Department:

First, by limiting the assured tenure of office to two years, regardless of how good or how poor the service delivered. The problem of building up our game supply is so big and so difficult that two years is barely enough time to make a start. If a State Warden actually delivers the goods, he should be retained as long as he will stay. If he does not deliver the goods, he should not be retained at all. The proposed new law gives a good man a chance to make good and to stay.

Second, by the political nature of the appointment. It is only just and fair that the administration should be directly represented in the Game Department. The governor is responsible for that Department and naturally desires to delegate that responsibility to a man of his own choosing. But it is wholly unjust and unfair that the governor's representative should also be the executive officer. Under the new plan the governor appoints the Game Commission, and the Commissioners are his direct representatives. The Commission appoints the warden and supervises the finances and policies of the Department. If a good warden is already on the job, the Commission, a majority of which is non-political, may continue his services.

Third, by the entire absence of regula-

tory powers. The present warden is told to develop our stock of game, but given no authority to do anything toward that end except to prosecute those who steal it. It is like hiring a general manager to develop a farm but limiting his authority to the prosecution of trespassers. Prosecuting thieves does not produce crops, and it is crops we are after. The Game Department should not have to wait on the Legislature to establish refuges, change open and closed season, etc., any more than the Board of Health should wait on the Legislature to establish a quarantine. Of course, it is unsafe to delegate legislative

Refuge proposition, game law changes, and public hunting grounds, are automatically provided for.

Fourth, by the limitations imposed by the last Legislature on the use of the Game Fund. The Game Fund is growing. It is only natural that the governor should not want to give any one man full power to spend it. But it is wholly unbusinesslike to pass a law, as the last legislature did, which prohibits the expenditure of the fund, over and above certain fixed liabilities, for deputy game wardens, when deputy game wardens may be the one expenditure. Such legislation does not safeguard, it merely obstructs. The only solution is to place the whole fund absolutely

A Suggestion For Acquiring Public Ducking Grounds

The State Land Commissioner is selling many hundreds of thousands of acres of State lands. The State needs public duck-shooting grounds. Along the Rio Grande valley are many sloughs and marshes admirably suited for this purpose, but these sloughs and marshes are all going to be drained, unless the State acquires a few of them for public shooting grounds.

Now, why should not the State arrange a trade of State land for some of these sloughs? The point is that by this means it may be possible to secure ducking grounds without any great outlay of public funds.

With drainage imminent, there will be little or no duck-shooting in the middle Rio Grande valley unless steps are taken to save at least a few of the duck-ponds that provide food for migrating flocks. No one who has traveled down the valley on a fine November Sunday morning and has seen the scores of duck-hunters along the river can doubt the recreational value of duck-hunting to the State of New Mexico. These hunters and many other people who believe in the moral and physical value of outdoor sports are not going to let all our fine duck-marshes be destroyed.

Of course, this doesn't mean opposition to drainage. It merely means saving from drainage an infinitesimal part of the land—not enough to hurt anybody, but plenty to give an occasional day's sport to thousands of hunters.

But merely to furnish immediate hunting is not the only purpose of these public hunting-grounds. Wild fowl travel in all directions over the country from their main congregating places. During the winter, in their southern haunts, as well as on the routes of their long migrations, they must have places to feed and rest. Lakes, ponds, and marshes provide food and shelter; and destroying these waters by drainage will deprive waterfowl of indispensable needs.

It is significant that the U. S. Biological Survey regards the preservation of such waters as the most vital problem in the conservation of wildfowl, now that they are adequately protected by the Federal Migratory Bird Law. E. W. Nelson, chief of the Survey, effectively explodes the theory that all land is necessarily more productive under crops than under water. Many ponds and lakes furnish more value in the form of food and game fishes, wildfowl, small fur-bearing mammals, and recreation than they would produce if drained and farmed.

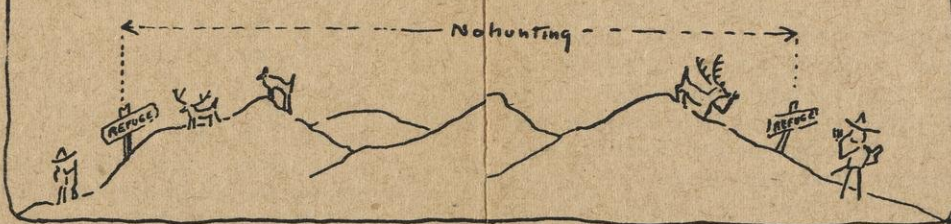
Several States have already embarked on a program for protecting such waters. Why can't New Mexico be the next? The project will appeal to every man that likes the smell of burnt powder and the whistling of wings above the water.

THE "WHY" & "HOW" OF GAME REFUGES.

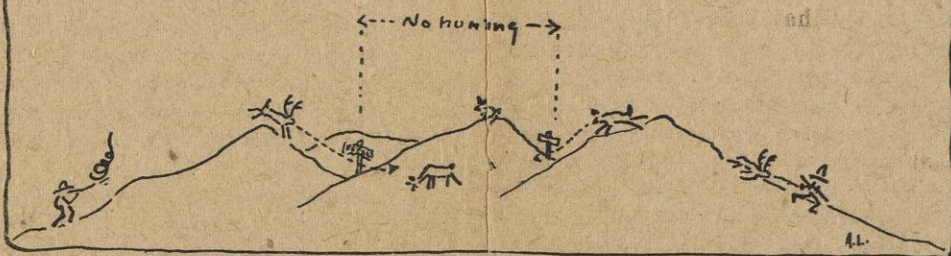
No. 1 No Refuge. Where is the Game?



No. 2 Big Refuge. Where is the Hunting?



No. 3 Small Refuge. Here are both Game & Hunting!



powers to any one man, no matter how good a man he is. But under the new plan the Department is no longer a one man proposition. Such regulatory powers can be safely delegated to the proposed Game Commission, just as even greater regulatory powers have been delegated to our Board of Health. In this way the Game

is the hands of the Commission, and if they do not spend it wisely, fire them forthwith. The new plan provides accordingly.

In short, the new Game Commission plan unshackles the Game Department from its

Continued on Page Four

The Pine Cone

A quarterly paper devoted to the cause of
Wild Life Conservation.
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OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE NEW MEXICO
GAME PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION.

(Application pending for entry as second-class
postal matter.)

THE NEW MEXICO GAME PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION

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C. A. Whited, Carrizozo
T. E. Kelley, Santa Fe
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Harry Booth, C. C. Metcalf,
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El Paso Game Protective Association.
(Affiliated.)
W. H. Shelton, Alvin Dixon,
President, Secretary.

\$1000, PLEASE

No doubt everything is free in Heaven, and we hope there is plenty of game there, else some of us may be in no hurry to go. But everything is not free in New Mexico, and game is getting scarce. It costs money to run the New Mexico Game Protective Association—not much money, but a little. Not a cent goes for salaries, but postage, paper and printing require a modest sum in the treasury. An empty treasury sometimes taxes the stick-to-it-iveness of even the incurable sportsmen on whom you have wished the job of pushing the reconstruction of our hunting and fishing. Therefore, brother sportsmen, please come across! Hugh Hodge started the ball rolling with an unsolicited personal subscription of \$350; State Game Warden Gable has come in with \$20, and C. A. Whited with \$25. The last convention assessed the several locals for the following additional sums:

Albuquerque	\$ 150
Carlsbad	75
Carrizozo	50
Gallup	100
Las Cruces	75
Las Vegas	100
Magdalena	75
Mogollon	15
Raton	50
Roswell	100
Santa Fe	100
Silver City	125
Taos	25

Total.....\$1040

Silver City has already paid up their allotted amount. Next?

Wanted in Jail: Tourists who buy trout or venison.

KILLING GAME BY THE BILLION

Isn't our present bag limit of fifty trout or ten pounds of trout too high? Isn't our present federal bag limit of 25 ducks too high?

Dr. Hornaday of New York, who needs no introduction to New Mexico sportsmen, has raised the whole question of high bag limits in a recent bulletin issued by the Permanent Wild Life Protection Fund. He shows, by his usual combination of straight-from-the-shoulder logic and actual photographs, how many of our states are today exterminating their game "according to law," through too-long open seasons and too-high bag limits. He shows that if every hunter in New York had filled his limit, two and one-half billion head of game would have been killed. Of course, we don't all fill our limit—if we did we should soon tire of the ancient sport—but nevertheless there is more truth than poetry in Dr. Hornaday's contentions.

How about the beam in our own eye? The G. P. A. would like to hear from New Mexico sportsmen on our present bag limits, especially trout and ducks.

THE TROUT SITUATION

It seems to be the consensus of opinion that this year's trout supply, especially on the Pecos, has been the best in years. Why?

We don't know. But we think it well worth asking whether it may not be due to State Game Warden Rouault's policy of placing his fry in the headwaters and small tributaries, rather than in the main river. Rouault claimed that fry placed directly into the main river were mostly devoured by the big fish.

Mr. Gable's activity in fish stocking should also meet with the hearty commendation of New Mexico sportsmen. Mr. Gable's project of building and operating a trout hatchery out of the income from trout licenses is one which every fisherman should help him put through. It would have gone through at the last Legislature, but for the Senate Committee, which questioned the right of the sportsmen to spend their own money for a hatchery. We sympathize, as all taxpayers must, with the "watchdog of the treasury" idea, but we fail to see why a self-supporting department like the Game and Fish Department should be arbitrarily restricted in the expenditure of its income, on the plea of economy in state expenditures. If other state departments spent as little of the state's money as the Game Department (viz: nothing) the watchdogs would soon be out of a job.

THE WHY AND HOW OF DUCKFEEDS

A considerable part of the water and swamp area of New Mexico is of no value for raising or shooting ducks, because it contains no duckfeed.

It is a paying proposition to plant such areas with natural food-plants that will attract the birds, firstly because it improves the shooting, and secondly because it increases the number of birds which can successfully breed and raise young.

It is vastly better to introduce food plants than to bait with grain. In fact we question the ethics of systematic grain baiting. It is destructive, furnishes only a temporary food supply, and is too easy shooting. It savors of hunting in a poultry yard at feeding time.

But planting food plants is a permanent benefit to both the duckhunter and the ducks. With this idea in view, the Rio Grande Gun Club, which owns a chain of small lakes in the Rio Grande Valley near Albuquerque, has planted their lakes with Widgeon-grass. Later in the season duckweed and sago-pondweed will be introduced. All of these plants are excellent duckfeeds and are recommended by the U. S. Biological Survey as resistant to alkali. The New Mexico G. P. A. will gladly furnish information on duckfeeds to interested parties, and would welcome information on successful introduction of food plants in the Southwest.

A cure for spring shooters: Take them to any lake or slough in July and show them the broods of baby ducks. Instead of having to go to Great Slave Lake to get north of the spring-shooter's gun, ducks now nest peacefully throughout the length and breadth of the land.

LEAVE A PATCH OF COVER

There are only five factors in the problem of producing quail. These are (1) leaving birds for seed, (2) feed, (3) water, (4) cover, (5) fair protection from vermin. When quail are scarce year after year, it is because one or more of these requirements have been lacking.

One of the most important of these factors is cover. Quail need a patch of real brush, preferably on rough sandy ground, as protection against vermin. The patch need not be large, but the thornier, denser, and stiffer the better. One of the reasons why quail are decreasing in many places is because all the brush cover has been tramped out or cleared. If the farmer would leave a little patch of cover in some waste corner (a quarter of an acre will do) and fence it coyote-proof and cat-proof with woven wire, so that quail could get in but varmints could not, he would be assured of good quail shooting till doomsday. Of course, such fencing costs money, and if the farmer invests the money he is entitled to the shooting. If other sportsmen want the shooting, they should reimburse the farmer for the investment.

If there is no quail cover on the farm, why not try a little artificial patch; i.e., a fenced area filled with brush piles. The brush can be obtained by lopping trees.

In every case a fenced brush patch should be a game refuge in which no shooting is allowed. This will automatically take care of reserving a seed stock of birds.

PRESERVING OKEFINOKE

The Pine Cone extends its moral support and hearty good wishes to the Okefinoke Society, which is trying to preserve from drainage and commercial exploitation the Okefinoke Swamp, the "greatest natural wonder" of Georgia. This swamp covers 700 square miles and is inhabited by an extraordinary number of unique species of plants, animals, fish, and fowl. It is also a great winter resort for wildfowl. It is said to be in an absolutely primeval condition.

The Okefinoke Society is trying to acquire title to the swamp with a view to presenting it to the government as a permanent wild life refuge. We rise to ask why the government thus waits to be made an object of private charity. The time has come when both state and federal governments will have to buy enough of these great breeding grounds, shooting grounds, and recreation areas to supply the public need. The longer they wait the less they will get for their money.

\$250 REWARD

A \$250 reward is offered by the Mogollon Game and Fish Association for the arrest and conviction of the person or persons who dynamited fish in Whitewater Canyon on or about June 12. This is a handsome offer and about correctly proportioned to the heinousness of the offense. Once upon a time, up north, a deputy game warden ran onto the camp of a party of fish-dynamiters. Off in the distance, he had heard the roar of an explosion where the dynamiters were at work. He made a neat pile of the grub, tents, beds, saddles, and the rest of the outfit; tamped in a hefty charge of dynamite underneath, lighted the fuse, and left. It is reported that the "anglers" left the country. Here's hoping the Mogollon Association will light at least a legal fuse under the Whitewater outfit.

SPRING SHOOTERS SHOOT THE CHUTES

The Supreme Court of the United States has taken all the wild fowl under its wing. The spring-shooters are ousted, silenced, roped, thrown, and hog-tied. The Supreme Court has upheld the constitutionality of the Federal Migratory Bird Law, and in doing so it says:

"A national interest of very nearly the first magnitude is involved. * * * We see nothing in the Constitution that compels the Government to sit by while a food supply is cut off and the protectors of our forests and our crops are destroyed."

We congratulate the sportsmen of North America on their fine victory, and we hope that the spring-shooters will swallow their medicine with a smile and proceed to mend their ways.

Wanted in Jail: Trout dynamiters.

FEDERAL GAME REFUGE

BILL KILLED—BUT WAIT

TILL THE NEXT CONGRESS

The Nelson Bill died in the last session of Congress. It is nothing new for federal game refuge bills to die, but they have a peculiar habit of getting resurrected and of going forward with more energy than ever before.

The New Mexico G. P. A. conducted a campaign last spring for the Nelson Bill that brought a gratifying response from many of the best known game protectionists of the country. We intend to renew this fight next autumn just before Congress re-convenes.

Game refuges on the National Forests are coming. They are coming in spite of the sinister opposition of certain Western members of Congress, who would rather see the game destroyed than hurt the delicate feelings of some of the special interests.

This is merely an announcement between the rounds. Let us hope the next round will be the last one, with a solar-plexus blow to the small but powerful opposition.

NEW MEXICO GETS A FEDERAL GAME WARDEN

New Mexico is fortunate to have a man of the type of Federal Game Warden Britten in charge of enforcing the Federal Migratory Bird Law. Mr. Britten is on the job night and day, travels great distances in response to clues, and means to take the federal law as seriously as it was intended by Congress. Being in the United States Civil Service, Mr. Britten has no political fences to mend and is on the job all the time. His address is care of the U. S. Biological Survey, Albuquerque, N. M.

The New Mexico Game Protective Association welcomes Mr. Britten to the Southwest, and predicts for him all the success that his indefatigable energy and zeal deserve.

If you see any violation of the federal law, tell Mr. Britten. He's a bear-cat when it comes to "sooners." Moreover, some of us are going to watch out when the sun sets this fall.

HUNTING BY AEROPLANE

We notice a number of press arguments trying to justify hunting game from aeroplanes on the grounds that it is "excellent practice."

That is what trap-shooters used to say when a few unscrupulous men conceived the idea of training their eye by shooting swallows.

Of course the aeroplane artists would like to have it appear that this "excellent practice" would have primarily a military value. So, also, would dropping bombs on the Capitol.

If the Army Aviation Corps need to practice on ducks, let them say so, and special arrangements will, no doubt, be made. But an attempt to sanctify a new and wasteful amusement for civilian idlers by dragging in military necessity will hardly "stick" with American conservationists.

A Los Lunas sportsman recently reported a wholesale destruction of duck eggs around one of the local sloughs by cur dogs. An investigation made by Federal Warden Britten proved the report to be correct. Moral: Unfed dogs, and unfed cats are among the most destructive enemies of our game supply. All dogs and cats ought to have the choice of a license tag or a dose of chloroform.

The final test of the pudding: Swans are nesting in the Rio Grande Valley this year. They were seen recently with a big brood of little cygnets. We are not going to tell where, but we enjoin every right-thinking square-dealing sportsman in New Mexico to help protect the swans.

If this does not "sell" the Migratory Bird Law to the doubting Thomas, then we don't know what will.

The Biological Survey is advocating the establishment of a special game preserve in Nevada to protect the antelope and the sage-hen from extermination. The New Mexico G. P. A. is strong for this move. It ought to have been done, not in one state but in ten states, not in 1920 but in 1900. Let it not be forgotten that the G. P. A. offers a special reward of \$50 for the conviction of antelope killers.

TENTATIVE DRAFT of BILL

FOR A

New Mexico State Game Commission

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of New Mexico:

Section 1. State Game Commission—Creation:

There is hereby created for the State of New Mexico a State Game and Fish Commission, which shall be composed of three members. They shall serve without pay.

Section 2. Membership—Terms:

The Commission shall be composed of a qualified member of the scientific staff of the University of New Mexico, a qualified member of the scientific staff of the New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, and one additional member, all to be appointed by the Governor by and with the advice and consent of the Senate. The member appointed at large shall serve two years from date of appointment, one other member shall serve two years, and the third member four years from date of appointment. A vacancy created by the resignation, removal, or death of a member, shall be filled by the Governor in the same manner as provided for the designation or appointment of the original members, and by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, and recess appointments may be confirmed at the next ensuing session of the Senate.

Section 3. Meetings:

Within sixty days after this act shall take effect, the State Game Commission shall meet at the capital and organize by electing from its membership a Chairman and a Secretary, and thereafter one meeting shall be held annually and others at the call of the Governor or a majority of the Board.

Section 4. State Game Warden—Duties—Qualifications:

The State Game Commission shall appoint a state game warden who shall continue in office at the pleasure of the Commission, at a salary not to exceed \$4,000 per annum, and said game warden shall be a person having experience, special training and skill in wild life conservation and management. The state game warden shall be the administrative head of the State Game Department, custodian of its property and records, shall maintain his office at the seat of the state government, devote his entire time to his official duties, and shall exercise the powers of the State Game Commission in the interim of its meetings, but subordinate thereto.

Section 5. Employees:

The state game warden shall be authorized by the State Game Commission to employ such assistants as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this act, who shall be subject to his orders, provided, that the aggregate of all salaries and expenses of the State Game Department and the State Game Commission shall not exceed the game protection fund, which shall consist of all receipts from the sale of all licenses and permits sold by the State Game Department, receipts from the sale of seized game and beaver hides, and civil damage collected for violations of the State game law.

Section 6. Expenses:

The members of the State Game Commission shall receive no pay for their services as members of the Commission, but shall be allowed their actual and necessary traveling expenses while absent from their homes in attendance upon meetings of the Commission or in the discharge of their official duties. All salaries, per diem, and contingent expenses incurred by the State Game Department or the State Game Commission shall be paid upon warrants of the State Auditor, supported by vouchers of the State Game Warden.

Section 7. Powers:

The State Game Commission shall have supervision over all the wild animals, wild birds, and fish of the State, and shall possess all powers necessary to fulfill the duties prescribed by law with respect thereto, and to bring actions in courts for enforcement of the game laws and the rules, regulations, and orders promulgated thereunder by the State Game Commission. It shall have authority to investigate the location, numbers, and conditions of all wild animals, birds, and fishes of the State, and to hire qualified biologists for this purpose. The Commission shall have authority, by and with the consent of the Governor, to declare closed seasons in any specified locality or localities, on any species of game or fish threatened with undue depletion from any cause; provided, that prior to the closing of such season, notice shall be given fifteen days prior to the order becoming effective by publication in one or more papers in each county affected by the order. The Commission shall have authority, by and with the consent of

the Governor, to establish game refuges for the purpose of providing safe sanctuaries in which game may breed and replenish adjacent to game ranges; it being the purpose of this provision to establish small refuges rather than large preserves or to close large areas to hunting. The Commission shall have authority, with the consent of the Governor, to purchase lands for game refuges, where suitable public lands do not exist; and to purchase lands to be maintained perpetually as public hunting grounds, particularly lands suitable for waterfowl hunting; all such lands to be paid for from the fish and game fund.

Any person or persons, firm or corporation, owning contiguous land totaling not less than 640 acres may petition the State Game Commission for the purpose having such lands designated as state game refuges, and the Commission, in its discretion, with the consent of the Governor, may designate such lands as state game refuges, and such refuges shall have the same force and effect as refuges on public lands.

The Commission shall have authority to designate certain areas as rest-grounds for migratory birds, in which hunting shall be forbidden, it being the purpose of this provision not to interfere unduly with the hunting of waterfowl, but to provide havens in which they can rest and feed without molestation. The Commission shall have authority, by and with the consent of the Governor, to close any public stream or lake or portion thereof to fishing, when such action is necessary to protect a recently stocked water, to protect spawning waters, or to prevent undue depletion of the fish.

All refuges, sanctuaries, rest grounds, and closed lakes or streams, or closed portions of lakes and streams, shall be conspicuously posted with posters setting forth their purposes and the penalties for violating the rules and regulations applicable to them. Not less than fifteen days before any refuge, sanctuary, rest-ground or closure of waters becomes effective, publication shall be made as provided in Section 8, of the boundaries of such refuges, rest-grounds and closed waters, such boundaries to be accurately designated by definite topographic features or public land survey lines. The hunting, pursuing, wounding, capturing or killing of any game or fish in violation of the rules and regulations governing any closed season, or any refuge, sanctuary, rest-ground, or closed water, promulgated by the Commission with the approval of the Governor, shall be punished with the same penalties as provided for the violation of the State game laws regarding closed seasons.

The Governor shall have authority to prohibit all hunting in periods of extreme forest fire danger, at such times and places as may be necessary to reduce the danger of destructive forest fires.

Section 8. Publications:

Rules, regulations, and orders of the State Game Commission shall be published in the following manner:

(1) Those having general application throughout the State shall be published once in some newspaper published in, and having general circulation throughout the State.

(2) Those of general or special character having local application only shall be published once in some newspaper published in, and having general circulation in the locality wherein such rules, regulations, and orders are applicable; Provided, however, that if no such newspaper is so published and circulated, a copy of such rules, regulations, and orders shall be posted in three conspicuous places in the locality in which they are applicable.

Section 9. Effect of Regulations:

All rules, regulations, and orders for the enforcement of the powers granted to the State Game Commission shall take effect and be in force after publication or posting as in this chapter prescribed, and when so published or posted shall constitute legal notice.

Section 10. Violation of Regulations:

Any person, firm, or corporation violating any order, rule, or regulation by the State Game Commission pursuant to its powers enumerated in this chapter, where the punishment is not otherwise specifically provided by law, shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$200.00 or imprisonment in the county jail for not less than thirty days nor more than ninety days, or by both such fine and imprisonment in the discretion of the Court.

Section 11:

So much of any law as is inconsistent or in conflict with any provision of this act is hereby repealed.

Section 12:

That it is necessary for the preservation of the public peace and safety of the inhabitants of the State of New Mexico that the provisions of this act shall become effective at the earliest possible time, and therefore an emergency is hereby declared to exist and this act shall take effect and be in full force and effect from and after its passage and approval.

Write us what you think of this bill. Tell us how to improve it. If the bill is right, every sportsman must help pass it. If the bill is wrong, every sportsman must help make it right.

BRINGING BACK THE MOUNTAIN SHEEP.

New Mexico contains a good many hundred thousand acres of land too rough to support any large animals except mountain sheep. In all our mountain ranges are such areas, inaccessible to all but the hardest climbers. These regions of "cliff and scur" are too wild, too desolate, too difficult of access for domestic stock, or even for deer unless they are driven there by intolerable persecution.

They are the natural abode of the mountain sheep—or were the abode of these fine animals until they were reduced, in this State, to one small herd in a particularly rough mountain range. Mountain sheep formerly ranged in large bands through all our mountains, and even descended to the plains, where they mingled with the deer and elk and antelope feeding in the deep grass that since has been all but destroyed by sheep and cattle.

Imagine deer and elk and mountain-sheep grazing knee-deep in the grass of New Mexico's limitless plains, and you have a picture of what the Spanish conquerors saw in the early days.

Those plains will never again support great herds of buffalo, deer, elk, antelope, and mountain-sheep; but there is no reason why our mountains should not support thousands of deer and no reason why mountain-sheep should not be reintroduced into the higher, rougher ranges of the State. The Biological Survey is ridding the mountains of predatory animals, and the extreme roughness of the natural haunts of mountain-sheep guarantees a certain protection even against poaching men.

The G. P. A. is studying the problem of bringing back the mountain-sheep in New Mexico, and hopes to have a definite plan to present before long.

The reintroduction of mountain-sheep is an entirely different matter from the

reintroduction of elk. The G. P. A. has steadily opposed the importation of elk on a large scale, simply because elk are not suited to farming regions; and there are few mountain ranges in the Southwest that have not a fringe of farms around their base. Elk destroy crops and win the profound enmity of farmers whom they molest. Elk will probably never come back in New Mexico except in a few isolated places; but it is entirely possible to imagine mountain-sheep in every rugged mountain range of the Southwest at no distant time.

SHALL BASEBALL BE PROHIBITED?

" * * * There is no use blinking the fact that deer and other big game animals consume a certain amount of range forage that might possibly be utilized by domestic animals; but, so long as big game animals are kept in reasonable check—and game refuges plus open hunting on surrounding areas will hold them in check—

this is not a sound argument in favor of exterminating big game. It would be as logical to argue that baseball or fishing ought to be abolished because these sports use up energy that might better be spent in producing potatoes or furniture." From "Game Refuges and the Livestock Industry," by Ward Shepard in The National Wool Grower.

If any man doubts whether our Game Protective Associations have done any actual good out in the brush let him take a trip into the mountains around Silver City. Every cowpuncher will tell him how the Silver City G. P. A. put the game law on the map in that neck of the woods. Every sportsman who takes a hunt in that country can thank Miles W. Burford, our lamented first president and his associates, for a large part of the sport that has been preserved for his enjoyment.

Wanted in Jail: Dove "Sooners."

AN EDITOR WITH A
SHEPHERD'S MIND.

Many excellent butlers, valets, ribbon-counter clerks, shepherders, and other useful workers have been spoiled in order to make poor newspaper writers. One of this breed writes editorials for the San Francisco *Chronicle*. It is unfortunate that the good, healthy common-sense of Americans must be imposed upon by the charlatanism, ignorance, and meanness of some of these poor, mind-starved, soul-cramped pencil-pushers. But to come back to our San Francisco friend. He writes thus about that great legal document, the Supreme Court's decision on the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty and Act.

Federal Game Legislation.

The migratory fowl are not "food supplies" in any ordinary or reasonable interpretation of that phrase. They can not be bought and sold in the market. They can not lawfully be acquired and served in public eating places. They are "food supplies" only to those who have the guns and ammunition and the license wherewith to satisfy their destructive instincts. From time immemorial game laws have been devices for the satisfaction of the rich or well-to-do, and for no other purpose. And such is the sole purpose of the migratory-bird law and statutes.

To call migratory birds "the protectors of our forests and our crops" is a shocking perversion of the truth, which one must sincerely regret to see embodied in a formal statement of our highest judicial tribunal, which we desire to reverence as the final protector of all that we hold dear in our American civilization. Of itself that tribunal is powerless. Its only sanction is in the confidence and respect of the people.

To call the protection of these worthless fowls for the gratification of the few who are able to indulge the hunting instinct "a national interest of the first magnitude" makes one gasp when the assertion is made by our highest judicial tribunal.

So far from being "a protector of our crops," the migratory birds are horrible destroyers of crops. So far from being a source of "food supply," the unfortunate rice farmers, whose crops these worthless birds devastate, are not permitted to dispose of the birds which they are reluctantly permitted to kill while actually engaged in their ruthless destruction.

The migratory-bird treaty and the statute based upon it are tyrannous perversions of an authority bestowed for the promotion of the general welfare and the protection of our liberties to the promotion of the vices of a few indulged in at the expense of the many and the destruction of the liberties which the abused authority was intended to protect.

Yes, poor little pencil-pusher, grubber among ideas whose significance you don't even remotely comprehend, we are aware that ducks eat rice in California, and the Secretary of Agriculture is aware of it, and sportsmen in general are aware of it. And the Secretary of Agriculture permits the killing of these ducks to protect the rice crop. But he knows and we know and you know that he does not permit the sale of these ducks because to do so would encourage the illegal killing and sale of ducks that were not destroying rice crops. This should be fairly plain even to the most "cabined, cribbed and confined" scribbler.

Yet this particular hack-writer would kill all the ducks and other migratory birds in the world because a comparatively few ducks invade California rice fields. His mental processes are akin to those of the Basque shepherd in Nevada, who, having got a dozen of his sheep mixed with two thousand of his neighbor's, drove all the sheep into a corral, painfully caught the two thousand one by one, and threw them over the fence in order to separate the two flocks.

But this writer's "facts" are as crooked as his logic. Apparently, he doesn't know that ducks and geese are not the only migratory birds; that there are many species of insect-destroying birds protected by the Migratory Bird Law; that these insect-destroying birds are worth many times their weight in gold; and that if they were not protected and were exterminated, ducks would no longer bother California crops because there wouldn't be any California crops left to bother.

Worst of all is his attempt to make

Now that another hunting season is upon us, it seems timely to ponder upon the only predatory animal permanently protected by the game laws—namely, the greenhorn.

Greenhorns are rapidly increasing in numbers. On October 16 both banks of the Rio Grande will be lined with them, and beginning half an hour before moonrise, they will pour great volleys of lead into the sky. After the first volley all the ducks will rise one-half mile above said volley, and all the hunters will go back to bed until the greenhorns have gone home, which they generally do about ten o'clock. Most greenhorns shoot automatically and drive large cars at high speed. They never kill ducks, but they cripple thousands of them, and they are regular bear-cats at killing mud-hens, herons, gulls, tip-ups, kildees, blackbirds, meadow-larks, and other ferocious birds and beasts.

On October 20 the herds move to the mountains, taking with them whole truck-loads of high-powered rifles, together with vast stores of provisions, ignorance and gall. They establish munition-dumps at

every spring and water-hole, and wander up and down the canyons discharging their guns and looking for gates to leave open and cow-ranches to shoot at. When they see a tree they shoot at it once; when they see a deer track they shoot twice in the direction in which it is going; when they see a cow they shoot three times; a horse or mule four times. When they see a deer, they shoot so many times that nobody can count how many, how fast, or how far. When they have shot all their ammunition, they sprinkle their camp with tin cans, old socks and magazines, and leave for the white lights.

There must be a beginning of everything, and every sportsman must start green. Nobody has anything but sympathy for the beginner, who, though green, displays a decent respect for the Lord and His works. But the true greenhorn, and his name is legion, displays no respect for anything, and he stays green to the end of his days.

Nobody would object to an open season on greenhorns, except the ammunition companies. We are inclined to recommend an open season, at least on bucks.

"WHEREFORE ART THOU, ROMEO"?

"Am I My Herder's Keeper?"

Mr. Stockman:---

If you gave your hired man a stick of dynamite to blow up a stump, and he went and blew up your neighbor's barn instead, would you feel any measure of responsibility for the damage?

When you give him a rifle or ammunition to kill coyotes, and he uses it to kill antelope instead, what about it?

Did you tell him not to?

duck-shooting out as the sport of the idle rich. Nothing could be more inept and bunglingly false than this. We have never yet seen an American who was too poor to own a shotgun and a dog. The great tribe of duck-hunters is largely made up of the rank and file of average Americans. The Federal law is a boon to these men, because it gives them free hunting; if it were not for the Federal law, duck-hunting would, in a very few years, be confined to expensive shooting clubs.

This intellectual pop-gun of San Francisco is a fair sample of the type of editorial writer that has a full license to flood the world with falsehoods, crooked reasoning, and fuel for feeding the flames of hatred. We are not advocating any curtailment of free expression of opinion, but merely wish that people like this could recognize the vast depths of their abysmal ignorance and for a moment see themselves as others see them.

IF.

If we could hang up the pelts of 200 lions, 100 wolves, and 10,000 coyotes and bobcats; if every hunter in New Mexico carefully observed the buck law and held his fire until he could kill and kill clean; and if the Game Commission would establish 50 big game refuges, then 10,000 bucks and 10,000 turkeys could be killed in 1925 in this state without in the least injuring our deer and turkey supply.

If we allow the predatory animal work to slacken for lack of funds; and if "sports" continue the killing of does, and the crippling up of everything in the country by long range shooting, and if the mossbacks hang up the Game Commission Bill and no refuges are established, then 10,000 rifles will be laid on the shelf in 1925 waiting for the end of a ten-year closed season on big game.

If the watch dogs of the treasury decide that it is proper for the sportsmen of this state to spend their own money for a fish hatchery, and if all of our streams are restocked yearly with native trout, and if the remaining dynamiters are sent to a house party in the pen, and the remaining snare artists sent down the road to inter-

view the J. P., then there will be fine fishing in 1925.

If we continue to let George and the dynamiters tend to our streams, then it will soon take an expert to catch a trout.

If we can induce our farmers, our ranchmen, and our groups of sportsmen to fence 10,000 one-acre brush patches near feed or water with varmint-proof woven wire, and make each of these little fenced patches a refuge in which no shooting is allowed at any time, and if we will stop "potting" and leave a few for seed, then we will have finer quail shooting in 1925 all over the state than we had ten years ago.

If we continue to delude ourselves into thinking that quail will increase in grazed-out, cleared-out, or burnt-out cover where they are exposed year-long to natural enemies, or if we delude ourselves into thinking that a "cleaned" covey will be there again next year, then we are just kidding ourselves along. After we get down to shooting guinea hens, or hen-raised pheasants turned out of a coop, then maybe we will learn to take care of our quail.

If we will get behind the movement to buy up duck breeding grounds, and if we will fence these breeding grounds against trampling livestock and egg-eating varmints, and if we will plant all our lakes and sloughs with duckfeeds, then, by the grace of God and the Federal Migratory Bird Law, the big red-legged mallards will still be spiralling down to our decoys in 1925 and for all time to come.

But if we allow most of our breeding and shooting grounds to be drained, and if we allow varmints and livestock to reduce the productiveness of the remainder to about one-fifth normal, then in 1925 will we be going to the Texas coast on a \$1,000 expedition after a mallard, just as we now journey to New Brunswick after a moose.

The Lord helps those who help themselves. In 1925 only those states will have shooting which have had the gumption, brains and money to produce shooting. Producing shooting is merely a matter of extending a little timely help to Nature. Is New Mexico going to extend a little timely help to nature, or are we going to turn to croquet and tiddle-de-winks to make men out of our sons?

G. P. A. PROPOSES REORGANIZATION

STATE GAME DEPARTMENT

(Continued from Page One)

present handicaps of politics, uncertainty of tenure, limited authority, and financial restrictions. It says to three picked men: "Here is the game. Here is the income from licenses. The people want more game, and when you deliver it, they will buy more licenses. Hire yourselves an expert manager, and see that he produces the goods. Fly to it."

The most encouraging single thing about the new plan is that State Game Warden Gable, and also the party leaders so far consulted, have shown the utmost willingness to discuss the situation, and have met the sportsmen more than halfway in their efforts to arrive at a wise solution of the problem. With the co-operation and friendly advice of these gentlemen, it should certainly be possible to place before the next Legislature a plan of action which is wisely conceived, carefully drawn, amply supported, and sure of success.

It should be understood that the draft of the proposed new bill, printed elsewhere in this issue, is tentative only. The G. P. A. is now seeking and hopes to obtain the advice of New Mexico sportsmen, business men, legislators, attorneys and officials, of the most successful State Game Department in other states, and of leading sportsmen throughout the nation. An Advisory Committee, consisting of the best authorities in America, has already been requested to pass on the draft of the bill. Their comments, which are now being received, are so far highly commendatory, and will be published in the next Pine Cone. We also solicit the advice of any member of the G. P. A., or any sportsman anywhere, or any citizen of New Mexico, who can offer any suggestion for the improvement of the bill or has any comment to make on it. All suggestions, it is needless to say, will receive the most careful consideration by all the principal officers of the Association. We are embarked on a big job, we need all the help we can get, and we are going to do that job and do it right.

Read the draft of the proposed bill on page 3.

A SPORTSMEN'S CREED.

Physicians, lawyers, and engineers have their "codes of ethics" or creeds. Why not a creed for sportsmen? The Albuquerque Game Protective Association has proposed the following "Standards of Sportsmanship":

1. I deem it a point of honor never to shoot a sitting bird (except cripples). I will not pot-shot, and I will not stand for it in my party.
2. I will measure the success of my day afield not only by the size of my bag, but by the number of cripples I leave behind me. I would rather get a mess of game with no lost cripples, than to kill the limit and leave the woods full of lost game. Accordingly, I will shoot to kill, and I will not shoot out of range.
3. I am against "piecing out" the other fellow's limit. I am against the "dummy license." The legal limit applies to the man, not to the party. If I can't kill my own game I don't want anyone else to kill it for me, and I expect my hunting partners to look at it the same way. If they don't, they don't need my company.
4. I will not clean out a covey. "Leaving some for seed" is one of the first principles of sportsmanship.

Perhaps you can suggest a better creed. If so, the Editors would be glad to have your suggestions.

All New Mexico sportsmen who kill banded ducks are asked to report the number of the band, the kind of duck, and date and place where taken, to the *Pine Cone*. We will transmit the reports to the proper parties. The band should be removed and forwarded with the report.

The dove season opens September 1. All dove hunters should keep their eye peeled for quail "sooners." These gentry have a habit of taking home a mess of quail under cover of the dove barrage. The quail sooner is like the man who steals the pie while honest men are eating their beans. He can not even be dignified by the name of thief; he is just a sneak. Take him to the J. P.