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OUR PLATFORM

1. We stand for a non-political Game Commission, approved by the sportsmen, and allowed to remain in office as long as it will.
2. We are unalterably opposed to any use of the Game Fund except by the Game Commission, and for true wild life conservation.
3. We are opposed to the posting of fishing waters for selfish purposes.
4. We believe in public ownership of important wild-fowl refuge and shooting grounds.
5. We stand for a policy of whole hearted cooperation with stockmen and farmers, realizing that the existence of game and the continuance of hunting and fishing depend upon the good will of the land owner.
6. We believe that the Game Commission owes its first allegiance to the sportsmen, and is in duty bound to shape its policies in accordance with its wishes.



# THE PINE CONE

Official Publication of The New Mexico Game Protective Association.

"As the Pine Cone Scatters Its Seeds, So May This Paper Scatter the Seeds of Wisdom and Understanding Among Men."

Founded in 1915 by Aldo Leopold

JULY, 1931

19th Issue

## COLFAX G. P. A. HAS BANQUET AT RATON

### Bad Weather Fails to Daunt Colfax Sportsmen Who Hold Good Meeting

On May 19 the Colfax County G. P. A. held its regular annual banquet at the Swastika Hotel at Raton. Despite bad weather the affair drew a very good crowd, and turned out to be one of the most enjoyable and instructive meetings in the history of the organization. State Game Warden Elliot Barker, Fred Sherman, President of the State Association, and E. L. Perry, Executive Secretary were present and made brief addresses. Mr. Sherman made a splendid talk in which he recited the career of the G. P. A. movement in New Mexico, and later in response to a question by Mr. Blaine as to the concrete benefits to the wild-life resource resulting from it cited present conditions in comparison with those of the pre-organization era and showed that the progress which has been made is directly traceable to the concerted efforts of the sportsmen to curb the wasteful practices of the past, and to supplant political expediency with scientific game management.

The Game Warden defended the action of the Commission in entering into an agreement with the owners of Storrie Lake, whereunder the Department agrees to keep the lake stocked and to allow the owners to exchange for the relinquishment by the owners of any rights they may have under the law to fish the lake at will and without license. He also answered a number of questions put to him from the floor.

### PERRY EXPLAINS BOARD

Mr. Perry explained that the newly created Board of Research and Education of the Association of which he is the Executive Secretary was not established for the purpose of fighting the present administration of the Game Department, but rather to assist it and future new administrations to get oriented on the job and thus to keep wild-life administration headed along in a straight line as nearly as may be.

A new wrinkle in G. P. A. meetings was introduced when Mr. Blaine put a number of prepared questions to the Game Warden and the State G. P. A. officials. He explained that the questions were for the purpose of clearing up certain controversial matters being discussed by the sportsmen of the county, and expressed the hope the answers would "clear the air." Mr. Barker was asked whether his previous connection with the Vermorel Club, which owns a large private hunting and fishing park in Colfax County would influence his actions in favor of the Private Park licensees of the state and denied emphatically that it would. He was also quizzed in regard to a rumor that he owns a portion of a stream in San Miguel County which is posted against fishing, and stated that while it is true that he owned some time had about three miles of Sapello Creek posted as a protection against vandalism on the part of fishermen he has recently removed the posters except for a section of about a half mile adjacent to his home.

### LOSS OF TROUT EXPLAINED

Perry was called on the carpet to account for the find of a large number of dead fish in the Cimarron River immediately after a planting of trout by the Department during his administration. He said that the matter had been investigated immediately after being reported and it was found that one of the fish truck drivers had spent an unnecessary amount of time on the road with the result that a considerable portion of the load of fish had died enroute. He drew a laugh from the audience when he suggested that the driver showed either remarkable honesty or astonishing dumbness when he failed to "plant" the dead fish in the brush instead of pouring them into the stream. He said the truck driver had been discharged. He also answered in the negative when Blaine asked whether the PINE CONE was to be a "political organ designed to discredit the present state administration." He reiterated his previous statement that the purposes of the G. P. A. and its official organ are purely constructive and in no sense retaliatory.

Archie H. Darden, Raton attorney, explained the rights of land owners under the law to post their lands against hunting and fishing, and doubted that these rights could ever be invaded by statute. State

## Labor Record Champions G. P. A.

### Albuquerque Paper Takes Up Cudgels for Organized Sportsmen

The "Labor Record," weekly newspaper published in Albuquerque by the Bynons, father and son, is a real booster for the G. P. A.

The elder Bynon is not only a veteran newspaper man, but he is also a veteran sportsman of that highly technical type which fanned the spark of conservation into flame in the beginning of the movement and which has ever since carried the torch in the dark climb toward cleaner sportsmanship and a better understanding of the sportsman's obligation toward nature and her work. Larry, the son, is a chip off the old block, and a tireless worker in the ranks of the G. P. A. Together they form an editorial team which is of incalculable value to the sportsmen of the state.

The Record's attitude toward the recent upset in the conservation field has not met with any considerable enthusiasm on the part of a certain group of politicians, its editor admits, but so far as is discernible he is not unduly perturbed thereby. He is one of that old school of newspaper men which believed that theirs was a holy commission to have to the line, let the chips fall where they may, and which stood by their convictions, come weal or woe.

THE PINE CONE is not very prone to give free advertising space to anybody, but we will violate that principle to the extent of suggesting that any sportsman who is not reading the Labor Record is missing a good thing. The subscription price is only \$2.00 per year, and the address is 211 West Gold Ave., Albuquerque.

## Trapping Black Canyon Deer Not Successful

The scheme worked out by the Game Department and the Forest Service last year to trap deer in the Black Canyon country for planting in less heavily populated districts has not proven successful so far, according to Elliot Barker, State Game Warden.

Three traps were built last fall, one south of Black Canyon and two to the north, but they were not ready for operation before the roads got bad. It was hoped that by baiting them with alfalfa and salt this spring that the deer could be easily taken, but apparently they are still afraid of the corrals. Barker says that large numbers of them gather around the traps to lick the salt which is outside, and even lie down around it, but that they will not enter. Various schemes have been tried, he says, to entice the animals inside, but to no avail.

Numbers of deer have been trapped on the Kaibab Plateau in Arizona during the past several years and transported elsewhere, and doubtless our Black Canyon deer will lose their fear of the traps in time.

## Govt. Bureau Taking Spawn in New Mexico

R. G. Wagner of the Bureau of Fisheries, accompanied by Assistant Supervisor Merker, spent Wednesday at Cabresto Lake, states the Carson Pine Cone. The purpose of the trip was to determine if it was possible to secure spawn of native trout in that lake. They took approximately 3,000 eggs by seining fish from the stream above the lake and they were brought down to Taos and placed in the hatchery here. Mr. Wagner, who has established a temporary Federal hatchery at Eagle Nest Lake, which will later become a permanent one, is taking rainbow spawn from that lake. He said he intended to make a very favorable report to the Bureau of Fisheries on the possibilities of taking spawn of native trout from Cabresto Lake. He stated that by putting traps in the stream it would be possible to take three or four hundred thousand eggs a year. We feel that this is very important, since there are at present no sources of obtaining native trout spawn.

Senator Geo. Remley made a short talk upon the struggle during the last Legislature to pass the Game Commission bill and lauded the G. P. A. for its help in putting the measure over.

## "THE PINE CONE" RESUMES PUBLICATION AFTER LAPSE OF SEVEN YEARS

During the Christmas holidays of 1915, Aldo Leopold, then Secretary of the organization, began publication of an "Official Bulletin of the Albuquerque Game Protective Association." With happy inspiration he called it "THE PINE CONE," and in the first issue set forth the following declaration:

"The aim and purpose of this little paper is to promote the protection and enjoyment of wild things. As the cone scatters the seeds of the pine and the fir tree, so may it scatter the seeds of wisdom and understanding among men, to the end that every citizen may learn to hold the lives of harmless wild creatures as a public trust for human good, against the abuse of which he stands personally responsible. Thus, and thus only, will our wild life be conserved. Be this not done, and that quickly, it must forever vanish from the earth."

The first issue was a little tentative in tone, the editor doubtless feeling around for solid ground upon which to plant his feet, but in the second number, gotten out the following April, the publication blossomed out into what was doubtless the most militant and at the same time most constructive medium of its kind that the country has ever seen.

It is trite to speak of that period as "the dark days of conservation," but even those of us who went through them no longer have a proper conception of how dark they really were. Through the medium of the PINE CONE we find Leopold fighting for the establishment of principles which are now so firmly entrenched that we no longer even think about them; inveighing against market hunting, begging for popular support of the refuge idea, challenging the almost universal evasion of the game laws, pleading for even a slight dilution of politics with efficiency in the Game Department. He fought strenuously, and one senses with every ounce of power at his command, but always courteously and with an eye single to the one objective—better wild life conditions. He never descended to idle back-biting or wasted time upon futile resentments; he set his sights high, but took what he could get and made the best of it.

On March 10, 1916, the New Mexico Game Protective Association was officially born. Sportsmen from Silver City, Santa Fe, Magdalena, Carlsbad, Roswell, and Taos gathered at Albuquerque and perfected the organization of eight locals, electing Miles W. Burford president and Aldo Leopold Secretary.

Promptly the PINE CONE, now the official organ of the new Statewide association, increased in size and scope. Leaders in the conservation movement began to insist upon less politics and more wild life management in the Game Department, and gradually "getting the Game Department out of politics" came to be the chief objective of the G. P. A. and the principal theme of THE PINE CONE.

The story of the fight for the Commission Law is an old one and need not be retold here. Suffice it to say that it was the everlasting hammering at the idea by the sportsmen's newspaper that finally put it over. The sportsmen took several lickings in the process, but finally, in the July 1920 issue, Leopold records that "forty leading politicians and leading sportsmen 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." And in the following Legislative Assembly the "Commission Bill" was enacted into law. It did not contain all the provisions which the Association had endorsed, but it was considered—and was—an epochal achievement for its time. It won the state an enviable reputation for progressiveness throughout the Union.

Having passed the Commission Bill, the G. P. A. apparently ran out of targets at which to shoot for the time being. The PINE CONE, having put forth one last brilliant effort just before the 1921 Legislative Session, suspended publication with its seventeenth issue. The New Mexico G. P. A. now numbered 12 locals with a combined membership of 1500.

But neither the G. P. A. nor the PINE CONE were dead. After the Commission Bill had been in operation awhile it was discovered to have an almost fatal defect. The Governor, rather than the Commission was empowered to appoint the Game Warden, and while the Commission could suggest policies

the Game Warden was under no obligation to carry them out. He owed his job, and hence his allegiance to the political party in power instead of the Commission and the sportsmen whom it represented.

The sportsmen soon found this situation to be intolerable, and in March, 1924, Leopold got out another issue of the PINE CONE, demanding a revision of the game laws to place the appointive power in the hands of the Commission. He published a resolution adopted at the last convention of the G. P. A., which read in part as follows:

"We believe, however, that there is still imperative need for putting the Game Department upon a more stable basis. Under the system of political appointments which still prevails, a Game Warden, no matter how hard he or she works, barely learns the rudiments of the job before being replaced by another political appointee. The system precludes any chance for establishing or following out a continuous game policy, and a big part of the responsibility for actual work in the field must still be carried on by volunteer effort, rather than under the leadership of experienced game officials with stable tenure of office.

We therefore unanimously and emphatically renew our endorsement of the amendment of the Game Commission Law placing the employment of the State Game Warden in the hands of the State Game Commission. This amendment is vital to the success of game conservation in this state, and all other legislative changes recommended by this convention are of minor consequence in comparison.

We protest the custom of asking for or accepting the resignation of the State Game Commission at each change of administration. This threatens the continuity of policy, to attain which was one of the objects of creating the Commission."

The G. P. A., now numbering sixteen locals, passed its amendment in the following Legislature, and the PINE CONE retired from the field for good. Leopold shortly left the state to take up higher duties in the Forest Service, and the organized sportsmen lost a priceless asset. How very seldom is it given to any organization to possess a leader combining indomitable courage, rapier like intelligence, superb literary attainments, and the will to work prodigiously in its interest!

That the PINE CONE was read "from kiver to kiver" is attested by the reminiscences chuckles with which its readers still recall some pungent thrust of Leopold's at the evils of his day. It brought the sportsmen of the State together as nothing else could have done, and it accomplished results in a day fraught with the hardships of pioneering that we would be hard pressed to duplicate with our much greater membership and more enlightened public opinion. It was not only a moulder of public opinion in the highest sense of that much abused term; it was a whole battery of siege guns and a regiment of cavalry in its own right. It both reflected the spirit of the G. P. A., and drew the rays to a focal point uncomfortably hot to the foes of conservation.

With this issue, the nineteenth of its career, THE PINE CONE is reborn. That it will possess the excellences of its earlier incarnation there is slight probability; Leopolds are born, not made. But it will attempt to serve the same general purposes. It will try to present a medium through which all members of the G. P. A. may keep informed upon the happening and trends in the conservation field, through which they may exchange ideas and information, and through which the Association may give public expression to its desires and convictions.

The PINE CONE belongs to the sportsmen, body and soul. It is not going to be put in the position of fighting the sportsmen's battles; rather it is going to be the weapon with which the sportsmen shall fight their own battles, if fight they must.

Its columns are not only open, but eagerly awaiting use by any sportsman or conservationist with any idea to which he wishes to give expression, and it is the Editor's conviction that the more such use is made of them the better the paper will be. Free and untrammelled discussion is the life-blood of any cause. Christianity itself would have died a-borning if it had not given rise to debate.

Every sportsman is hereby elected to the office of Associate Editor of the PINE CONE, with all the rights, appurtenances, hereditaments, and DUTIES appertaining thereunto.

## DEER KILLERS PAY FINES

### Game Department Grabs Three Violators in Pecos Country

Truly, the way of the transgressor is hard. On June 1, State Game Warden Elliot Barker was tipped off that some natives on the upper Pecos River were living sumptuously upon illegal venison. Calling in Deputy Warden Norvell, a search of the suspected premises was made, and the remains of three deer unearthed.

After some little difficulty in picking out the guilty parties, Melisandro Gonzales, Eusebio Sandoval, and Ramon Quintana admitted having killed the animals on Grassy Mountain and agreed to plead guilty. The officers took them before Judge C. M. Douglas at Las Vegas where they "paid off" to the tune of \$25 and costs each, with an additional witness fee of \$25 against one of them. The witness fee was paid to the party who furnished the information.

According to all reports deer are becoming reestablished in considerable numbers on the Pecos watershed after many years of depletion due largely to poaching, and all sportsmen will be glad to know that poachers in that section are meeting with their just deserts.

## PLANT 127,010 TROUT IN MONTH

### Superintendent of Hatchery Reports All Are Rainbows Except 6,000

Trout planted from the Lisboa Springs hatchery during May totaled 127,000, says John P. Bengard, hatchery superintendent, in a report to the game warden's office today.

All were Rainbow except 6,000 Loch Leven planted on the lower Ruidoso.

Mr. Bengard reported also that a truck load of trout had been traded to the Bloom Cattle company for a load of crappie to be used as brood stock.

The plantings were as follows: Rio Grande (upper), 21,500; Storrie reservoir, 18,000; Santa Barbara creek, 6,500; Eagle Nest lake, 6,000; Rio La Casa, 9,000; Cow creek (upper), 3,500; Gallinas river (below forks), 3,000; Gallinas river (north fork), 7,000; Ruidoso (middle fork), 9,000; Gallinas river (south fork), 9,000; Sapello creek, 9,000; Ocate creek (north fork), 6,000; San Antonio (upper), 3,000; Santa Cruz reservoir, 510; Cebolla creek, 3,000; Ellis creek, 4,000; Ruidoso (lower), 6,000; Jemez river, 3,000.

## Easterners Congratulate New Mexico Association

The creation of the Board of Research and Education by the New Mexico G. P. A. has apparently made a hit with Eastern conservationists. The Executive Secretary of the Board is in receipt of a number of congratulatory letters, and so far, at least, has had no brickbats.

Mr. L. B. Fletcher, Secretary of the Associated Committees for Wild Life Conservation, of Boston says: "Congratulations on the formation of your new association, and more strength to your good right arm. We are delighted to know that such an organization has become active in New Mexico."

"This organization was formed some years ago to consolidate the sportsman, the bird lover, the conservationist, and the farmer. You will notice that it is made up of a group of powerful people, inasmuch that no bills before the General Court that we think unwise can be passed, while we are helpful to bills which we approve. . . . Similar organizations in other states I feel sure would be helpful, and I am pleased to say that several have already been started from our pattern."

The president of the Connecticut Fish and Game Protective Assn., Mr. G. H. Cranton, hands us a nice bouquet as follows:

"I have read with great interest of the creation of your Board, and congratulate you upon your determined stand to improve game conditions in your state. The subject has never before received the constructive consideration that is now being given it by the Federal Government and the many organizations in the states, and vast sums of money are at the disposal of those in active control. Your analysis of New Mexico's needs is inspiring. . . . I wish you every success."

Dr. Wm. T. Hornaday, Chairman of the Permanent Wild Life Protection Fund, also wrote a highly congratulatory letter. Dr. Hornaday has always thought well of the New Mexico G. P. A. He once donated \$400 from the Permanent Fund to carry on the publication of the original PINE CONE. Aldo Leopold, and Edmund Seymour, famous conservationist and President of the American Bison Society, have taken out Honorary Memberships in the Board.

## Black Canyon Is Good Trout Water

Black Canyon, tributary to the Gila River in the Black Range, has long been famed for its abundance of deer, but few people realize that its stream also supports a considerable number of trout.

Fred Sherman, President of the New Mexico G. P. A. reports that on the opening day of the fishing season he fished this stream and took 23 trout, ranging in length up to 12 inches.

The trout in Black Canyon are all of the Black Spotted Native variety, the stream, because of its inaccessibility to the past never having been stocked. Until recently there has been no road of any kind in this region, but the U. S. Forest Service is now constructing one from Beaverhead to the Sapello, which crosses Black Canyon. The Game Department should now have no trouble in stocking this stream from the Lisboa Springs Hatchery, and it will form an important addition to the meager trout waters available to the anglers of the southwestern part of the State.

## NEW MEXICO QUAIL LAY WELL IN MONTANA

Thomas N. Marlowe, Chairman of the Montana Game and Fish Commission, believes that our New Mexico scaled quail may do well in certain parts of his State.

Last fall, at Mr. Marlowe's request, two dozen pairs of the birds were shipped to Montana by the Game Department for experimental purposes. Due probably to some delay in transit the birds arrived in poor condition, most of them dying en route or shortly after arrival. The few survivors were removed at once to a game farm operated by the Montana Department, and have since been doing splendidly. Mr. Marlowe says that more than 100

## SIX RULES FOR SPORTSMEN

- (First published in 1915, but just as pertinent today)
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 any.
  3. Help enforce the game laws. Game and fish are public property, and only a game hog will take more than his fair and legal share. Take the violator in hand yourself, or report him to the nearest Deputy Game Warden or Game Protective Association.
  4. Respect the ranchman's property. He regards the man who leaves his gates open, cuts his fences, tramples his crops, or shoots near dwelling, as an outlaw. Put yourself in his place.
  5. Be careful with fire. 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.

## CHAVES G. P. A. HOLDS DINNER AND ELECTION

### Roswell the Scene of Sportsmen's Annual Banquet

#### ELECT NEW OFFICERS

### H. P. Saunders Retires as President After Long Service in Office

The Chavez County G. P. A. held its annual banquet and election of officers at Roswell, May 26. A very excellent dinner was served to a large number of sportsmen from the Southeastern part of the State, and the meeting developed into one of the most enjoyable affairs of its kind in the history of the Association.

#### SHERMAN SPEAKS

President Fred Sherman of the New Mexico G. P. A., E. L. Perry, Executive Secretary, Elliot Barker, State Game Warden, and J. B. McGhee, member of the State Game Commission, were in attendance and made brief addresses.

Mr. Sherman told something of the early history of the G. P. A. movement in New Mexico, compared conditions which existed at that time with present conditions to illustrate the benefits which have been derived from the organization of the sportsmen. He praised the work which has been done by the Chavez County Association, and announced that the annual convention of the State G. P. A. will be held at Roswell in September.

#### BARKER PROMISES FISH

State Game Warden Elliot Barker said that he had just finished an inspection of some of the fishing waters of the section, and was profoundly impressed with their possibilities for fish production. He promised the sportsmen of the region a million fish for restocking purposes, and announced that the new Federal fish hatchery will be constructed upon land owned by the Department at Dexter.

J. P. Bengard, Hatchery Superintendent of the Department, corroborated Barker's estimate of the fish producing capacity of the waters of the county and promised more diligent efforts to stock them in a Game County. He expressed the opinion that the small bass hatchery operated by the Department near Dexter should have a full time attendant. The hatchery was built in accordance with a "self operating" plan developed in Louisiana.

#### NO POLITICS IN DEPARTMENT

Commissioner McGhee, apparently in response to something said about politics by President Sherman, arose the second time and made a denial that politics have influenced any of the actions of the Commission. "Though I am Chairman of the Democratic Central Committee in this county," he said, "that fact does not in the least influence me so far as my activities as a Game Commissioner are concerned." He mentioned certain changes that have been made in the personnel of the Department, but intimated that they had been made in the interests of efficiency rather than of political preference. Mr. McGhee told of the success which he was having in elutriating undesirable fish in the waters of the Pecos Valley and expressed the hope that this would prove to be the means of cleaning all of the waters of the region of these obnoxious species. He plans to construct an electrical plant upon a barge to be used where commercial power is not available.

#### ELECT NEW OFFICERS

H. P. Saunders, for the past several years president of the association, declined the nomination for reelection, stating that he felt he had served his time in the office and was entitled to be relieved. Ross Malone was elected to succeed him, with Cecil Bonney as Secretary. All of the speakers of the evening paid glowing tribute to Mr. Saunders' administration of the office and expressed regret that he could not be persuaded to continue. W. B. Murrell and Carol Woods of the Otero County G. P. A. were in attendance and spoke upon the turkey situation in the Sacramento Mountains, giving it as their opinion that the area should be closed to turkey shooting for the time being, while J. V. Tully of the Ruidoso Association said that deer are becoming very plentiful in his section, due to the operation of the Ruidoso game refuge.



# THE PINE CONE

E. L. PERRY, Editor

Published Monthly by the Board of Research and Education of the New Mexico Game Protective Association under the direction of the Board of Research and Education consisting of:  
JUDGE ORIE L. PHILLIPS  
ERNEST THOMPSON SETON CHARLES C. LEE  
COL. CYLDE EARL ELY DR. R. FRED PETTIT  
Published by and for the Organized Sportsmen of New Mexico, and sent free of additional cost to each member in good standing of all Sportsmen's Organizations affiliated with the New Mexico G. P. A.

## AS ONE SPORTSMAN TO ANOTHER

THE WHY OF THE NEW BOARD  
COMMISSION OWES ALLEGIANCE TO SPORTSMEN

HELP THE COMMISSION MAKE RULES

BARKER WILL MAKE A HAND

HAVE YOU DONE YOUR BIT?

Some sixteen or seventeen years ago the sportsmen of New Mexico, taking a page from the history of certain other states which were satisfactorily solving the wild-life administration problem, began a fight to remedy the condition of chaos which had always marked the administration of that resource in this state.

The solution determined upon was the establishment of a bi-partisan game and fish commission with overlapping terms of office, thus assuring that the official agency charged with the administration of the resource would have the benefit of continuity of policy regardless of changes in state administration. Since at worst only one commissioner could be removed and replaced by each incoming governor, the body would always retain in its membership a majority with experience in the work, and the time honored custom of tearing the organization down and reversing all previous policies every two years would be shelved.

In 1921 a law embodying this principle was passed, and such a commission appointed.

In theory the scheme is ideal, and elsewhere it has functioned admirably. In practice it has failed to work out in New Mexico as its originators planned. No commissioner has ever been allowed to serve out a full six year term for which he was appointed, and the great majority of them have served only during the tenure of office of the governor who selected them. Counting the present officials, we have had fourteen commissioners during the ten years that the law has been in effect, and the number would be considerably increased except for the fact that Governor Dillon carried one Commissioner over from the previous administration, and forbore to make any changes in the personnel of the body during his two terms in office.

How long this condition can be expected to continue there are no means of estimating, of course, but there are certainly no visible indications that we are any nearer its correction today than we were ten years ago. Experienced Commissioners are still discharged in the midst of their terms without rhyme or reason or regard for the intent of the law, and new commissions and their executive officers continue to spend their brief two years of service in learning by experience what their predecessors learned, and in getting into position to profit by their mistakes. It is a system which private business avoids as the plague, and which is anything but beneficial to the business of developing the State's wild life resource.

The power of the Governor to remove Commissioners before the expiration of the terms for which they are appointed is based upon a Supreme Court interpretation of a constitutional provision, and it has been suggested that a constitutional amendment be adopted curbing this power of removal except for cause, and with the right to appeal to the Supreme Court. Such a remedy would be very helpful, but it would not prove to be the panacea which its proponents are apt to consider it. Probably most Governors would accept the situation as a matter of course, but there is no assurance that we would not again have a Governor who would arbitrarily demand the resignations of the Commissioners, even though there was no possibility of enforcing the demand. And no one who has not occupied a State office can conceive how difficult it would be for a Commission or Warden to function effectively in the face of opposition on the part of the administration. The Arizona Game Department is experiencing this sort of Calvary today.

For these reasons the State's conservationists have come to realize that they, like various other groups of people with a common interest, must maintain a privately controlled service designed both to bring about such changes in official policies and laws as may be necessary to their well being, and pending the accomplishment of such changes to make the best of existing conditions by assuming a portion of the burden of the conservation work. Labor, various industries, taxpayers, highway associations, and other bodies have long since learned this lesson and today maintain such services. They work not only for the adoption of adequate laws, but they act in an advisory capacity to the officials having their interests in charge. Needless to say, the sportsmen need such a service more than any other group because experience is the very life blood of management of the resource in which they are interested. If you employ a lawyer, physician, or engineer you can be certain that he has at least been exposed to a definite amount of education and training in that particular line, but there are no schools for the training of wild life administrators. When you hire a game warden you do so with the knowledge that he must be trained on the job and that he will become valuable only as he absorbs such training.

The G. P. A. has fought for years for stable tenure of office for game officials, and, as we have seen, without any considerable degree of success. That it will continue the fight goes without saying. But it is now about to tackle the other phase of the subject, to-wit: making the best of the conditions that actually exist.

Its newly inaugurated Board of Research and Education is the means which has been chosen for the purpose. The Board is not an offshoot of the G. P. A., it is part and parcel of it just as the Legislative Committee or any other committee appointed by the President is. It is charged with certain specific duties by the Association and is responsible to the Association for the manner in which it performs those duties. It has certain peculiarities of organization not common to the other G. P. A. committees, principally—if the truth must be told—in order to allow it to raise money to carry on its work.

Like the balance of the G. P. A. the Board has nothing but antipathy for the practice of dumping experienced Commissioners overboard for political or any other reason, but its principal function is to ameliorate the effects of such changes as cannot be forestalled.

The Board proposes to constantly study the needs of wild life management in New Mexico, and the trends of conservation elsewhere, and through a permanently employed executive officer to put this knowledge and its assistance at the disposal of the Game Department, regardless of who has control of it at the moment. If this service is accepted—and there would not seem to be any logical reason why it should not be—it will obviously go a long way toward mitigating the evils of that period of orientation toward which all new commissions and wardens must pass, regardless of their willingness and sincerity.

The G. P. A. has one basic conviction, and that is that the Game Commission owes its allegiance to the sportsmen, and not to any political party, personality, or set of prejudices. The sportsmen contribute every dollar which the Commission has to spend, and theirs must be the guiding voice in the conduct of the Game Department. The G. P. A. will forever fight any Commission which does not meet this condition; it will fight for any Commission that does.

If it is impossible to serve both God and Mammon, it is even more so to serve both sportsmen and politicians. There can be no fence straddling in the matter. Sportsmen are sportsmen first and Republicans and Democrats afterward. They are not even remotely interested in more and better "pie" for the faithful; they are intensely interested in seeing that every dollar of the game fund buys 100 cents worth of better wild life conditions.

It goes without saying that any new commission and warden will make mistakes. They certainly would not be human if they did not. Wild life management is a vastly intricate science about which even the most experienced and diligent students know none too much.

Our present Game Department has already made some rather serious blunders of judgment, and it will make others as time goes on. Every reasonable person expects it, and will not hold it against them so long as they are open to argument. We never have had an administration which did not make its mistakes.

On August 1, however, the opportunity for serious errors is going to be vastly increased. So far, the Department has been operating under the old laws which give the Commission but little leeway in the exercise of judgment in meeting the biological needs of the wild life resource and which, after many years of cutting and trying, have come, in some measure at least to erect a barrier against sudden disaster. On August 1 this barrier will be removed and the Commission will be clothed with the greatest responsibility which has ever been loaded upon the shoulders of any similar organization in the country. Three men will have absolute power of life and death over every furred, finned, and feathered inhabitant of New Mexico except the migratory birds. They can, if they choose, remove all barriers upon hunting and fishing, or they can absolutely prohibit it. If properly administered this law will be the greatest boon to wild life that it has ever experienced; if it is not chaos will inevitably result.

Fortunately, the Commission has realized the gravity of its responsibility and has invited all interested sportsmen to sit in on its deliberations when the new regulations are adopted. It behooves us to have a big representation there, from every section of the State. Not only must the Commission harmonize conflicting opinions if its regulations are to have popular support, but it needs the benefit of your knowledge of wild life conditions and needs in your particular section.

The sole object of the law is to allow for diversified management to meet diversified conditions, which is obviously the soundest kind of good business. But if the wrong kind of management is set up for any given locality or species conditions will be far worse than under present conditions.

The conference will be held in the Supreme Court room of the Capitol on the first day of August, and all sportsmen have been invited to be present.

Apparently State Game Warden Barker is being given a reasonably free hand by the Commission, and fortunately indeed he is taking a very respectful attitude toward his responsibilities. If he ever had an idea that the Game Department was a sort of one-handed job he realizes now that it is by far the biggest thing that he has ever tackled, and fraught with greater possibilities for disaster.

This is ninety per cent of the battle, and coupled with his native capacity for hard work and undoubted sincerity of purpose will, we believe, put him over. Certainly he shall have all the help toward that end that is at our command, and that he will accept. To whatever extent he succeeds the wild life resource and the sportsmen will be benefited. So far as we are concerned the upset in the Game Department, while regrettable, is water over the dam; water which is not going to be put back by any sulking in tents or futile pouting.

Everything may be free in Heaven, as the theologians assure us, but not so on this mundane sphere. On the contrary everything costs money! The work which the G. P. A. has delegated to the Board of Research and Education is no exception to this rule.

Because it was not considered expedient at the time to attempt to finance this work by arbitrarily raising the dues of the members of the Association, a plan was worked out to raise the necessary money by soliciting voluntary contributions from interested sportsmen and conservationists. Such contributors are elected to Honorary Membership in the Board.

Probably you have already received an application card through the mail; if you have not already done so, won't you fill it out and send us a check for whatever class of membership you think you can afford? Or if you do not have a card, clip the one at the bottom of this page and use it.

Leaders in the G. P. A. believe that this is the most forward looking step that the organized sportsmen of the State have ever taken, and that it will result in vast concrete benefits to every one of us who derive our chief pleasure from an enjoyment of the out-of-doors. It will not only improve conditions for the present, but it will improve them for the generation to follow us—and to boot build a generation of better conservationists to enjoy them.

Admittedly the plan of financing this work does not follow very closely the tenets of absolute socialism; we are asking, for instance, that you hold up the end of someone else who is not able to. The PINE CONE, as an illustration, goes to every member of the G. P. A. in the State, but there are a lot of them who could not afford to pay for it if that were demanded of them. Yet, we think that they ought to have it.

Will you give us—and them—a lift?

E. L. PERRY.

Regarded from without, Nature appears an immense inflorescence of unforseeable novelty. The force which animates it seems to create lovingly, for nothing, for the mere pleasure of it, the endless variety of vegetable and animal species. On each it confers the absolute value of a great work of art.—BERGSON.

The right sort of man who has had a fine day in the painted woods, on the bright waters of a duck-haunted bay, or in the golden stubble of September, can fill his day and his soul with six good birds just as well as sixty.—HORNADAY.

## THE FORUM

The Pine Cone welcomes letters from sportsmen upon conservation subjects to this column, the objects being to promote an exchange of views. The only restriction placed upon the use of the column is that contributors must sign the communications which they wish to have printed.

### SHERMAN OBJECTS TO FIRING COMMISSION

Deming, New Mexico,  
June 24, 1931

Editor, The Pine Cone,

Dear Sir:

Through the efforts of the New Mexico Game Protective Association we have enacted the most progressive and modern game legislation of any state in the Union. It gives to the State Game Commission full regulatory powers. Under its provisions the Commission has powers to regulate seasons of hunting and fishing, the bag limits, may prohibit or permit the killing of any species, may establish reserves and rest grounds and may close or open areas to hunting or fishing, and in fact fully regulate the taking of either game or fish.

Game conservation and management is a science and requires a constructive program followed from year to year. It must not be interfered with by parties, politics and any drastic change in the personnel of the Commission or Game Warden tends to disrupt the Department and retard the work of game conservation. The appointment of a new Game Commission brings to the Department men unfamiliar with the policies established by their predecessors, and the tendency is to destroy what has been accomplished by the former administration, refusing to build upon the foundation established by them but rather to change the policy, down the work of their predecessors and build upon a different policy established by them.

If, therefore, each two years there is to be a complete change of the personnel of the Department, it must be evident to any one, whether sportsman or not, that no real progress can be had. This breaking down in the administration of the Department means a waste of the money contributed by the sportsmen and a loss to the state. Not only is the money contributed by the sportsmen used for the protection and propagation of game and fish, but for the protection of song and insectivorous birds and of all wild life. Therefore, this matter is of interest not only to the sportsmen but to all citizens of the state.

Because of the danger of a complete change in the Commission and Game Warden, the Association sought and procured the passage of a law which provided for a six year term for the Commission, with only one member retiring each two years. This insured the establishment and continuity of a settled policy of game management and administration. The present Governor, although admitting that he knows nothing about game or game management, and in disregard of the wishes of more than 7,000 sportsmen, demanded and received the resignation of the members of the Game Commission and appointed an entirely new Commission and Warden. He found a way to repeal the law establishing continuity in office, as he also found a way to disregard and annul the plain provisions of the constitution. It is fortunate that we seldom elect a man of this character to the high office of Governor, but when it is done the progress of the state is retarded, requiring many years to overcome the handicap.

It is for the purpose of repairing the damage done to conservation and to build upon a broader foundation that the New Mexico Game Protective Association has established a Board of Research and Education. This Board will take a wide survey of all wild life and will endeavor to give to the public the knowledge developed from study and research. They propose to publish a monthly paper known as the Pine Cone, which will go to each member of the Association in the state. As Secretary they have selected Mr. E. L. Perry who was with the Game Department six years and who is probably more familiar with game and fish conditions over the state than any other citizen. The Board selected to carry on this work is of the highest type of sportsmen and nature-lovers that New Mexico has produced; they are all successful in private life and unselfish in their work in the interest of the public. They work without pay and deserve the hearty support of every citizen in the state, whether a member of any sportsman's organization or not. I ask their whole-hearted cooperation and support of this Board and its Secretary in the work they are doing.

Yours truly,  
FRED SHERMAN  
President, New Mexico G. P. A.

A cowpuncher ordered a steak at a restaurant. The waiter brought it in—rare—very rare. The puncher looked at it and demanded that it be returned to the kitchen and cooked. "It's cooked," snapped the waiter. "What do you mean, cooked?" said our friend, the puncher. "I've seen cows hurt worse than that get well."—Federal Employee.

### KEEP A CASTIN'

Fish don't rise just for wishin'; Keep A Castin'!

Change your fly and keep on fishin'; KEEP A CASTIN'!

Luck ain't nailed to any spot; Men you envy like as not; Envy you envy like as not; Keep A Castin'!

## SOLILOQUIES OF A PLAIN SPORTSMAN

About the fifteenth of every May someone says to me: "Golly! feels like fishing weather, don't it? Where you going to open the season this year?"

"My dear fellow," I always say with a superior air, "I am not going to open the season anywhere. Fishing for trout during the opening days of the season is the bunk. The streams are always bank full of liquid mud, which means worm fishing, and while I have no conscientious scruples against worm fishing, I hasten to add as his eye begins to grow a little sardonic, "There is no skill in it. There is no pleasure in that kind of fishing for me. Besides, you always get in over your boots in the high water, which at time of year is extremely disagreeable. You spend half your time and all your patience trying to dislodge your hooks from invisible logs on the bottom of the stream, and you wind up a grueling day with a half dozen little fish too young to realize that a worm in Nature bears no slightest resemblance to the anemic and tortuous creature strung upon your hook."

"No," I say, "I have no interest in the kind of fishing that is to be had on opening day. I shall wait until they are rising to flies. That's the kind of fishing for the real angler!"

I always feel exaltedly sure of my attitude in this matter until the afternoon of the twenty-ninth. At that time I note my next-door neighbor digging feverishly in his back yard. "Come on over and dig yourself some worms," he calls cordially.

"I have plenty of worms in my own yard," I reply with dignity, "but I'm not going fishing."

He looks up in astonishment, starts to say something, then apparently thinks better of it and falls to his digging again.

It occurs to me that perhaps he doubts my statement in regard to the worms in my yard. To prove that I am right I get a spade and dig a can of nice fat ones in no time at all.

That night I am unable to sleep. It occurs to me that I have read in the paper that the snowfall was below normal during the winter, which would mean that the streams should clear up earlier this spring. Maybe the Pecos is already pretty well run down. I should have looked into this. I toss upon my bed.

It's a shame to let that can of good worms go to waste. On the other hand I don't care for worm fishing, anyway. But maybe the river has run down a lot this year. It might even be reasonably clear; clear enough for spinners, anyway. It was on the opening day in 1929 I remember; or maybe it was 1921. Perhaps I could just take a run out there bright and early, and if it is as bad as usual, be back in time to get in a day's work. Instantly I fall asleep.

At dark the following day I drag myself home, wet, weary, and sore, and wet to the neck. I have left most of my leaders and snelled hooks firmly attached to submerged logs, and I have a half dozen small fish, too young to know any better. And I put my tackle away and swear that I will never, never do it again!

This thing that we call sportsmanship can be pretty well fitted into the "square deal" nut shell, the implication being that the sportsman will take no unfair advantage of his quarry. But the term "unfair advantage" means vastly different things to different sportsmen, by virtue of which fact the pot of argument is kept always boiling. To one man it means the use of the frailest of trail fishing tackle, to another the use of the barless hook, and to yet another the shooting of the smallest possible bore of shotgun. But the small bore enthusiast is not necessarily an advocate of featherweight fishing tackle, nor the barless hook fanatic a purist in the matter of lures.

Just between you and I and the gate post, sportsmanship, in the sense in which we are discussing it here generally follows pretty closely upon the heels of proficiency. I know a very few men who are regrettably poor shots who will never the less not shoot birds on the ground under any circumstances, and others to whom the fine art of the angle is a sealed book who none the less cling dogmatically to the best traditions in the matter of tackle and methods, be their catch ever so slim. Most of us, though, use whatever equipment and means that experience has taught us we need to get a fair bag; it is only as we grow better in the art that we discover the iniquity in automatic guns and fool-proof fishing tackle. Show me a man who re-

gards a twelve gauge pump gun with horror, and I will show you one who possesses that God-given faculty of pointing a gun at the exact spot where the bird will be, and the voice of shot arrives there. I know a man who is a past master in the art of handling a trout in any sort of water that flows outdoors. And the tackle he uses! I would be afraid to pit it against a chub. If there was ever a sportsman in the matter of equipment he is it. But he has no scruples whatever in the matter of lures. If they're not hitting flies, on goes a snelled hook and a juicy worm. And he is not secretive about it. His theory is that the sport begins after a trout is hooked. Most anglers who abhor the thought of bait will cast their flies patiently all day long and take defeat philosophically, but let a fish once hooked get away and they go into a tantrum. My friend is just the opposite. If the fish refuse to bite he turns the air blue with profanity, but when one beats him after it is hooked he doffs his hat to it respectfully, and lives only for the day when he may try that one again.

And if you want to get him all het up, flout a landing net under his nose. The use of a net is the lowest form of skulduggery so far as he is concerned. Any dub, he says, can win a fish up to his knees and bail him out with a net; it requires a little more skill to get his feet and hands to "wade him out" and overcome that last desperate resistance which marks the discovery by his troutship that he is about to go ashore.

A sportsman? I think he is. If he were a better fly fisherman he would probably eschew bait; if some of his critics were better rod handlers they would probably use lighter tackle. He loses about as many hooked fish as the lure purist is able to hook, so the score is all even there. The leather of bait gets his fun—and displays his sportsmanship—through his skill in fooling the fish with his flies; my friend through his skill in making a couple of ounces of bamboo and a hair-thin leader defeat the fish's most strenuous efforts to get away.

Last winter, while doing a little bass fishing around the heating stove, I heard a fellow who is supposed to be the last word on the subject expound the theory that about all there is to bass fishing is in getting the lure where the fish is—be that lure what it may. In fact, if my memory serves me he made the statement that bass can be taken on a clothes pin, provided the clothes pin be wriggled expertly under the fish's nose. All of which, if true, would save me a lot of money annually in the purchase of fishing tackle.

Along last spring I went down to Elephant Butte Lake with a friend, the friend having an alleged motor boat on the lake which has a horror of drowning in alone.

We started out bright and early in the morning with two voluminous fish stringers and plenty of confidence that we would show all and sundry a thing or two about the taking of bass. At noon the stringers still dangled inside the boat, and our confidence had dwindled to the point where we were not even sure of getting our plugs back when we cast. I tried everything in my tackle box that I had ever caught a fish on—and some that I never did. I discovered that I had a lot of that latter kind.

Finally I dug out an artificial mouse—or so it was claimed to be when I bought it—a wooden mouse with a leather string for a tail, and, after looking at it for a moment, I caught a fish on this thing," I said to my companion.

"And if you ever do, I'll eat it, hooks and all," he growled. "Why don't you try a clothes pin?" (I had rashly expounded that clothes pin theory to him the preceding evening.)

Never the less, I put the mouse on, and chucked it into the nearest patch of weeds. Wham! I had a toy submarine on it before I could tighten the line! It was a six pounder, which is a darned nice fish, if I do say it as maybe shouldn't, and he had thought so well of my mouse that he had tried to swallow it. I liked never to have gotten the thing out of his gullet.

Well, I might never wore the tail off that mouse, but the next couple of hours, and never got another strike on it. I probably never will.

Business picked up a little along toward evening and I got three more fish, but no two of them on the same lure. One of them I took on a plug which I found snagged in a submerged tree top where some other angler had fouled it. (Continued on page 3)

## The QUESTION BOX

(The Editor of this department will attempt to answer questions regarding conservation subjects as they are submitted. Please address communications to P. O. Box 1540, Santa Fe, New Mexico.)

R. A. W. El Paso. Q.—(1) I have been told that where the scaled quail is planted among bob-white quail that the bob-whites are soon killed off or made to leave. Is this correct?

(2) A friend wants some of our scaled quail for shipment to East Texas. Where can he get them?

A.—The planting of scaled quail among bob-whites is not inimical to the latter. Except for a type of bob-white found in Old Mexico, the two species are primarily adapted to entirely different kinds of environment, but where conditions are tolerable to both they thrive quite well on the same range. This is true in places in extreme Eastern New Mexico and West Texas. Probably the basis for the supposition that the scaled quail has interfered with bob-white in some specific locality could be traced to changing environmental conditions, where the increase in scaled and the decrease in bob-white quail have been due to natural causes connected with such change.

(2) The Ligon Game Farm, Carlsbad, New Mexico, is raising scaled quail commercially for propagating purposes. The State Game Department has authority to permit trapping and transportation for propagating purposes, but seldom does so unless something of value can be had in exchange.

W. G. Roswell. Q.—Who was the first Game Warden in New Mexico, and when was he appointed?

A.—Page Otero. He was appointed in 1903.

T. A. L. Roswell. Q.—To settle an argument, are "black tail" and "mule deer" the same species?

A.—No. The black tail deer is confined to a narrow strip of range along the West Coast and is an entirely different species from our common mule deer. Because of the black tip on the tail, our mule deer are frequently referred to as "black tail," but it is a misnomer.

G. E. Las Cruces. Q.—Some people say the bass in Elephant Butte Lake are large mouth, and some that they are small mouth. Which is right?

A.—Both species are present, though the large mouth predominates. The light colored fish with the distinct dark stripe along the side is large mouth, while the plain olive green specimen (sometimes with faint dark bands across the shoulders) is the small mouth variety.

S. O. L. Albuquerque. Q.—Why is the meat of one trout red while that of another is white when they are the same kind of trout? I caught two rainbows on the Jemez last Sunday and one of them was red as salmon meat while the other was snow white.

A.—Color in trout flesh is largely a matter of oil in the tissues. The fatter the fish, the higher the color. Doubtless your white meat trout came from a cold, swift section of the stream where exercise and slowness of diet kept it poor, while the other came from warmer and slower water.

A. E. N. Albuquerque. Q.—What flies are best for fishing on the Pecos River?

A.—Wait until I put on my plate armor! All fishermen disagree violently on that question. My usual choice is the two coachman, royal and plain, and the various gray hackles. But if they fail to work, try everything else before you give up. Trout are temperamental and sometimes take a "freak" fly to the exclusion of everything else.

## FIRST DEER AUTO FATALITY REPORTED IN REGION

That part of the forest around Datil is not generally supposed to have an abundance of deer, says the Datil Bulletin, yet a few nights ago when Ranger and Mrs. Garst were returning home in their car after dark, they unavoidably ran down a deer on the highway. Mrs. Garst who was driving, after rounding a curve suddenly noticed a deer in the beam of light and directly in front of the car; she swerved abruptly only to hit another deer that she had not noticed. Both deer however bounded on off the road. Not until next day did they know that the animal had been killed.

### "Remember The Buffalo"

NEW MEXICO GAME PROTECTIVE ASSOCIATION  
BOARD OF RESEARCH AND EDUCATION  
SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

I desire to support the activities of the BOARD OF RESEARCH AND EDUCATION of the New Mexico Game Protective Association, and hereby apply for election to Honorary Membership in the Board. I enclose my check for \$..... to cover the class of membership checked below.

(Make check payable to Board of Research and Education)

CLASSES OF MEMBERSHIP	Name
Associate Member .....	\$ 5.00
Active Member .....	10.00
Supporting Member .....	25.00
Contributing Member .....	100.00
Sustaining Member .....	250.00
Patron .....	500.00
Benefactor .....	1000.00
Address .....	
Date .....	

The PINE CONE, official publication of the Association, is sent to all members.



THE MANAGEMENT OF DEER ON NEW MEXICO GAME RANGES

By D. A. Shoemaker, Inspector of Grazing, Southwestern Region.

Until recently most everyone concerned with wild life has thought of the game problem as one of protection instead of in the more comprehensive terms of "management." Nearly everything that has been done in the past toward conservation of game was designed to increase their numbers. The methods invoked to accomplish such measures were stricter laws, better enforcement, establishment of game refuges and the control of predatory animals. Little or no thought was given to what the increased animals would live on or what the inevitable result of increased numbers would be unless careful consideration was given also to the food supply, shelter conditions and methods to be employed to remove the surplus.

Deer are dependent upon a suitable cover of native vegetation for their food and shelter. A great many years' experience in managing ranges grazed by domestic livestock has shown that the maintenance of a satisfactory stand of native vegetation can be had only through such methods of management as will meet the growth, development and reproductive requirements of the forage plants. The proper maintenance of natural deer ranges involves the same basic principle.

Although much has been learned, through years of observation of the feeding and other habits of deer, upon which some features of management may be based with safety, it is recognized that there is still a need for a lot more information, much of which can be obtained only by more systematic and comprehensive studies involving detailed research projects. Government agencies, both Federal and State, universities, sportsmen and other conservationists appreciate more than ever the need of a constructive wild life management program and also the lack of reliable information on many of the fundamental questions needed to formulate such a program. It is encouraging to note that the various interested agencies and organizations are making more concerted effort than ever before to obtain this information.

In the Southwest, we are concerned with two species of deer, the whitetail and the mule deer. Careful consideration of each species is essential because they are quite different in their habits. However, both of these species are essentially browse-eating animals and subsist chiefly on the leaves, twigs and fruit of such plants as juniper, oaks, Garrya, mountain mahogany and cliff rose. Grasses and weeds are eaten in limited quantities at certain times of the year. Trees and browse plants produce new shoots and leaves each year, a certain amount of which may be eaten by game without damage to the growth and development of the plant. But if an excess is taken annually the plant loses its vigor and in a few years dies. Overpopulation of deer is reflected readily in the over-browsed condition of the plants upon which they feed. Trees and shrubs are slow-growing plants and unless there are new plants coming in to replace the injured or decadent ones, the volume of forage will decrease at a very rapid rate and leave the animals that are dependent upon such a range without sufficient feed. Poor condition of the animals with starvation of at least a part of the herd will be the inevitable result.

The larger plants or trees like juniper, which furnish one of the most important sources of deer feed are browsed only as high as an adult deer can reach, usually about 6 1/2 feet. An occasional tree trimmed up by game is not an indication of excess numbers, but if the condition is widespread it is. These trees are not seriously injured since such browsing serves only to kill the lower branches. However, those lower branches cannot be replaced and the range will thereafter carry proportionately fewer animals and with the range already overstocked, as it must be when this condition occurs, the surplus animals must perish through starvation unless corrective measures are applied in time to reduce the herd in conformity with the amount of available feed.

By far the most serious result from the depletion of the range through excessive use of trees and shrubs by deer and other browse-eating game animals is the immediate effect upon the herd itself and the loss by starvation of the younger and weaker animals. The saving of the deer from themselves is by no means the whole problem. Also, the welfare of many birds is jeopardized. Game birds, such as turkey, quail, and grouse, as well as many song birds, depend for their winter feed almost entirely upon pinon nuts, juniper berries, oak mast and other seeds produced by the shrubs and weeds that are browsed by the deer. If these plants are excessively cropped they will not produce a good crop of nuts or seeds. There will be excessive competition also for the oak mast and juniper berries which fall on the ground from trees too tall to be browsed by the deer.

The destruction or partial destruction of the vegetation has a very adverse effect upon the watershed cover. This is a very important consideration since most all of the deer ranges in the Southwest are on important watersheds. It is generally recognized that the conservation of water is one of the most important economic problems in the whole Southwestern Region. Also, an over-population of deer may seriously interfere with the regeneration of the forest through the destruction of the small seedlings. Damage to young trees in serious proportions probably would

happen only in the most severe cases of over-population. However, it is an important item to be considered in the management of deer ranges.

Often the deer ranges are grazed also by sheep or cattle, but some of them, especially those of the whitetail species, are so remote and of such rough character that they are not used by domestic animals. However, the great variety of shrubbery and herbaceous vegetation that occurs on nearly all of the ranges, together with the fact that some of the plants most relished by deer are eaten slightly or not at all by cattle or sheep and vice versa means that there is room for both game and domestic animals in proper numbers and proportions. On the other hand, some of the important forage plants are eaten by both game and domestic stock. Therefore, the foundation of equitable game management plans will have to deal with the actual or prospective conflict of game with established livestock outfits and investments.

Another important consideration is the fact that the heavy population of deer often results in their doing great damage to cultivated crops, in hay fields, gardens and orchards. In some places, it may be essential to fence such areas against game animals in order to protect the crops or else to compensate the owners for the loss of their hay, fruit and vegetables. Often the latter method would not be satisfactory because those crops are absolutely essential to the existence of people having small farms and ranches within the game ranges.

Originally, the number of game animals were kept in check by their natural enemies, the predatory animals. Through the influence of man these predators have been greatly reduced. Then man restricted the periods of hunting by game laws and established refuges in which no hunting is allowed. These protective measures have had the effect of greatly increasing the diminished herds and in some areas have multiplied numbers beyond the capacity of the range to furnish feed. Since man has effectively influenced the restoration of certain game species, he must likewise maintain the proper balance not only between species but also between wild life and the plant life necessary for the subsistence of animals and birds.

Some of the obvious remedies, where an over-population of deer occurs, are: Opening refuges to hunting; trapping and transporting the surplus animals to ranges where there is a deficiency; increasing the bag limit and lengthening the hunting season; and if these remedies fail to remove sufficient animals, allowing the killing of does. When a herd has reached the capacity of the range the natural increase should be removed annually so that the remaining animals can obtain ample feed and continue to thrive.

Where deer are not sufficiently abundant to properly utilize the feed available for them and where the demand for game from hunters and other recreationists is not being met adequately, it would be desirable to increase the numbers of game. This may be accomplished by further restrictive measures which would place choice breeding grounds in refuges so the surrounding areas would be supplied from the refuge, by more effective control of predatory animals, by a stricter enforcement of protective game laws and regulations which may include a smaller bag limit and shortened or temporarily closed hunting seasons. Also, the introduction of animals of the same species from other areas may be advisable in order to establish a satisfactory breeding herd. Such usually would not be necessary or advisable if the foundation of a herd is present on the area unless the natural increase would be too slow. Possibly also the introduction of new blood from time to time would be good for the health, development and general welfare of the animals.

Refuges play an important part in deer range management. As above indicated, they protect breeding areas from which surrounding hunting country may be supplied with game. They are advisable on recreation areas in order to protect people and also to have the animals sufficiently tame that they may be seen by visitors to the Forests. Refuges should average not more, and probably less, than 15,000 acres in size under New Mexico conditions. Experience has shown that the refuge system must be flexible and that a refuge should not be considered as permanent. This is because of the fact that deer, especially mule deer, often do not migrate sufficiently from refuges onto surrounding country. Cases have been known where they have become so numerous in a refuge as to seriously overgraze it when large areas of abundant forage were available to them within easy reach. Refuges are needed more for mule deer than they are for the whitetail species. As just indicated, the mule deer are very gregarious which, together with the fact that they are the larger animal, that they inhabit the more open and accessible country of easier topography, causes them to be taken much more readily by hunters. On the other hand, the whitetail are small and wary and inhabit the rough, brushy country on ranges which usually can be reached only by saddle and pack, all of these conditions making them much more difficult for hunters to kill. Experience seems to indicate that with an open season of a month or less, laws permitting each hunter to kill one buck only, and with some control of lions and other predators, the whitetail will take care of themselves. The creation of refuges on whitetail deer range usually results in overpopulation with all its calamitous results.

The deer in New Mexico represent an important economic resource and should be managed as such. The sooner definite, constructive and equitable wild-life management plans are formulated and put into effect, the better it will be for the deer and other interests. It is only through such coordinated plans that the welfare of wild life can be permanently benefited and safeguarded.

SOLILOQUIES

(Continued from page 2)

and thought so little of it he broke it off the line and left it there. I am not saying that a bass might not be taken on a clothes pin, in fact a clothes pin is about as plausible a lure as that mouse of mine. But it would be only because that particular bass happened to fancy clothes pins at the moment. They are a finicky tribe. Er-pardon the pun.

I have written reams about fly fishing at one time and another, and for years I have set forth certain pet theories which time and experience have generally only served to strengthen. One of them is that the fly neeps out resembling anything in creation which a trout is wont to eat, and another that on our New Mexico streams if you have plenty of coachmen and hackles in your book you have about all the flies you need. The latter, if true, proves the former. No one ever saw an insect that resembles a royal coachman, nor the larva of one that looks like a gray hackle. I still contend that I am right, but like most good rules, these have exceptions. Because of them we all, even unto myself, stock our fly books with an assortment of lures variegated in color like unto Joseph's coat—and ninety nine per cent of which peacefully repose there until time and the moths have had their way with them. But once in a blue moon crops up one of these exceptions. And what greater joy do the Gods bestow than the discovery that you have an ancient and shop-worn fly that kills 'em at the moment?

A while back I started fishing the Pecos River at sunup. Fortified with a good camp breakfast and the knowledge that my coachman and hackle dangled perfectly from a perfect leader, I promised myself a creel full of trout before old Sol forced the fish to the bottom.

For two mortal hours I fought that river with all the skill at my command—which may not be too much but is usually adequate—and failed to take a fish. The trout there are Rainbows and Loch Levens, and I should have had the browns on my hackle and the rainbows on my coachman. But I had neither of them anywhere. In desperation I swapped positions with my pet flies, then began changing them for other patterns. It was no good. Occasionally a fish would swim leisurely up and inspect my wares, then while I held my breath, thumb his nose at them disdainfully and retreat to his lair. Saint Peter was a fisherman, so I hope he failed to record my language in the Big Book.

Finally I reached the lower end of an ideal pool and began fishing it. I put my flies upon every square foot of it, to no avail. I was about to reel up and leave in disgust when a miller moth flew out over the head of the pool, dropped upon the current, and floated toward me. Suddenly there was a swirl beneath him, a mouth opened, and the moth disappeared. Feverishly I cast my flies over that very spot. Nothing happened. Then I waded ashore and again inspected my fly book.

There was one fly in it which I had not yet tried. It was a willow fly, one of a quantity which I had had tied up to order some years ago. The tier had copied a living sample which I had sent him, and though it was the exact image of a willow fly, no fish had ever yet been convinced that it was truly was. It had always been a perfect dud.

Never the less I put it on and wading out again dropped it near the head of the pool. It floated down without incident and I was about to pick it up when, swish! a fish took it, almost under my feet! Whatever gods look after casting fishermen had their arms around my shoulders, for the strike was so unexpected that I struck ages late. Never the less I creeled the fish.

I took four fish from that pool on my willow fly; all Loch Levens. From there on the going was easy except for my mental anguish generated by the knowledge that I had just one willow fly. Talk about conservation! Nobody ever conserved anything like I did that fly. I climbed trees for it, I dived for it, and ever time a fish took to fast water with it my heart stopped in its tracks.

And I experimented with it. I changed it from point to dropper and back again; no matter, it caught fish. But its companion fly almost never did. I caught a couple of small rainbows on a royal coachman was all.

How do I account for it? I don't! It was just "one of them times." But I'll bet a hundred to one that it never happens just that way again.

We are prone to think of the mountain lion as dining almost exclusively on deer, but a special report of Biological Survey hunters in Arizona shows that the ratio is about 70% livestock as against 30% game animals. The report lists kills found by the hunters during the period from September 1, 1930 and May 31, 1931, and shows the following results: Calves 154, cows 1, colts 34, sheep 413, and burros 1, a total of 697 animals. The game animals found were: deer 274, antelope 2, elk 9, and mountain sheep 2, totaling 287.

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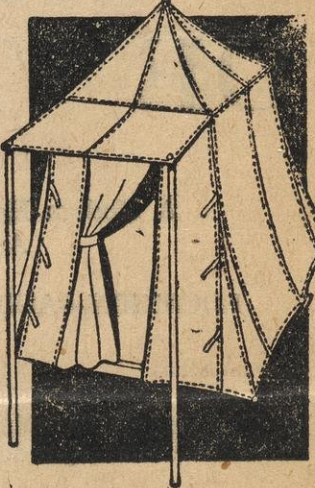
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