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## The pine cone : February, 1919. 1919

[s.l.]: New Mexico Game Protective Association, 1919

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## G. P. A. Loses; Gable Wins

**Governor Larrazolo Declines to Consult Organized Sportsmen in Appointing Game Warden; Roualt's Splendid Record Twisted by Politicians Into Eleventh Hour Canard Accusing Him of "Extravagance." Sound Beating Should Arouse G. P. A. to Mighty Effort. Gable Offered Full Co-operation.**

*"The second inning of the BIG GAME is over. Roualt out on a foul, Gable at the bat, score 1 to 1. Third inning called for 1920."*

Such, briefly, is the score of the mighty contest between the league to make New Mexico safe for game and the league to make the game wardenship safe for politicians. The organized sportsmen of the state have been out-batted by the politicians. But if the sportsmen are real sportsmen they will congratulate their opponents, hitch up their belts, and PREPARE NOW for 1920.

This is the sad tale: Before the election, the G. P. A. politely requested that it be consulted in the selection of a game warden, and that no appointment unsatisfactory to the G. P. A. be made. No reply. After the election the G. P. A. suggested that T. Roualt, Jr., was a candidate and was unanimously satisfactory to the various local organizations. No reply. Resolutions, telegrams, publicity, meetings, letters, personal endorsements; result ditto. Finally a delegation waited upon the governor, explained to him the situation, and asked whether Mr. Roualt was acceptable. He was not. The delegates then suggested that the governor propose some one else. They were informed, however, that Mr. Thomas P. Gable had already been selected for appointment.

This brief history of the campaign is of importance only in so far as it illustrates the following points: First, the principal sportsman's organization of the state; the organization which for three years has devoted time, money, and effort, to co-operating with the state game department; the organization which has helped pull New Mexico out of the "blacklist" and placed her on the game protection map of America; the organization whose members pay for the state game department;—this organization was ignored and its reasonable and courteous requests not even acknowledged. Second, the candidate actually appointed made his appeal, not to the organized sportsmen, but to the politicians, and based his appeal, not on his ability, but on his political services.

Now it so happens that Mr. Gable knows something about game, and if he "ties in" to the job in earnest and lets politics alone he will make a good game warden. He will, it goes without saying, have the hearty support of the G. P. A. We have no time for idle resentment,—we have tackled a big job, we need his co-operation, and he needs ours. But Mr. Gable is merely a lucky circumstance. The system by which he was appointed might have produced, and generally has produced, incompetents in office. That system remains a millstone around the neck of progress. It must be changed, and will be changed, we hope in 1920.

How?

Experience has shown that logical arguments politely presented will not alone suffice. Political parties do not respond to arguments. Political parties respond to VOTES. And after all, this is as it should be. Logical arguments are as the sands of the sea, and no governor built of mere flesh and blood can possibly respond to them all. In our political democracy, the coin of the realm is VOTES—votes honestly earned, votes honestly organized,

votes frankly and openly used. Votes, then, must be the *material* for the campaign of 1920. When the sportsmen of New Mexico have mobilized and used their votes,—then, and not sooner, will they obtain a 100 per cent Game Warden.

The G. P. A. plan for mobilizing the sportsmen's votes is explained in a nutshell on the card enclosed with this issue. Mr. Sportsman, we invite your attention to it. If, to you, as to us, game conservation is a *vital personal issue*, we invite you to sign the pledge. Do not sign it lightly, or without due consideration. Do not sign it unless you are ready and willing to live up to it. If you do sign it, mail it promptly to the Secretary, who will put it away for safe keeping until the big guns begin to boom in 1920. Then the G. P. A. will go to the powers that be, lay 1,000 votes on the table, and say, "Gentlemen, we want a Game Warden. What can you do for us?"

## HANDS OFF THE GAME FUND!

Theodore Roualt was accused of "extravagance," because, forsooth, he had raised \$24,000 in license money, and spent it in enforcing the law! Previous wardens presumably were economical because they sat in a swivel chair and let the law enforce itself! In one case, at least, said "economical" wardens even allowed the legislature to transfer \$10,000 out of the Game Fund, and appropriate it to other purposes. We have not audited Mr. Roualt's books, and cannot say whether he spent his \$22,000 wisely or unwisely. Neither do we insist that Mr. Roualt was a perfect game warden,—on the contrary he made many small mistakes and a few big ones. But we do know these three things: (1) he got out and worked; (2) he co-operated with the sportsmen; (3) he nearly doubled the license sales, collected the money, and spent it for the purposes for which it was given,—the purposes prescribed by law. If doubling the license sales is extravagance, then let us have some more of it!

But these things are bygones, and the sportsmen are interested in the future. The sportsmen are, in fact, intensely interested in the future, especially in the more or less direct implication to the effect that future game wardens, who go to the pains of doubling future license sales, will be expected to leave fat balances unspent. For what purpose? To be transferred by future legislatures to the general treasury?

Dear Reader, the Queen's English does not suffice at this point. The G. P. A. can only say that our sportsmen pay their special license for a special purpose. They expect their money—all of it—to be spent for this purpose. It is not nearly enough to accomplish this purpose. So they dig down in their pockets for more, and spend it through the G. P. A. for the same purpose. Even this is not enough, so they donate their time and effort to help out. Let it not be even suggested, therefore, that the Game Fund is too big, or that it should not all be spent, or that tempting balances should be dangled before the legislature. Our sportsmen are—well—sensitive, on this point.

## REQUIEM.

In conclusion, let the sportsmen remember that the G. P. A. is defeated but not beaten. "In the fell clutch of politics, they have not winced nor cried aloud; under the bludgeonings of Fate their head is bloody but unbowed." (Apologies to Henry.)

Let the sportsmen remember that hindsight and resentment are vain things for safety.

Let the sportsmen remember that O. A. Larrazolo is governor and Thomas P. Gable is game warden, and as such both are entitled to all respect and to all the co-

## Wanted—A Game Law

**Mr. Gable Asked to Co-operate With G. P. A. in Making Needed Repairs to Existing Statute. Bill Now Before Legislature—Sportsmen Should Get Behind Warden and Push It Through.**

The game law of New Mexico is behind the times. It needs to be brought up to date.

The officers of the G. P. A. have conferred with Mr. Thomas P. Gable, whose appointment as game warden awaits only the ratification of the Senate, and learned his views as to the proposed changes. In general, his views are closely in line with those expressed by the last G. P. A. convention.

We therefore offer our services to Mr. Gable in putting through a quick job of mending the law before the legislature adjourns. We recommend to him the following changes:

1. **LOCAL CLOSED SEASONS:** It has been found impossible to finance the enforcement of the state-wide two-year closed season on deer originally recommended by the G. P. A. The only alternative is to provide local closed seasons where they are worst needed. The G. P. A. therefore recommends that Mr. Gable present a bill conferring upon him or the governor authority to declare a local closed season on any species of game at any time that it becomes so scarce as to need special protection. While such a bill would confer large powers upon the game warden, it stands to reason that he would always consult all parties locally affected before exercising them.

2. **MIGRATORY BIRD LAW.** Thanks to the federal law, the ducks are holding their own. Thanks to the Canadian treaty, the federal law is now permanently and unquestionably established. Most of the states have already brought their state laws into conformity with the federal seasons, and New Mexico should lose no time in doing likewise. Our state law should contain a blanket provision declaring the federal regulations to be the law of the state, and making any violation of such regulations punishable in either the state or federal courts.

3. **SHORT OPEN SEASON ON BIG GAME.** Inasmuch as the state cannot finance a closed season, the open season on deer and turkey should be shortened to fifteen days and made uniform throughout the state. The old "zone" system is impracticable, unnecessary, and cumbersome. Let us, therefore, have a uniform season on deer and turkey from November 5 to November 20. To make it longer would court extermination; to make it later would interfere with the rut. November 5-20 are the best dates for the state as a whole.

4. **LICENSE REVISION.** The State Game Department is maintained on the income from license fees, and is self-supporting. In order to adequately enforce the law, it needs more money. The G. P. A. therefore proposes a general resident license fee of about \$2.50. This is a 50c increase over the present charge. Resident trout fishermen, who now pay no license, should be charged a \$1.00 resident fish license. The non-resident fish license, now \$5.00, is so high that tourists often evade it. If cut in half it would produce more income, and also relieve the situation at the Elephant Butte Dam, where El Paso people like to fish for sunfish, but naturally do not care to pay \$5.00 for the privilege. The supply of sunfish in such a large lake is practically

operation and backing that they will take and we can give.

Let the sportsmen remember that in 1920 they can get the best game warden there is in the state—and keep him—if they will go after him, with VOTES.

inexhaustible, and with a lower license fee could be made a handsome source of revenue.

5. **DAMAGE.** Where damage is inflicted by protected game on growing crops, the State Game Warden should be authorized to issue licenses allowing the killing of such game, after full investigation.

6. **GROUSE.** The grouse are on their last legs. We ask a closed season until they have reached a margin of safety. The grouse is too fine and valuable a bird to be numbered among the extinct species.

7. **BAG LIMITS.** Trout: 10 pounds, not exceeding 50 fish. Turkey: a season limit of six birds, with a daily limit of three. Migratory birds: 25, to conform with the federal law.

8. **DEER WITH HORNS.** To prevent the killing of does and fawns on the chance that they may have nubbins of horns, it is imperative that killing be restricted to bucks with horns not less than six inches long.

9. **HIGH-POWER RIFLES.** The use of high-power rifles to shoot ducks and geese in the Rio Grande Valley is fraught with danger to the numerous hunters and residents of the locality. Any rifle of larger calibre than an ordinary .22 should be prohibited.

10. **ILLEGAL DEVICES.** The aeroplane is coming. Eastern states have found it necessary to prohibit the shooting of waterfowl from airplanes. New Mexico will need a similar provision in the near future.

## MORE EVIDENCE

## BY MEN WHO KNOW

The men who know most about southwestern game are the most insistent protagonists of a rational conservative policy. This is true of sportsmen, naturalists, stockmen, predatory animal hunters, biologists, foresters and conservationists in general. Now come the supervisors of all the National Forests of New Mexico and Arizona, warning the public of the real conditions and urging those states once for all to put the whole game protection business on a sound, statesmanlike basis. This adds one more to the long list of warnings and entreaties by MEN WHO KNOW. How long, Mr. Average Voter, will you turn a deaf ear?

"We, the Supervisors of the fifteen National Forests of Arizona and New Mexico, embracing an area of twenty million acres of mountainous, forested land which is the chief range of the big game of the Southwest, in conference assembled, deem it advisable to warn the public of the precarious situation of the game animals of these states. We respectfully suggest to the governors and legislatures that they most earnestly consider such a revision of the game law as will preserve and increase the remnant of our wild life in the interest of the whole people. We hold that the wild life of the forests has an enormous potential value not only in money, but still more as a means of healthful recreation to the people. We urge that the game supply be regarded as a great and invaluable natural resource, and that immediate steps be taken to build up the breeding stock of game to a fair margin of safety. We believe that the ultimate solution of the problem lies in the creation of a wisely conceived system of small game refuges which, while not interfering with legitimate hunting in suitable adjacent regions, will give safe refuge to the breeding stock of game animals. We believe that the choice lies between annihilation of game on the one hand and a wise, statesmanlike application of fundamental principles of conservation on the other. We hereby offer our full co-operation in working out an adequate system of game protection on the National Forests."





THE STOLEN HORSE