

CONSERVATION OF GAME IS NOW A PROBLEM FOR THE NATION

Automobile and Aeroplane Only a Little More Than Used In Hunting. 2,000 Buffaloes Left.

EVERY year the biological survey makes a report covering the progress of game protection in the United States. The reports mark a steady progress in the movement for the increase of game by propagation and the establishment of game preserves. This year's report, just published, is made by T. S. Palmer and Henry Oldys. They relate that the increased popularity of the automobile by hunters was marked, and the possibility of utilizing the aeroplane in duck shooting was demonstrated by an experiment in southern California last November. So far as is known, this was the first attempt made to use the aeroplane in shooting game.

Another innovation was frowned upon when a Maine court imposed a fine upon a nonresident for using one of the recently invented silencers on his rifle while out after deer. This was the first conviction in any court for this new offense. Another important court decision was that of the supreme court of Pennsylvania prohibiting the use of automatic guns. In Pennsylvania also the law prohibiting the possession of firearms by aliens was upheld in the lower courts, and in consequence the disarming of aliens has made rapid progress.

A count taken by the American Bison society shows a total of 2,108 pure blood buffaloes in North America as compared with 1,817 at the date of the last census, made in 1908. Of these 1,807 are in captivity in the United States, 626 are in captivity in Canada and 475 are wild. The corresponding figures for 1908 were 1,133, 476 and 325. The decrease in the number in the United States was caused by the large purchases made by the Canadian government. The total number of buffalo has, however, increased by nearly 200.

The largest herds in private hands are now those of the Soldiers' Creek park at Belvidere, Kan.; the remainder of the Pablo herd at Roman, Mont.; the Blue Mountain Forest association herd at Newport, N. H.; the Little herd at Pawnee, Okla.; the Phillips herd at Pierre, S. D.; the Goodnight herd at Goodnight, Tex., and the Dooley herd on Antelope Island, in Great Salt Lake. The outlaw buffalo

belonging to Michel Pablo, which have thus far defied all attempts at capture, are supposed to number about seventy-five. It was announced in the autumn that a hunt would be organized by the owner of the herd. The state warden immediately took steps to prevent the hunt under the provisions of an old Montana law prohibiting the killing of buffalo at any time in the state.

Waterfowl and Woods Game.
From the gunner's viewpoint the waterfowl season was not satisfactory last year, but from the standpoint of the game conservationists it seems to have been very favorable. On the Atlantic coast the number of canvasbacks and redheads was greater than usual in the Long Island bays and on the Massachusetts coast, but much smaller than usual on the Susquehanna flats and Currituck sound, where these species are usually abundant. Canvasbacks are reported as numerous and increasing on Cayuga lake, central New York, where they were very scarce a dozen years ago.

Introduced pheasants seem to have held their own in sections where they have become established and in some instances show an increase. In the region around Buffalo, N. Y., where shooting is permitted for a short season in the fall and where 15,000, it is estimated, were killed in 1908, the stock does not seem to have been diminished. In the Genesee valley and in the region around Canadawaga pheasants have become quite numerous. In Massachusetts the birds seem to be holding their own, and the same is true of Ohio.

In no place where they have been liberated have Hungarian partridges yet become fully established, and in several regions where large sums have been spent in the attempted acclimatization of these birds they are reported to have disappeared through climatic or other causes. Other foreign game birds have practically all disappeared from the regions where they have been liberated.

Indiana bought and distributed 8,000 partridges and New Jersey 2,000 partridges and 4,000 English rhesneck pheasants during the year; Missouri arranged for the purchase and distribution of 4,000 partridges; California liberated 2,400 partridges in thirty-nine counties; Iowa arranged for the purchase of 5,000 pairs of partridges to be liberated early in 1911; Idaho completed the distribution of 1,000 pheasants bought in 1909; Louisiana in the fall of 1910 bought 120 pheasants for distribution throughout the state and liberation on the state game preserve in Caldwell parish, and Colorado placed twenty-five pairs of partridges in nine counties and began the distribution of 2,000 pheasants.

Oklahoma and Iowa distributed 20,076 and 6,205 pheasant eggs, respectively, to farmers for hatching and later liberation of the resulting broods. Iowa also arranged for the purchase and distribution of adult pheasants. South Dakota began an experiment with 200 or 300 pairs of pheasants and a few partridges, and Vermont gave much consideration to restocking the state with pheasants, wild turkeys and Hungarian partridges, the last being regarded less favorably. A few partridges were turned out by private organizations in New York, and 100 partridges were planted in Mississippi and Tennessee by an enthusiastic sportsman.

Results of Experiments.
It is yet too early to determine the outcome of most of these experimental measures, though negative results appear to have followed the liberation of partridges in New Jersey, Mississippi and Tennessee. During the year, however, it has developed that the planting of 1,000 pheasants in Kansas three or four years ago has been entirely barren of results and that of nearly 10,000 partridges liberated in Connecticut in 1908 and 1909 about 170 broods remained in the fall of 1909, which have since diminished and were probably finally destroyed by the severe weather of December, 1910. In the case of the Connecticut partridges, the fact that shooting was prohibited for only one season largely accounts for their disappearance.

In Indiana pheasants, which have been introduced for twelve or thirteen years, have yielded only fair results, while through the last few years' introduction of Hungarian partridges there are, according to a recent estimate, 10,000 of these birds on the 100 preserves created by contracts with farmers. Pheasants have increased in New Jersey as the result of three years' planting, and partridges in Nebraska from 124 pairs put out by the state in 1907 augmented by 1,500 worth liberated by ranchers early in 1908. Chinese pheasants, introduced in Idaho in 1908 and 1909, have become established wherever fed and otherwise cared for. Delaware shows only negative results from 100 pairs of partridges distributed in 1909.

The importation of foreign birds and mammals shows a slight increase. One of the largest single shipments ever reported came into New York from Hamburg in a vessel which brought 11,681 canaries and other nongame birds in one lot consigned to a New York importer. The chief importations of mammals were Japanese dancing mice and monkeys of various species. Two mongoose from Havana were denied admission. The game protection legislation in 1910, though small in laws passed, included several impor-

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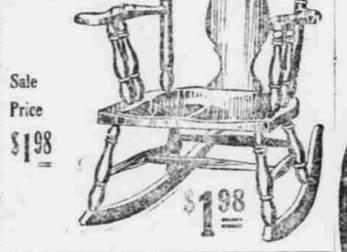
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MORE BEEF

BY PHIL S. HANER OF THE ILLINOIS LIVE STOCK COMMISSION.

It is generally said that it is unprofitable to feed cattle here in Illinois on \$150 and \$175 land. If you had been with me last winter, on the occasion of a visit to the University of Illinois, you would have seen a number of bunches of cattle all fed in small lots and a profit made on every bunch of cattle fed. If they can make a profit here under the conditions which they must have, a profit can be made by intelligent feeding on our farms. Not everyone desires to be a stock farmer, since stock farming has some drawbacks. The live stock farmer works every day in the year; the grain farmer is a gentleman in this particular. Although there are drawbacks there are advantages as well. Al-

though he must work every day of the year, while he is doing this he is building up his land or at least keeping it in better condition than his neighbor, the grain farmer.

It is a matter of note that can be easily verified, ride through the state as you will, whenever you pass a live stock farm, it looks better, has better improvements, the soil conditions are better and in every way appears more prosperous than the farms that are given over wholly to grain production.

The live stock farmer does not always have good years, but then there are bad years for the grain farmer as well. The grain farmer doesn't think of quitting for one bad year and neither should the live stock farmer. One year with another is what counts and the man who wins is not the fellow who is always trying something else, or something that appears easier.

When a man says you cannot raise live stock successfully in Illinois he is mistaken. True, there are conditions today different from those of a few years ago. Western land is settling up, big ranches are going out of business. Stock cattle were high

and scarce, both last fall and this spring. A few years ago it was no trouble to go out and pick up all the cattle you wanted, but today few farmers raise calves; they veal them instead.

It is said that one cannot afford to keep a cow in Illinois to raise a calf. Can this be true when last fall good calves sold at from \$20 to \$30 a head? I know calves can be raised at a profit in southern Illinois and the same is true of central Illinois.

One of the big mistakes the Illinois farmer is making by not raising more live stock is the loss of the boy and the girl from the farm. Boys and girls will be more interested with live stock on the farm, whether it is cattle, horses, sheep or hogs, than they will if you have simply a grain farm. If you have live stock on the farm you will receive the benefit of their attraction and the stock will be an attraction to the young people, especially if you let them have an interest in it more than the work necessary to care for it.

I could enumerate a good many more reasons along this same line, but with just simply seeing the corn and the other crops grow and having

nothing permanent for your children to do or to engage their attention you are not going to hold them long.

I think there is no occupation in the world that is better, more elevating and more enjoyable than living on a farm and farming.

While the city men want to get back to the farm, a large majority have this desire because they think today the farm is the place to go because they, the farmers, are making more and easier money than anyone.

I do not think we have had any more prosperous times than we are entitled to. The one thing now hurting us is the erroneous sentiment of the cities that the farmer has all the money. Certainly we are entitled to all we have got, for it came honestly and by hard work.

I want to say to you now, that I hope you will get lots of money, and I know you will if you will raise and handle more beef cattle and not go entirely to grain farming.

Ends Life Before Children.
Rockford, Aug. 29.—Ira W. Hedrick, desperate because he had been deserted by his wife, ended his life in the presence of his little daughters by tak-

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