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Field & Stream

Conservation
p. 12

AMERICA'S MAGAZINE FOR THE OUTDOORSMAN

**The
Game Refuge
Bill
Must Pass
—
Write Your
Congressmen
Today**



FIELD AND STREAM PUBLISHING CO., Ray P. Holland, Editor



Field & Stream



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NOVEMBER, 1924

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MEMBER OF THE AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS



WITH ROD AND REEL

ZANE GREY being congratulated by Captain Laurie D. Mitchell on his world record blue fin tuna caught August 22, 1924, in Nova Scotia. Mr. Grey's tuna, 8 feet 8 inches in length, 6 feet 4 inches in girth, and weighing 758 pounds, beat the record which Captain Mitchell had held for many years.

EDITORIAL

The Quebec Meeting

ON September 8 and 9 the International Association of Game, Fish and Conservation Commissioners held its Eighteenth Convention at Quebec. Hon. J. B. Harkin, Commissioner of the Canadian National Parks, a member of FIELD AND STREAM'S Conservation Council, was elected President of the Association to succeed Hon. Lee Miles, Chairman of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission.

This organization is composed of the officials and ex-officials of the different states of the Union and provinces of Canada, in whose charge is placed the protection of our fish and game. These are the men on whose shoulders this great burden must be carried; these are the fellows who do things. Often handicapped by inadequate and faulty laws, they are in most cases doing their utmost to conserve our wild life not only for future generations but so that we of today may benefit.

The men composing this organization are sportsmen. They enjoy hunting and fishing, their love for these sports being the deciding factor which compelled them to engage in this worthy work. No man could attend one of these meetings without being impressed with the sincere effort being made by our game officials to overcome the many handicaps they must face to provide shooting and fishing year after year for their fellow sportsmen.

Many different matters of importance were discussed at the meetings, the foremost being the Game Refuge Bill now pending in Congress. Without a dissenting vote the meeting went on record as favoring this bill and urging its early passage.

Where a state has a sincere and honest conservation department it behooves all sportsmen to cooperate with the officials in every way possible to aid them in their work. Even though your state fish and game department may not be as efficient as it should be, do not forget that it is much easier to criticize than to construct. Help the men who are working for your best interests; give them the advantage of your knowledge, and you will find in almost every case your assistance will be appreciated and your state officials will give you their best in return.

A Noticeable Improvement

IT has been only a short time since most sportsmen looked upon a game warden as an enemy. This state of affairs was brought about principally by the moiety system, which allowed the arresting officer a fee for each conviction, or at least a proportion of the fine. Unscrupulous officials abused their police powers until the sportsmen had ample reason for complaining. Trivial violations were prosecuted and even frame-ups indulged in; anything that could secure conviction and a part of the fine for the officer was considered fair by many of the early-day wardens. Game protection was not the motive which prompted an arrest; a conviction and the fee stood paramount.

The type of men engaged in the enforcement of conservation laws has, however, been steadily improving. There have always been some good, sincere men engaged in the work, but only too often a political henchman of the party in power has been given the position of chief game warden of a state without any thought as to his fitness for the job. In such instances, as is to be expected, he surrounded himself by deputies of the same

type. Game protection received little consideration as compared to the interests of the political machine which meant a job.

No one could have attended the recent meeting of game officials in Quebec without being impressed with the high type of men in charge of this work. As recently as five or six years ago there was always a group of men who went at state expense to the place where these meetings were held with no intention of attending any of the business sessions—men who simply used the conventions as an excuse for a junketing trip.

I do not recall a session of the recent meeting at Quebec which was not fully attended by every man enrolled as present. The position of game warden is an honorable one, and it is sincerely hoped that the type of men engaged in this work in the field will continually improve, for on them rests the future of outdoor sport in America.

The United States Civil Service Commission has just announced an open competitive examination for United States game wardens, to be held in the principal cities of the country on December 3. This position carries an entrance salary of \$2,100 per year and expenses. An advancement in pay may be made without change in assignment up to \$2,700 per annum. Young men interested in game conservation who are desirous of living a life in the open should apply to the United States Civil Service Commission, Washington, D. C., for forms stating the title of examination and the conditions that must be complied with.

Verbum Sat Sapienti

IN each issue of FIELD AND STREAM we run at least one practical article on some species of American fish or game, written by an authority on the subject. These articles are immensely popular with our readers because they not only give the habits of the species dealt with, but, being prepared by men whose years of experience have taught them the best methods to pursue in seeking the game in question, they are of inestimable value to the man planning to hunt game with which he is not familiar.

We received a letter from Mr. George F. Syme, Senior Highway Engineer of the North Carolina State Highway Commission, which is so complimentary to this type of article that we cannot refrain from printing part of it:

"There was a splendid article on woodcock in your July issue. The article was both interesting and instructive. After reading it, I went directly to the woods and located woodcock without difficulty, which I expect to hunt as soon as the season opens.

"It struck me as being rather unusual to be able to locate wild game by rules laid down in a book, but with your description of the habitat and habits of the woodcock I had no difficulty in putting it into practise. I have carefully marked this article and put it away for future reference."

It is the aim of FIELD AND STREAM ever to be an aid to its readers. Entertainment value alone is not sufficient. Each issue must be authoritative and instructive as well.

Ray P. Holland