

FOREST AND STREAM.

A WEEKLY JOURNAL OF THE ROD AND GUN.

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ROD AND GUN AND CAMERA.

AS A recognition of the important place of amateur photography in its relation to sports of the field and prairie and mountain and forest and stream, the FOREST AND STREAM offers a series of prizes for meritorious work with the camera. The conditions under which these prizes will be given are in brief as here set forth:

There will be ten prizes, as follows: First \$25. Second \$20. Third \$15. Fourth \$10. Six of \$5 each.

The competition will be open to amateurs only.

The subjects must relate to FOREST AND STREAM'S field—game and fish (alive or dead), shooting and fishing, the camp, campers and camp life, sportsman travel by land or water.

There is no restriction as to the time when the pictures may have been or may be made—whether in 1892 or in previous years. Pictures will be received up to Dec. 31, of this year.

All work must be original; that is to say, it must not have been submitted in any other competition, nor have been published.

There are no restrictions as to make or style of camera, nor as to size of plate.

A competitor need not be a subscriber of FOREST AND STREAM.

All photographs will be submitted to a committee, shortly to be announced. In making their awards the judges will be instructed to take into consideration the technical merits of the work as a photograph, its artistic qualities; and other things being equal, the unique and difficult nature of the subject.

Photographs must be marked only with initials or a pseudonym for identification. With each photograph should be given name of sender, title of view, locality, date, and name of camera.

The photographs shall be the property of the FOREST AND STREAM. This applies only to the particular prints sent us.

From time to time we shall reproduce by the half-tone process samples of the work submitted, and should the interest in FOREST AND STREAM'S Amateur Photography Collection prove to be what is anticipated, we may ask for an expression of opinion by a vote of all our readers after the manner of the successful and famous "Camp-Fire Flickering Vote." Such popular vote will be quite distinct from the award by the committee.

FISHERIES AT THE WORLD'S FAIR.

At a meeting of the State Board of World's Fair Commissioners in San Francisco on April 26 Commissioners Phelan, Daggett and McMurray were present. A memorandum, which may be of vital importance to the successful display of California's fishery resources, was placed upon the minutes of the executive session; it is as follows:

The object of the fish exhibit is to show the edible or food fish of the California coast and inland waters. Cheap food makes residence in a country desirable. President Jordan, of the Leland Stanford University, has expert knowledge and agrees to make the collection with the assistance of Professor Gilbert and his students, without any salaries being paid any one, and simply the expenses of preservation jars, transportation and manual labor being defrayed by the Commission.

The preparation of the California fish exhibit up to the time of the above meeting had been in charge of Alfred V. La Motte, and doubtless one of the causes of the change of direction was the publication of his wild statistics in the *California World's Fair Magazine* for March, 1892, wherein we are informed that 909,673 tons of fish were sold in San Francisco markets, or more than eighty times the quantity credited to the entire State in the official returns for 1888.

That the fishes of California will be exhaustively collected by President Jordan goes without saying, and we believe that with his experience in the same region during the canvas for the census of 1880 the statistical division of the work, which is most directly related to the public welfare, will receive the attention which its importance demands.

At the meeting of the New York Fish Commissioners last Tuesday a communication was read from Senator Donald McNaughton, of the Board of General Managers of the Exhibit of New York at the World's Fair, pointing out the desirability of a special fishery exhibit at Chicago, which should show not only the wealth of New York in food fishes, but the processes of fishculture and its progress in this State. It will be remembered that a like request was received from the Fair Commissioners some months ago. Commissioners Huntington and Bowman have been appointed a committee to consider the plan, and as Governor Flower is known to be well disposed toward the scheme, there is every reason for confidence that the display may be made. The showing will be one to illustrate the progress of fishculture not only in New York but in large measure that of the world.

NEW JERSEY FROZEN GAME.

CONSTANT violations of the game laws are reported to occur in New Jersey in connection with the great cold storage houses which have been established there within the past few years. Similar abuses were at one time common in this city, but the business here was broken up.

At the time when Mr. Charles E. Whitehead was counsel for the New York Society for the Protection of Fish and Game, laws were passed in this State which authorized game protectors, on obtaining search warrants, to break open these storage warehouses and look for frozen game at seasons when its possession was illegal. Under the earnest leadership of Mr. Whitehead a number of storage warehouse proprietors were convicted of having game in possession at unlawful times, and were fined sums so considerable that the open sale of illegal frozen game was given up. Soon after this, a number of these warehouse proprietors gave up business in New York city, but re-established their cold storage houses across the river in Jersey City, where they are still in operation.

One of the most profitable forms which this business takes is the supplying of ocean steamships with game. It is stated the warehouse people box up the frozen game and deliver it to the ships on the North German Lloyd line and also of the Hamburg-American Packet Company, supplying them with quantities large enough not only for their outward but also for their return voyage. They are reported also to make a practice of supplying such game to ocean steamships which sail from piers in this city, and as they deliver their wares in closed boxes it is not easy to put an end to the traffic. It can readily be understood that the amount of game disposed of in this way is enormous in the course of a year.

The laws of New Jersey with regard to fish and game are in some respects peculiar, but their apparent intent is to forbid the possession of game after ten days beyond the expiration of the open season, and we have no doubt that if an earnest effort were made by the authorities of that State and those interested in game protection a stop could be put to this traffic. Remonstrances with the steamship companies can accomplish little. These corporations say that they must have game to supply to their passengers, and very truly allege that this is the cheapest way that they can get it.

It is believed that the game markets of this city, after having been glutted throughout the open season, send over to New Jersey whatever game they have left on hand at the close of the open season, and either sell it to the warehouses or have it sold for them.

Of course it is an open secret that the game laws in this city are violated throughout the winter. Prairie chickens, ruffed grouse and other birds are sold under the name of ptarmigan, though frequently there is not a ptarmigan in market during the whole winter, while "antelope" regularly appears on the restaurant bills of fare to represent what is really venison.

While we may congratulate ourselves on the fact that the interest felt in game protection is greater now than it was a few years ago, it is still discouraging to notice the frequency with which the game laws are disregarded.

SPITTING SNAKES.

IN Volume XIV. of the Proceedings of the United States National Museum, pages 539-694, Professor E. D. Cope publishes a paper entitled "A Critical Review of the Characters and Variations of the Snakes of North America." In this paper it is attempted to define with precision the species of North American snakes, together with their varieties, and in preparing it advantage has been taken of the large collection of snakes in the United States National Museum, as well as those in other collections. The paper is entirely technical, yet some statements are made with regard to the habits of certain species, and to one of these statements we wish to call attention.

In his remarks on the genus *Crotalus*, Professor Cope speaks of the biting habits of the rattlesnake, using the following language: "Species of this genus are of rather sluggish movements and are not quick to bite unless trodden on. They throw their body into a coil and sound the rattle, giving a sigmoid flexure of the anterior part of the body on which the head is poised. They open their mouths ready for action. At this time drops of the poisonous saliva fall from the fangs and by a violent expulsion of air from the lungs are thrown on their enemy." This statement will appear to many readers as it does to us, very extraordinary, and is quite opposed to the idea which commonly prevails with regard to the "spitting" of snakes by which is meant the ejection of the venom where the teeth are not brought in play. It is commonly believed that the contraction of the muscles about the poison sack causes the fluid to be thrown out through the canal in the poison fang, and it is quite certain that the "spitting," where it takes place, usually accompanies an effort to bite. Further information on this subject is greatly to be desired, and we should be glad to know on what observations Professor Cope's statements are based.

It is well known that with certain species of snakes this act of "spitting" is not very uncommon. The najas of South Africa are especially famed for this act and it is a common belief that these snakes endeavor to throw their venom into the eye of the person toward whom it is directed. These common beliefs, however, do not go for much in science unless they are confirmed by the observations of trained students. The old story of the hoop snake once received general credence. It used to be thought that the porcupine darted his quills at his enemies, and so with many old beliefs.

Rattlesnakes are not now as common as they used to be twenty years ago, yet among our readers there must be many who are familiar with snakes of this class, and it is to be hoped that some of them may be in a position to contribute some evidence on the point in question.

SNAP SHOTS.

IT APPEARS that there are some people in California who think that it would be a wise and sensible thing to introduce a new species of vermin into this country. They are plagued with gophers, and they propose to bring in the mongoose to war on the gopher. Sufficient is known of this species to warrant the conviction that its introduction into America would be criminally foolish. The mongoose preys on rats and mice and snakes and lizards, and insects, but it devours also such birds as it can capture, and feeds greedily on the eggs of quail and other ground-nesting birds. Such habits are in themselves sufficient to prove the case against the creature; but added to them is the uncertainty as to what will be the increase of any wild species in new surroundings. Until the story of the rabbits and foxes in Australia, mongoose in Jamaica, and English sparrows in America shall have been forgotten, common sense will forbid the hazardous experiment of adding the mongoose to the vermin supply of the Pacific Coast.

We shall have a full report of the meeting of the American Fisheries Society held in this city May 25-26. The attendance and manifested interest are notable and speak with much promise for the Society and for the important field of its activity. With this year the Society has attained its majority, and gives every evidence of vigor and strength.

The discovery which Mr. William Johnson reports from Woodland, Kansas, of the fossil remains of a prehistoric deer 15ft. high, points the moral that the ambitious Kansas deer slayer of to-day is living a few æons too late; and is thus missing a splendid opportunity for "tall talk."