

COUNTY	1913	1914	1915			
Ashland.....	310	583	182	Marinette.....	195	205
Barron.....	34	35	18	Monroe.....	2	5
Bayfield.....	797	784	386	Oconto.....	20	58
Brown.....	1	2	.....	Oneida.....	629	577
Burnett.....	32	1	.....	Polk.....	22	18
Chippewa.....	167	201	118	Price.....	487	529
Clark.....	85	86	34	Portage.....	1	2
Douglas.....	516	470	195	Rusk.....	508	368
Dunn.....	24	17	.....	Sawyer.....	968	1074
Eau Claire.....	16	25	4	Shawano.....	7	4
Florence.....	71	308	132	Taylor.....	599	667
Forest.....	111	93	42	Trempealeau.....	.....	1
Iron.....	190	255	140	Vilas.....	657	284
Jackson.....	26	16	7	Washburn.....	232	184
Juneau.....	5	7	4	Michigan points.....	.....	29
Langlade.....	75	104	39	Unidentified, picked up by expressmen.....	67	59
Lincoln.....	101	147	39	Total.....	6969	7373
Marathon.....	14	26	5			3137

## THE MARKET HUNTERS.

It is needless to say that the market and pot hunters care little about the law as it now stands. They figure that there is only one chance in ten of their being caught, and if they are caught, the penalty of from \$5



BEAR HUNTERS IN NORTHERN WISCONSIN

to \$25 is only the fruit of one day's hunt; and they are willing to take the chance. These are the men that are the real destroyers of our game.

There is but one way to stop the traffic in game and that is by a heavy fine, and imprisonment for the second offense. The Federal Lacy law which prohibits interstate shipments of game has had a deterrent effect in shipping game outside of the state. The market hunter takes a long chance in undertaking to ship game to Chicago or any of the large markets, and but few have been willing to take that chance of falling into the clutches of Uncle Sam. Uncle Sam's laws are stringent and they fear them—they are afraid of the \$200 fine—but they have no difficulty in peddling

game to willing purchasers near home. For instance, it is a notorious fact that the market hunter enjoys a lucrative business in trafficking in deer during the entire year. They do not wait until the opening of the deer hunting season, November 11, but they start out and secure a supply and have it ready for the hunters when they arrive. The hunter who is not fortunate enough after a week or ten days hunting to get his stipulated one buck, can easily (if so disposed) purchase one from the wiley market hunter and take his trophy home. This is a common practice, and while we are able to arrest an occasional market hunter, the fine is so small that it makes but a small dent in his lucrative profits.

For instance, last winter we found where one of these market hunters had six deer hidden. We watched until he came after them and arrested him, took him into court where he plead guilty and was fined \$50, the maximum for this violation. We sold the deer in Milwaukee for about \$200. It is an inviting occupation for a good hunter and it is no wonder that they hazard the chance. The fine should be \$100 for killing a deer out of season and \$100 fine for each deer or part thereof sold, or six months in jail. Such a law would put a stop to the slaughter of deer for the markets and save them for the legitimate hunter.

From the mass of evidence we have, we feel safe in saying that one-half of all of the deer killed are killed by these market hunters. Their field for operation is so vast and their opportunity for evading an officer so extensive that it is hard to catch them. Besides, they are a lawless, desperate class of men and the law-abiding citizens are afraid to report them as they would be endangering their lives and property. Instances have been known where mysterious burning of buildings could be traced to this provocation. So we ask this legislature to arm us with some good stringent laws, backed up with rigid fines, and we feel confident we can suppress this vicious practice.

#### BEAVER.

In discussing the beaver situation in Wisconsin, we believe we have a sufficient fund of information on the life and customs of these little animals to write a book. There is no part of our duties that have been beset with so much difficulty as the wise little beaver have caused. He possesses more wisdom and is the master of more trades than the combined intelligence of all the animal kingdom. He is a forester, a lumberman, an architect, a carpenter, a mason and an all-round genius. He builds his dam and house and takes up his abode where he sees fit, regardless of all human consideration, backing up the water, covering cultivated fields and meadows much to the annoyance of the farmer. He backs up the water flooding railroad tracks and interferes with the commerce of the commonwealth, and no man dares molest his well laid plans to provide for themselves and families, for he is wrapped in the plainly written laws of the state of Wisconsin, which expressly provide that "no person shall hunt, take, capture or kill any beaver or molest their houses or dams." Protected as he is and has been for the past ten years, their numbers have multiplied until they have become a nuisance all through the northern