

mission has framed a refuge law which we are submitting to this legislature for passage, which, if passed, will equip us to carry on this work in the manner it should be. The coming of the automobile has opened the remote districts where seclusion was found, and settlement is encroaching more and more upon their habitations. This condition demands that broader protection must be given for these creatures, which is best afforded by a generous supply of refuges.

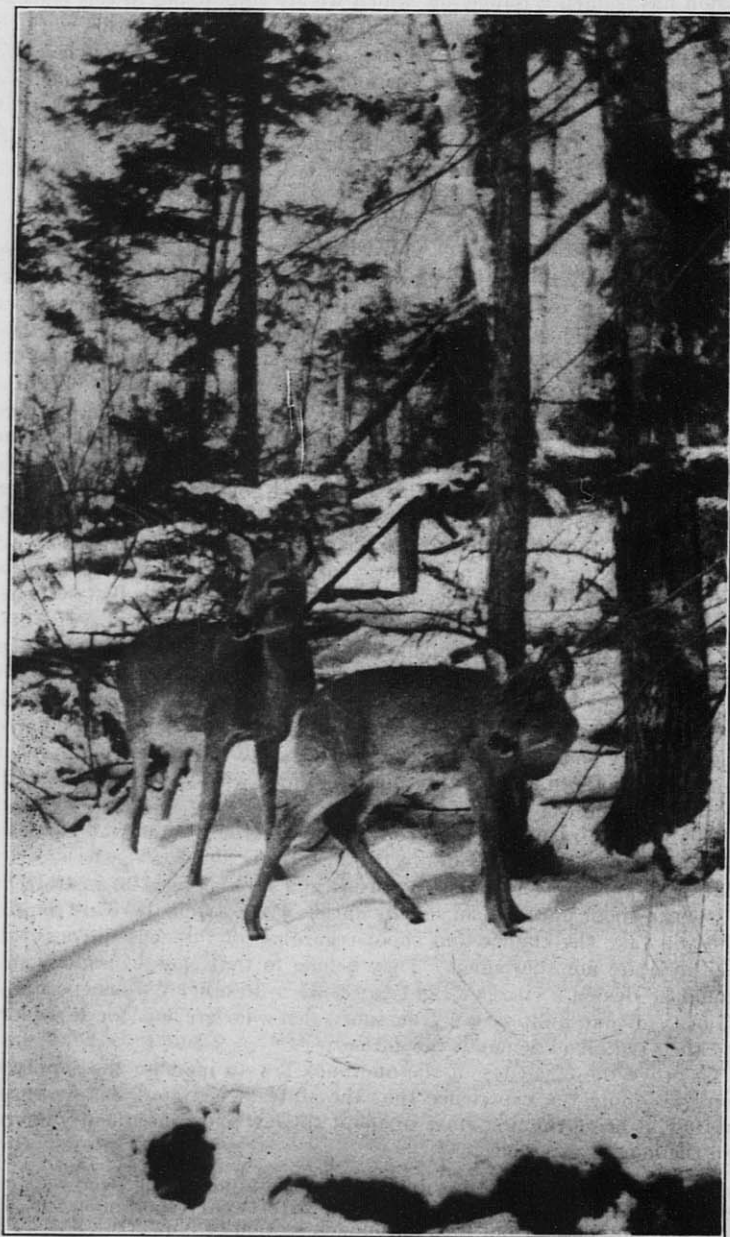
DEER.

The immediate danger of exterminating our deer was overcome by the passage of the one buck law by our last legislature. This is a proven method of conservation. Sixteen other states have tried this method prior to the passage of the one buck law in Wisconsin. Something had to be done to save our deer, as settlements are fast encroaching on the wilderness and the fast increasing population is narrowing the area of their habitation. Consequently we must throw around them the necessary protection to retain them as an abundant game animal. In the light of experience, we know that no animal responds more readily to protection and encouragement than the deer, for our first year's trial of the one buck law has resulted in producing more fawns this year than have been seen in the deer territory in any previous year. Nothing is more reasonable if we exercise common sense, than that by retaining our female deer we will perpetuate the specie. The farmer, rearing his domestic cattle or other animals, keeps his females and sells off the males, thus providing against depletion of his herds. The one buck law is a common sense law and it needs no scientist or prophet to figure out the benefits that must surely follow its enforcement. Every sportsman who desires to leave to his posterity the inheritance that God ordained to the children of men will support this law with his very best efforts.

This law, we realize, is an inconvenience to the hunter who cares for nothing only to satisfy his desire to kill. He is angry when he sees the white tails bounding through the brush and he is obliged to restrain his passion to shoot until he can see the antlers. We admit there are hunters who will take the chance and shoot regardless of the consequences, but such men are not sportsmen. They belong to that class of hunters that should be denied a citizen's right to secure a license. We believe that a majority of our hunters are true sportsmen who are out for the sport, and their red blood demands the antlers.

To prove the efficiency of the one buck law to increase the supply of deer, we quote the experience that the state of Vermont has had with this law, it being the first state to adopt the law and consequently having had the longest experience:

"Forty years ago, as a result of persistent hunting the deer were exterminated in the state of Vermont. In 1878 twenty sportsmen raised a fund and purchased from the Adirondack section of New York seventeen deer which were released in Turland and Bennington counties and protected by a closed season which continued for nineteen years. In 1897 an open season was again given, and has been continued each year since that



DEER IN STATE GAME FARM

time. During the eighteen years which have since elapsed bucks only have been killed, with the exception of the years 1909 and 1910 when an open season for does also was granted. This open season in 1909-10 was given solely for the reason that deer had become too plentiful and it was deemed wise to reduce their numbers.

"During these eighteen years official figures show that 23,265 deer have been killed by sportsmen. During the first half of the period, or from 1897 to 1905 inclusive, 2,855 deer were killed. During the second half 20,410 deer were killed, an increase of over 800 per cent. These figures prove * * * that under a buck law the deer increase in the woods at the same time that greater numbers are being taken by the hunters. The statement seems paradoxical, but there can be no denying the figures.

"It is interesting to note also that during the first four years of the open season, or from 1897 to 1900, inclusive, only 460 deer were killed, an average of 115 deer per year. This was the best that could be done after a nineteen year closed season. During the last six years the number taken averaged 2,763 deer per year. The great increase in Vermont deer therefore has taken place not under the protection afforded by a closed season, but under the buck law.

"Vermont, as stated before, is the state which has given the buck law the longest test. It is the only state in the Union today which complains with reason of having too many deer. In proportion to its hunting area more deer are killed under a buck law than in any other state under any kind of law. The deer are also the heaviest and finest specimens of the Virginia deer to be found in the United States. Hunting accidents are characteristically infrequent and the kind of accidents in which a man is shot at by mistake for a deer are almost unknown."

The one buck law has its friends and its foes—both equally pronounced in his praise and condemnation of the law, but viewing it from the standpoint of a conservation law, both as to humanity and deer, its first year's trial has demonstrated that it has conserved both. There was not a single fatality last winter from one hunter shooting another, mistaking him for a deer. A very unusual circumstance, for this is the first year in a score that several hunters have not lost their lives being shot to death by a reckless hunter that did not stop to see what he was shooting at. This law has demonstrated that the hunter stops and looks before he shoots. He looks for the horns, and does not shoot at the first sight of a moving object. It has made the hunter more cautious, and has added much to the sport for the hunter feels that his life is not in constant jeopardy. With all of the points favorable to this law, it should have but one amendment to make it complete. The law should specify that no deer may be taken without horns at least six inches long.

We refer those who believe that the one buck law is not a conservator of deer to the following schedule which shows the total number of deer shipped from the various counties during the years 1913, 1914 and 1915. This gives only the number of deer *shipped* and does not include those that were taken by private conveyances, which were many:

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			54
Marathon.....	14	26	5	Total.....	6969	7373
						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