

PROTECTIVE ORGANIZATIONS.

It has been the policy of this department to cooperate with the various protective organizations throughout the state. There are 86 of these organizations working under various names, but all with the one aim in view, that of protecting the wild life of the state and cultivating public sentiment favorable to the great scheme of conservation. We cannot overestimate the value of these organizations, as their activities extend into every county of the state and form a substantial support to this commission. These organizations have a combined membership of ten thousand sportsmen substantially interested in seeing to it that we have a wholesome and respectful observance of the law and a proper system of protection established in their various localities. During the past year we have established several of these organizations and shall continue this policy in the future, for we believe that in organization there is strength and strength is needed to perform the mission for which this commission was created.

EDUCATION.

In order that we have a lasting and wholesome appreciation of the value to humanity of the wild life of the nation, we must spread abroad the knowledge of the relations these natural resources bear to the lives and comforts of the people. No human being with a heart and conscience would raise a hand to harm or destroy a living creature that to him meant a lessening of his own individual benefits. Therefore it is of the utmost importance that these facts be made known to the people through a thorough program of education carried on, we believe, through our public schools of the nation. Textbooks with illustrations should be provided for the primary departments of all of our schools and a period for class recitations established, making it a permanent study in the curriculum of the public schools.

The adding of this study to the school curriculum would not only spread a knowledge of this important subject, but would be a source of enticement for the child's love for school. He would look forward to the period of class recitation as the brightest period of the school day and his interest would soon be made manifest in carefully protecting, caring for and encouraging the lives of these winged creatures which he has learned to love. The youths of today are the grown-ups of tomorrow and it is to them we must look to carry forward the work of conservation in its fullest sense.

Wisconsin with her boasted educational institutions consisting of the best university in the United States, eight normal schools, six thousand six hundred and thirty-six one room country schools, six hundred fifty state graded schools, three hundred fifty high schools and many subsidiary schools, and not one of them so far as we are able to learn have either study or recitation period devoted to the life, habits, customs or benefits that the wild life of the nation holds for the people. It is the same as leaving off the connecting rod of an engine which transmits the power of the engine to the propeller. The schools are the connecting rods that