

PROTECTIVE ORGANIZATIONS.

It has been the policy of this department to coöperate 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

would transmit the power of education and crystallize a public sentiment irresistible in its force for conservation.

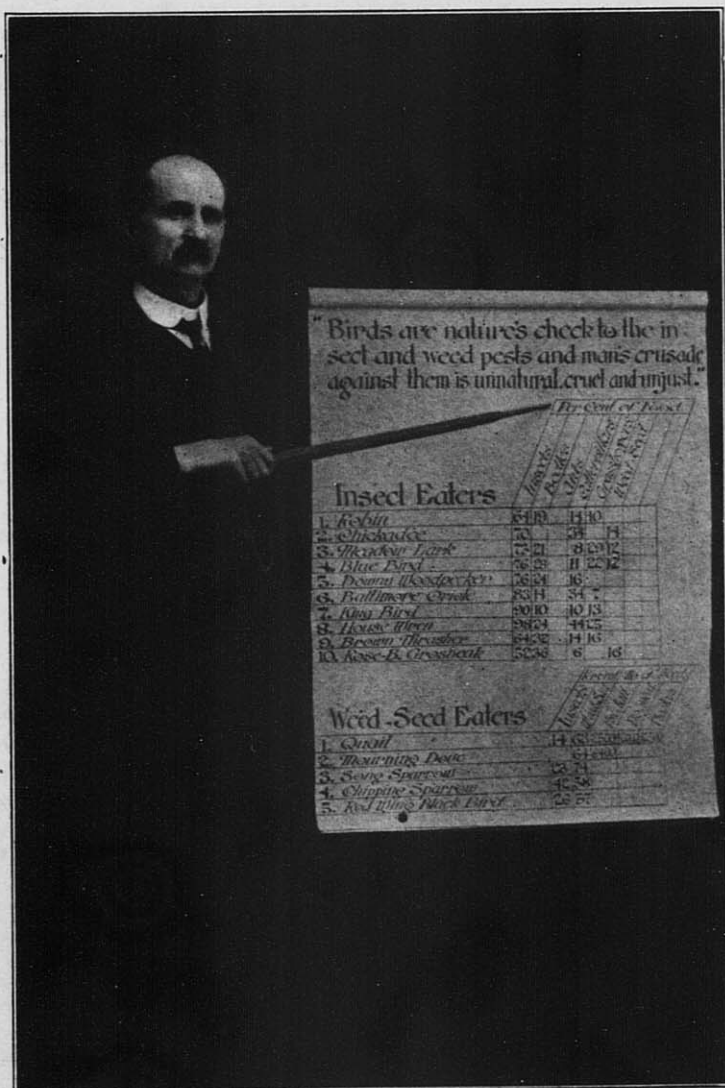


CHART USED IN LECTURES. EDUCATIONAL FEATURE

It is strange indeed that a nation so progressive as this, grasping every new idea (many of them that seem more speculative than enduring) should neglect such an important question, whose only true solution is



COW ELK IN STATE GAME FARM

education, and allow the old hammer and tongs method to supersede enlightened reason.

To the school program of education should be added public lectures given to audiences of adults throughout the various states, which would soon awaken a general interest in conservation that would endure for all time. This commission has already started this latter program and has had several speakers engaged in delivering lectures during the past winter. We shall enlarge upon this work and push this program of education to the best of our ability. It is the one thing that will save the wild life of this nation, and the work must be pushed vigorously. Until such time as the people become educated to the importance of a united public sentiment for conservation, we must pursue the course of warrants, courts and fines and follow the old method of educating with the sledge hammer, teach through fear instead of reason, and the more rigid the laws and the more severe the fines, the more potent the effect.

GAME FARM.

The Wisconsin Game Farm located at Trout Lake, Vilas county, is of considerable importance as a nursery for orphan fawns that are found wandering through the woods with no mother to nurse them and facing starvation. It is surprising how many of these helpless little creatures are rescued by wardens and settlers and sent to this farm where they are fed and cared for. We have in the enclosure at the present time about 100 deer, many of which were orphan fawns that have grown to maturity and form a large herd of breeders that are multiplying rapidly.

In 1913 the former game warden department secured a carload of elk from Yellowstone Park and placed them within the enclosure of the game farm. The long distance shipment and the inclement weather encountered on their journey resulted in the death of all but two, both of which are females, and they are still on the farm. This commission after continued effort, finally secured through the generosity of Charles Comiskey, president of the White Socks Base Ball Club and also president of the Jerome Hunting and Fishing Club, a fine bull elk which he presented to the state free of charge. This gives the state a nucleus for a herd and as they are all acclimated, we feel confident that we will soon have a considerable herd. A vote of thanks is due Mr. Comiskey for his generous gift, which is highly appreciated by this commission.

It is planned by the commission to secure a few moose for breeders and place them on the farm, as it is highly important that Wisconsin should bring back again this animal that at one time was quite plentiful in the far north regions of the state. There is no question but that moose are adapted to that section of the country and they should be encouraged as one of our game animals.

The Wisconsin Game Farm contains about 300 acres of wild timber land and is enclosed with a woven wire fence 10 feet in height. It answers a much needed requirement and will be enlarged from time to time as our animal stock increases. We shall endeavor to secure another carload of elk next year, as we are nicely equipped to handle them and the expense