



Municipality of the District of Digby

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DEER IN OUR FORESTS:

We publish with much pleasure this week the letter of Capt. Daley on the importation and protection of deer. A petition is, we understand, to be placed before the local legislature this session, to encourage the introduction of deer into our forests, and protect them from molestation for 10 years, by which time, under the operation of wise game laws, those useful and beautiful animals would be securely established in our forests. We need scarcely say we wish this wise movement every success, and hope our legislature may without delay forward it as it deserves.

From the Nova Scotia border of New Brunswick to the shores of the Pacific deer of many varieties are found, adding to the resources of man, without in any manner encroaching upon them, and this under circumstances for less favorable than those of Nova Scotia. Here we have a winter climate at least as genial as that of New Brunswick or Maine. Here the deer would be secure from their fierce and persistent enemies of the wolf, catamount, lion, leopard, or tiger species, which in the various other forests throughout America hang upon their tracks.

Before the settlement of this province by white men, deer existed in its forests, as their bones found in our "kitchen middens" show, and reasons, would expect, seeing that they would then find a forest-covered way across the isthmus joining New Brunswick to Nova Scotia, where afterwards such cover was cleared away. Wolves still following them, even as now in New Brunswick, would with the deer themselves find in our narrow peninsula far less escape from man's observation, unrestrained by game laws, than in the large and dense forests of the sister provinces. Even so lately as about 45 years ago the large grey wolf in a few instances found its way into the county of Colchester, but these few visitors were speedily exterminated. In this province, therefore, where the forest is nowhere more than 30 miles from the seashore, there is perfect immunity from wolves in our day, and deer if adequately guarded from undue slaughter would enjoy a park-like security, such as in other parts of this continent is unknown. Here they would find in our forest glades and around our innumerable wild meadows abundant pasture, and would fatten upon that which at present goes to waste.

It has been truly said that he that causes two blades of grass to grow where but one grew before is a benefactor to his country. To this we may add as a corollary that a legislative assembly which introduces and protects a useful and beautiful species of large game animals to fatten for man's use upon pastures otherwise liable to waste, would prove themselves patriots in a similar manner. Of late years in our country, as well as in the United States, following the example of other countries in Europe man's food supply is being greatly enlarged and enriched by the culture and protection of fish. Our myriad inland lakes will soon be teeming with delicious edible fishes unknown to them before. Add to these the propagation of deer, and these together with our moose and caribou, will greatly increase the attraction of a province already known most favorably for its teeming wealth in minerals and fruit raising.

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