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1314

MEMORANDUM TO Mr. Cheesman, Biological Survey

I am sending you 10 copies of the news item entitled
"DENMEAD AND GOLDMAN DISCUSS PROBLEMS OF GAME PRESERVATION"
which we mailed today. It was distributed as checked below:

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:Full List.
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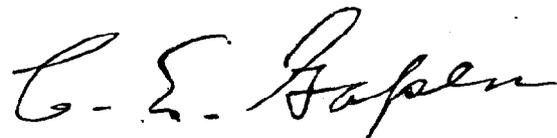
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If additional copies of any article originating in your bureau are desired please attach request for them to the manuscript when it is approved in your office. If you are unable to anticipate such a need, please request the desired number of copies immediately upon receipt of this memorandum.

Yours very truly,



Chief of Press Service.





U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Office of Information

Press Service



Release - Immediate.

December 21, 1927.

DENMEAD AND GOLDMAN DISCUSS
PROBLEMS OF GAME PRESERVATION

The comparative merits of restocking hunting areas with imported game and the protection of game already in the area, were discussed by Talbott Denmead, Deputy Chief United States Game Warden, at the 14th National Game Conference held in New York early in December, and E. A. Goldman, also of the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture, explained to the conference members some of the factors leading to the numerical fluctuations of game.

Mr. Denmead particularly emphasized that his remarks should not be taken as a criticism of State conservation commissioners and others who have been active in importing game for restocking purposes, but rather to emphasize the need of keeping account of the results of importations to decide whether the practice pays. As a result of his experience, he was inclined to the opinion that further protection of existing game should be paramount and importation secondary. He noted that game brought from a distance is liable to injury in transit, is more susceptible to disease, or because of conditions of transit and unfamiliarity with the country may die or be killed after liberation. Even if animals stand shipment in good condition "there still remains the doubt whether they will become acclimatized and adapt themselves to weather and food conditions; and there is still further danger that they may be entirely wiped out by reason of their unfamiliarity with the country and lack of knowledge of their enemies known as vermin."

The warden recounted several unsuccessful importations, and stressed the additional danger of introduction of fatal disease by imported birds and animals. He quoted with approval M. D. Hart's statement of conditions in Virginia: "We have the ruffed grouse, the wild turkey, and the quail--three of the finest game birds on earth. It will pay us to take care of them and not import foreign birds."

Protection instead of importation "may make the State game officer's account look like too much overhead if more money is expended on game wardens and the destruction of vermin and less on birds and animals for liberation, but results are what count in the long run and are what the hunters are looking for and expect. Large numbers of animals and birds imported and released may look good in annual reports, but the question to be answered by every State game

authority is--does it pay?"

Instead Mr. Denmead recommended a more thorough and intelligent control of vermin and the establishment of permanent game sanctuaries, with restocking of depleted covers with imported game only when and where it can be done successfully.

Mr. Goldman, in charge of the Division of Game and Bird Reservations of the Biological Survey, in discussing fluctuation in the numbers of birds and animals as one of the most pressing problems of wild-life administration, said that some of the factors were easily understood and could be controlled, but that other factors that may depend on the weather and those that are involved in biological relationships are often baffling in their complexity.

He mentioned various studies of numbers of game and thought it doubtful that a stabilized balance under natural conditions was ever attained for a long period. Records of abundance in furs delivered to the Hudson's Bay Company for a hundred years show cycles of abundance and scarcity.

Whatever other effects there may be on the numbers of game, the presence of man has disturbed the former balance, and as an offset "suitable areas must be set aside or created for the benefit of game, in which all breeding stocks are preserved, if game is to be maintained on anything like a satisfactory scale, and a surplus provided for sportsmen."

The speaker gave consideration to damage done by predatory animals and vermin, the extent of which is not generally realized, and also discussed some of the reasons for the wide fluctuations in the numbers of such well-known herds as the Yellowstone elk and the Kaibab deer, and for the increase of mountain sheep on the National Bison Range, in Montana.

"Sufficient food and water and adequate protection from enemies are essential," Mr. Goldman remarked, "if game is to thrive and be maintained on a satisfactory scale, but freedom from parasites and diseases, especially those that become periodically epizootic, and, in waterfowl, freedom from maladies believed to be due to mineral poisons, is of vital importance. Parasitism may account for the comparative rarity of some animals, including various members of the weasel family that, especially in the warmer regions, apparently are able to obtain abundant food, and, so far as known, have few natural enemies. Epizootics evidently provide the final check to overabundance in all wild life, and correspond to epidemics in man."

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