

The California Associated Societies for the Conservation of Wild Life, of which the Cooper Club is a member, has practically concentrated its attention on the proposed bill prohibiting the sale of game. The measure as drawn up is in ideally good hands. Senator William R. Flint, popular, influential and able, has already introduced the bill.

Communications and editorials from all over the State and the United States are being received demanding that the sale of game be prohibited. A book by Dr. Wm. T. Hornaday, Director of the New York Zoological Park, just issued, says California's game is doomed unless a non-sale law is passed at once.

The National Association of Audubon Societies, the New York Zoological Society, and the Campfire Club of America are urging California to join the distinguished roll of eighteen states that have entirely prohibited the sale of game.

Now! Every reader of THE CONDOR, and especially every Cooper Club member, who believes in the justice of this cause, can render effective help by writing immediately to his Assemblyman and Senator as well as to Hon. George J. Hans, Chairman Senate Committee on Fish and Game, and Hon. John H. Guill, Chairman Assembly Committee on Fish and Game, requesting their support for the Flint bill, prohibiting the sale of game. Write also to Senator Flint, assuring him of your hearty support.

The following extract from an editorial in the FRESNO REPUBLICAN makes short work of the absurd claim that the man who does not hunt is deprived of a natural right if he cannot buy game to eat. The great mass of people hunt for sport; only the hotelman and the market gunner hunt for private pockets in order that lazy Croesus may "buy a duck when he wants it!"

"They will simply have to go without it for awhile," was the reply made at a hearing in Sacramento to the query what the people who do not shoot will do for game, pending the development of its commercial production for sale. And the *Examiner* takes this as a confession of the absurdity, and injustice of the whole scheme of reserving wild game from tame commerce.

But why not? Are the only privileges to be those of money? Are we so commercialized that the normal way of getting everything must be to buy it? There are plenty of things—diamonds and champagne and automobiles, for instance—that most people must go without. Those who can afford these things see no injustice in the exclusion of those who cannot. The exclusion is commercial, and therefore, to the commercial-minded, it is conclusive. But when any other standard of dis-

tinction is suggested, by which they would be the excluded ones, then they grow righteously indignant. Yet once it was quite axiomatic that all good things belonged to the strong as it now is that they belong to the rich. The mighty hunter had the game, the mighty warrior the government and the mighty miser his gold heaps—unless the warrior and the hunter took them away from him. The mighty thinker, then as now, had no privilege but the hope of posterity's recognition. But now the mighty miser demands the first fruits of all the others; and sets himself up as the only privileged class. That the game should be the privilege of the hunter strikes him as an invasion of his own right to monopolize all privileges to himself.

Yet already most of the best things of life are attainable only by other processes than purchase. *The best part, even of the game, is not the eating, but the hunting of it.* Pampered Croesus, at Delmonico's may eat his canvasback, and carp because it was on the fire nineteen minutes instead of eighteen. But who shall buy the sunrise, the tang of the morning air, the mists on the salt marshes, the spell of the hunting and the triumph of the successful shot? *Ten thousand generations of hunting ancestry bequeathed us the instinct whose satisfaction is the huntsman's joy. But it is a thing to be achieved by stout legs, clear eyes and steady nerve, and is for sale to no fat purse except for personal exertion also. Is it imperative that the mere incidental gastronomic product of that uncommercial activity shall be open to commercial access?*

The two finest mountain views on the American continent are doubtless those from the summits of Mt. Whitney and Mt. Dana. They are open to any man with strong legs and sound lungs, and the price of beans and bacon, but a million dollars will not carry a man to them in a Pullman car. The love of a good woman is one man's freely, for his own devotion in return, but it is no man's for pay. Money will buy books and pictures and music, but not the knowledge to appreciate them. And the touch with wild things, and the hereditary lure of the wild man's chase for them—these are something better than buying and selling. *If, to preserve the wild poesies and to keep alive the untamed pursuit of them, it becomes necessary to separate the products of the hunt from organized commerce, until commerce itself can produce what it consumes, there is no injury done except to the fiction that all things are the natural right of him who is able to pay for them.*—W. P. T.

REPORT OF PROGRESS IN CONSERVATION

To contingent organizations making up the

California Associated Societies for the Conservation of Wild Life:

An organization like the Associated Societies suffers a considerable handicap at best through the lack of coordination between the organizations and individuals making it up, this lack of coordination being the result of the spatial dispersment of the membership, and of the absence of a medium such as an official publication to keep each individual member fully informed. It is hoped that the publication of this report in the organs of the constituent societies will, in a measure eliminate this disadvantage.

As to the work of the Associated Societies: At the meeting of the Executive Committee, held December 19, a particular program of improvement along wild life conservation lines was decided upon. This program emphasizes the "no-sale of American-killed wild game" law, and the putting of assistants and wardens of the State Fish and Game Commission on civil service basis, as of supreme immediate importance.

Hundreds of letters have already been sent out; many of these requesting donations of money to be used to carry on the work; others to persons of influence throughout California, as a means of getting them to work with us; and others to legislators, calling their attention to the alarming decrease in our native fauna, and requesting their best attention to the field.

A news letter on "No Sale of Game" has recently been printed and sent out to a hundred of the most influential newspapers in California. Other news letters dealing with other phases of the work will be dispatched as finances permit.

As was anticipated, powerful selfish interests oppose us. The San Francisco hotel men, who would feel the effect of a no-sale law, have already stimulated the kept press to do their bidding. If we can get the facts to the people, there is no question of the result.

We can get the facts to the people if we are given the necessary finances.

Shall we permit California's fields, marshes, and forests to become devoid of all animal life? Shall we stand for the destruction for profit of our wild life, one of California's most attractive features?

The Associated Societies must answer these queries with a decisive "No!" and must be able to follow up the negative with a vigorous and able demand for constructive legislation.

You can help—(1) by becoming an islet of information along this line, (2) by awakening enthusiasm in wild life conservation, (3) by keeping track of your representatives in the State Legislature, and last but not least

(4) by seeing to it that your society makes a donation to the war chest of the Associated Societies, and by making a donation personally if you are able to do so.

Here is the challenge. The enemies of wild life—the men who put the dollar above all else—are united and have powerful financial ability. Will you accept the challenge, and enlist in the Army of Defense?

The aim of the Executive Committee is to weld the California Associated Societies into a powerful and effective fighting machine. The assistance of each constituent society, and so far as possible, of each member, is earnestly desired.

Respectfully submitted in behalf of the Executive Committee.

W. P. TAYLOR.
Secretary-Treasurer.

PUBLICATIONS REVIEWED

FOOD OF OUR MORE IMPORTANT FLYCATCHERS, by F. E. L. BEAL (U. S. Dept. Agric., Bureau Biol. Surv., Bull., no. 44, 67 pages, 5 pls; Sept. 19, 1912).

The flycatchers are to be numbered among the birds which are almost wholly insectivorous. Their economic value, measured by their destruction of injurious insects, is, therefore, very great. The above cited recent bulletin of the Bureau of Biological Survey, by F. E. L. Beal, records the food of seventeen species of flycatchers, and proves their value as allies of the farmer and horticulturist.

In discussing the food of the Arkansas Kingbird, Mr. Beal says: "Honeybees (*Apis mellifera*) were noted in 5 stomachs. In all, there were 31 bees, of which 29 were males, or drones, and 2 were workers. This bird has been accused in California of eating honeybees to an injurious extent. It was said that the bird lingered near the hive and snapped up the honey-laden bees as they returned from the field. This statement is not borne out by the facts stated above."

Even granting that much of the complaint received from bee-keepers is based on circumstantial evidence it still seems reasonable to believe that this bird takes larger numbers of the workers than the evidence would indicate. Many bee-keepers complain bitterly that kingbirds destroy queens as well as drones. As many make a business of raising queens for the market their loss can easily be reckoned in dollars and cents. The fact that queens look and fly more like drones makes this complaint seem reasonable. Looking at the same question from another point of view: Stomach examination may not furnish accurate evidence as to the numbers of workers destroyed; for kingbirds, like orioles, may