

# Fish and Game Preserves of the Beehive State.

Antlered Herd in Snowy Heights

In The Tule "Blind"

Dog Watching The Flight

Three of a Kind

John Sharp, Game Warden

After a Day's Shoot

A Pair of Happy Hunters

Quarry at The Club House

Liberating Imported Quail For Stock Purposes

ONE of the problems that is beginning to attract public attention just now is how to use our outdoors. Salt Lake is surrounded by natural scenery than which there is little more wonderful in the world. Yet it is easier to go over to Colorado and see the Royal Gorge, than to go through Big Cottonwood canyon to see Lake Mary, from the standpoint of one who wants comfort with his recreation, and objects to the pack pony and the traveling wagon.

Salt Lake has only begun to find out that she is surrounded by a beautiful "out doors," and to plan to bring her remote corners into accessibility with the offices and homes of the city. The greatest move in this direction is the proposed interurban system.

Already there are rumors of Salt Lake summer homes along the Utah lake shores, and picnic parties along the Cottonwoods where they tumble into the valley from the Wasatch canyons. Next to the planned interurbans are the automobiles, which have made many a fishing party possible for an afternoon that formerly would have absorbed all the available time getting to the location, and to auto is to be blamed the fact that all the Salt Lake valley streams were fished out early in the season.

No people were ever great without plenty of ground to play in. By its recreations a civilization is more accurately judged than by any other means. The fishers have not always been men who lived along streams. To them it was work and not play. But from offices where men have labored all day come the stalkers of the marshes and followers of the streams. Therefore the problems of fishing and game protection are not to supply fish and ducks that may be eaten in hotels and restaurants, but to supply play grounds, that the desk worn men of affairs may take their days' rest and unwind, and not recognizing this fact, Utah has permitted a shameful waste of her natural play grounds, and a terrible burning of her natural resources.

AN AWAKENING DESIRE.  
The greatest thing the year has done for sport has been to bring a complete realization of this fact. The result has been a demand for changed conditions. The demand is felt all along the line, and it is beginning to bring its results in many different directions.

Rough logs displaced the old-time favorite planed boards. Cobble stone fire places both on the porch and inside lend their pleasure to the eye and warmth to the chilled evenings, while a hot and cold water system with a range robe mountain life of domestic inconveniences.

STOCKING THE STREAMS.  
On the canyon streams the demand has resulted in a revolution of feelings towards the state fish and game commissioner. A few years ago nobody cared whether he stocked the streams with fish or not. A clause in the law allowed him to sell spawn, it being calculated to utilize the surplus in this way. The result was that gradually more and more spawn was sold, until finally the streams were totally neglected. This year every stream was badly in need of spawn, and an organized body of fishermen was putting its moral support behind the law, and seeing that "Uncle John" got his buckets full of little fish out into the mountain springs and side streams where they grow fit they got a chance to fight it out with the bigger fish in the main streams.

The problem of stocking the streams is an important one. Too many people look at fish not from the standpoint of the joy of angling, but of eating them by the pound, and they want to know what the interests of the 10 per cent of Utah's population who fish, amount to compared with the other 90 per cent. State officials have used this argument to justify the sale of spawn. Yet the fishermen point out that they are a constantly varying 10 per cent, like the 10 per cent that goes to school, and the presence of desirable angling grounds in Utah would enhance the desirability of Salt Lake for residence purposes, and incidentally bring home a great deal of the money that now goes to other states in the pockets of fishermen who are driven from their own state for recreation that nature had abundantly provided here.

WHERE FISHING IS.  
Utah "main" streams are those which pick up many tributaries, and connect with big bodies of water so that fish have a chance to grow large and find plenty of food. Ogden canyon has not such a stream, and there is not such a one in Salt Lake valley, although Big Cottonwood is somewhat pretentious. However the Weber is a good "principle" for fish, and time was when it was all that any fisherman could dream of. This was in the days when Charley Burton and Heber Wells were just starting to see the red and red as stripling boys, and not in these days when they are forced to the Snake in Idaho for good angling. The Provo river is another such stream, while over to the southeast there is the Duchesne and the Strawberry, and that entire system that works its way down into the Colorado. The best fishing in the state today is in this system with Weber ranking second, and Provo third. Ogden canyon, Emigration, and the two

Cottonwoods furnish indifferent sport in quantities just big enough to justify the appearance of a man on the bank with a rod.

AS TO HUNTING.  
Hunting is confined to small game almost entirely now, despite the fact that Gov. Cutler headed a party of hunters on a chase after bear early in November. Bruin wasn't found, and has not been since the county hunters "slaughtered" them by the thousands all over Salt Lake county" two or three years ago. In the quail season there is a little sport on the benches for 10 days, especially along the Cottonwood willows. In the chicken season there is an occasional kill for one who is willing to take a day to it and hunt in country not too thickly wooded. The forest reserve is rapidly creating a young forest where the trees were ruthlessly cut away a score of years ago, along the big canyon streams, and this forest of saplings has done much to destroy good chicken shooting.

Out on the marshes it is different. Here organized protection was offered several years ago, and the result has been most hopeful. It has been retarded only by one thing, the fact that market shooting is still permitted, and the duck is regarded as foodstuff, instead of bait for the weary doctor and lawyer who must find the marshes, no matter how far they are from home.

AT THE MOUTH OF THE JORDAN.  
Wonderful things have been done at the mouth of the Jordan. A few years ago there was just a little swamp there, along the river banks. Now there are many hundreds of acres flooded over, and banded in to make an artificial lake. Club houses are erected, both private and belonging to the club. Automobiles draw up at the marshes daily in the open season, and the crack of shotguns is incessant. More than that the ducks are there. There is a more careful regard for the state law maintained by the club itself than by the state officials, and the fine imposed by the club is twice that usually demanded by Justice Dana T. when a man is hauled in by the "Vigilant Smiths" the peg legged warden of the county. The big artificial lake is growing crops of tule grass, and this affords an ideal breeding place. The ducks are attracted as are the hunters. The limit of 25 per day is strictly adhered to by the members, and the club member who forgets to stop when he has killed his limit is disgraced by the public sentiment of the club. Watchers prevent the destructive pot hunting, and all out of season hunting. The result is that the ducks have a breeding ground where their young are protected, and where they rapidly increase each season. The open river affords water in the coldest weather, and the ducks are beginning to winter at the New State grounds, instead of flying farther south as they used to.

NO "WINTER SEASON."  
There will be no winter shooting this

year. On Jan. 1, the open season will expire and it will not open again till next fall. In the last legislature this winter season in March was eliminated as it was found to have a tendency to scare the ducks away before breeding season.

There are many other bodies of water in the valley that provide duck shooting but none where the duck has so good a time when it is not being shot at. Out in the valley there are the Black Sloughs, the Decker lakes, and a number of other places. At none of them is free shooting allowed. Every duck is protected now so that a club membership is required to shoot at him.

THE CLUB LANDS.  
The New State club lands run to the "meandering water line" so that they own to the lake water no matter how far the lake goes down, and this prevents any free shooting on their water front. The growing demand for gunning privileges is well illustrated by the fact that shares in the New State club, which are limited to less than 100 in number, no more than two of which can be owned by one person, are now in demand at \$500 per share, with very few offers to sell. A bus connecting with the trains at Bountiful has made access to the marshes very handy. Elaborate club grounds will one day grow up at the river mouth and shooting there will be the most exclusive privilege in Utah. Already shares are passing into the hands of the wealthy and overworked, and they will soon operate the preserve exclusively.

ON THE BEAR RIVER.  
There is one other place in Utah where ducks are on the increase and where hunting privileges are in demand. It is on the Bear river, where the Bear River Duck club flourishes through the fall and early winter months and evenings. The ducks are plentiful here, more so than at the Jordan mouth, especially early in the season. Later when it grows cold they take up their flight to the warmer Salt Lake valley, and increase the supply at the Jordan. Hunting privileges here too are strictly for the elect with club membership, and the untrained "hogfishers" of the average individual hunter has brought this condition about.

The varieties of Utah ducks are select. The hundred and one kinds of poor ducks—"bum ducks"—they call them along the bay shores of San Francisco, are absent. You don't have to watch if a duck rises high to tell whether it is worth killing or is merely a "rubber belly." Teal are the smallest and poorest. Good hunters now, respecting their limit, pass up the teal and fix their sights for the canvas backs, the spoon bills, and especially the mallards, which fly high, and are caught more frequently in the early morning and night flights.

AS TO TRAP SHOOTING.  
Trap shooting should be mentioned among the out of door sports. The trap shooters of Salt Lake have been organized for some time, and have their

grounds near Fort Douglas. Shemwell, who leads the local shooters, won honors in the big tournament at Denver this summer. The sport of knocking over blue rocks is in its infancy as yet, but it has its many devotees, and their ranks are constantly being added to.

GAME WARDEN'S WORK.  
Fish and game narratives would be incomplete without reference to the good work of John Sharp, fish and game commissioner for Utah. To his energetic work in the last legislature is due the game law that has born fruits this year in the plentiful supply of ducks. When asked for an interview a few days ago, "Uncle John" was found at his South Temple street home working away on his annual report, in which some important recommendations for the welfare of Utah's fish and game were being made.

"The most serious condition confronting us is on Bear lake," he said, "and Idaho is where the action to help matters must originate. There is no law to protect the fish of that lake from slaughter, and the lake is simply being looted of its game fish in a terrible manner. You can't get an idea of this, but if the work goes on a few years more there will be a practical extinction of the fish in this great body of water."

"It is this way. The fish are caught as they make their way up the creeks to spawn. The millions and millions of eggs that would be deposited if the looters would wait a few weeks and seine them coming down, are thus lost, and as every female fish makes her way each year to the creeks, she finds her way into the nets of hundreds of fishermen who throw their traps all around the mouths of these streams in the spawning season. I was up there last spring, and saw them taking thousands of the prettiest fish you ever saw out of the lake in this way. Utah suffers, because the fish head for streams on the Idaho side, and there is no law against it up there. I feel that the most desirable thing our department can do right now is to bring this matter to the attention of Idaho officials in such a way that they will act."

GROUSE AND DUCKS.  
Of general fish and game conditions Mr. Sharp said that his reports from all over the state indicate that this is a very poor grouse year and a very good duck year. Water brings the ducks like molasses the flies, and there has been more water this year than for years past. The weather, however, was disastrous to the grouse, whose nests are made on the ground. Sheep, coyotes, and the rains, he says, are the great enemies of the grouse in nesting season, and all have worked this year to deplete the supply of young.

TROUT CONDITIONS.  
The trout conditions are good for the trout and poor for the fishermen.

"Uncle John" explains, because the high water made them harder to catch and the streams were not depleted. If there should be low water next spring it is the game warden's prediction that there will be phenomenal catches.

In 1905 there were 1,759,000 fish fry distributed in the streams, in addition to 400,000 fry distributed by the Rio Grande railroad along its route. This year there has been 1,015,000 fry produced, but the entire spring hatch was sold to the owners of private ponds. Commissioner Sharp defends this policy on the ground that by stocking private ponds, restaurants and hotels have been given a source of fish for food, and have ceased to depend on fish caught in defiance of the law from the public waters. The effect has been a great help to fishing interests, and now that the private ponds are established, the selling of state hatched spawn will be discontinued, the entire supply being used for the state streams as formerly.

ON INDIAN ALLOTMENTS.  
Commissioner Sharp says that he has made arrangements with the Indian agent at White Rocks to carry on the work of fish protection on the Indian allotments, and has made the forest rangers deputy wardens, so that arrests can be made of violators of the law in the forest reserves. In Salt Lake the Fish and Game Protective association has succeeded in having each member appointed a game warden.

The report of Commissioner Sharp will recommend a number of changes in the present law, looking to the further protection of ducks especially from pot hunting, and fish from open irrigating ditches.

The history of adventure with game in Utah is not uninteresting, and the records of sportsmen not without distinction. Old residents recount experiences with bear in Weber canyon; there is a good tale of Peg Leg Smith and his adventure with the Bear Lake monster, and it was easy to get deer at one time in Deer valley, between Heber and Park City. The Indians once slaughtered the fleet footed animals in this winter grazing ground, in large numbers. On the west benches of Salt Lake valley time was when there was good antelope hunting, and there still remain today the plateaus of southern Utah, as unknown almost as the center of darkest Africa, with possibilities of their becoming a hunter's paradise.

IN PIONEER DAYS.  
The Utah pioneers record some bits of data on fish and game conditions in 1847 that are of interest. Wilford Woodruff's diary is authority for the tale of the first exploring party through the valley. It went west to the lake, stopped there for lunch, and bathed in the lake, of which incident he records: "We rode to a large rock on the shore of the Salt lake which we named Black rock, where we all halted and bathed in the salt water. No person could sink in it but would roll and float on the surface like a dry log. We concluded that the Salt lake was one of the wonders of the world." "Next morning we traveled 10 miles south under the mountains. The land laid beautifully but there was no water

and the soil was not so good as on the east. We saw about a hundred goats, sheep and antelopes playing about the hills and valleys. We returned to the pioneer camp tired and exhausted."

FIRST UTAH FISHING TRIP.  
It is very evident that President Woodruff was a hunter of souls and not of antelope. The picture of game conditions that make one's blood tingle now is paralleled by another telling of conditions at Beck's Hot Spring lake, where ducks are reported by the thousands enjoying the warm water in winter.

The first fishing expedition of the valley seems to have been one conducted by Parley P. Pratt, with a son in Utah lake. He records the incident in his diary for 1847 in the following language: "Sometime in December, having finished sowing wheat and rye, I started in company with Brother Heber and others to Utah lake with a boat and myself explored Cedar valley, and Tootle valley, devoting one week to our fishing, hunting, and exploring expedition. During the trip we had few weather and warm days; but the night we arrived home was a cold one, with a severe snowstorm. And thus closed the year 1847."

INDIAN LEGENDS.  
The fish of the Jordan and Utah lake contributed some share to Indian legends and names. "We know 'Pah-Ute' Indians, originally used to designate the mountain tribes of the Utah nation from the water tribes that lived along the shores of Utah lake, and the Jordan. 'Pah' means the fishermen of the Pah-Utes were the fishermen of the nation, but were outcasts from the Shoshones, the Shutes, the Navahos and the Utahs, who lived to the south and east."

NEXT YEAR'S OUTLOOK.  
Next year should see some great improvements along the line of recreational hunting. Ogden canyon is a promising field, and the prospective Bambergs electric road up into the canyon, if built, will bring this great play ground within easy reach of Salt Lake instead of leaving it for Ogden alone, as is now largely the case except for the corner of automobiles who like to travel to the lake even if it does lead to the Layton sand ridges and force the low gear into use for several miles.  
The natural resources of Salt Lake's environs are limitless, and the people are just beginning to demand that they be made available for general use. They park up the splendid City Creek canyon, now occupied by the general rock machines, will follow the general use of the new boulevard, completed to the hills will also soon be followed by the state capital buildings on the grounds of the north bench, from which the valley can be overlooked by those who now seldom see more than the city's paved district. Altogether, a new era which will blossom into a time when the city beautiful shall be a reality, with attractions which few cities in the land can surpass.