

DEAR SIR:—

For many years past our people have seen the natural game of our state becoming less and less, until now very little or nothing is seen of the prairie hen, quail and other game birds and the same is true as to the otter, mink, musk rat and other fur bearing animals; also as to the deer, antelope and the larger animals that once inhabited the prairies, creeks and rivers of our state.

This useless and expensive slaughter of one of the greatest resources of our state has been carried on in the face of different game laws passed in the years past which provided generously for open seasons. In the killing of rare birds or wild game of any kind no doubt it has created a spirit of rivalry on the part of the younger generation now growing up to excel in that kind of sport.

Only a short time ago a deer was seen on one of the islands of the Platte. A great crowd of men and boys joined in its pursuit, armed with all kinds of weapons, chasing the poor animal for days, is just an illustration of how scarce this noble game has become and how it has been treated in the past.

The land owners of our state, especially those having land along a creek or river, will tell you that especially during the open season they have to remain as prisoners at home to extra guard their fowl and stock from being slaughtered and also they are compelled to put up notices on their own ground, as well as through the local press, to warn hunters who shoot indiscriminately and with no regard as to rights of property or as to ownership of land. They will tell you that they actually kill their domestic animals and birds that feed and live along their creek beds and timber, and that they are shot and killed by a class of people who are largely irresponsible, and if any of you members have personally discussed the Trespass Act with any hunters on your own ground you will agree with us, their actions are one of contempt and utter disregard for those whose land they are on and whose property has become marauding ground for them to shoot and kill on.

It must appeal to all reasonable men, the only recourse the state has to preserve the little animal and bird life left is to wipe out entirely the open season for the killing or trapping of the deer, antelope, coon, squirrel, as well as the mink, otter, beaver, muskrat, plover, quail, prairie hen, geese, brant, ducks, snipe, partridge, pheasants and all of our useful wild animals and birds, making it a felony as well as a heavy fine for any one who would violate such proposed measure.

It will not be long then before we will see our waters, timber land and prairies teeming with animal and bird life. This present very small asset of our state will then increase to one most valuable. The present open season for killing and the results of the past show it is most destructive and continues long after the law says the season is closed as well as beginning at an indefinite date so far as the hunters' ideas are concerned.

Is it not poor policy to encourage the younger rising generation of our land to go around shooting and killing, as the records of the past show, as well as with some loss of life; also destruction of property? Of this class of young men, let it be known to them through our statutes that the bird and animal life of this state is not put here for them to slaughter, but for man's help and enjoyment.

It is a well settled fact that through the different bird life of our prairie country the farmer is helped, in raising crops, beyond all measure of computation.

In the Black Hills of South Dakota where the deer have been so plentiful in times past and where the open season has been popular to a certain class, the records show that hunters have come from our larger cities hundreds of miles away every year who have ruthlessly slaughtered these beautiful animals until now the state is awake to the fact that they are almost exterminated.

We are living in a period when all our game is being exterminated.

The game of our state is in your hands to live and increase beyond all measure, if the present open season law is repealed.

Signed: ALFRED HAZLETT,
A. L. GREEN,
WM. A. WOLFE,

Residents of S. E. Nebraska since the 70's.