

50

SECOND BIENNIAL REPORT

OF THE

FISH AND GAME WARDEN

OF THE

STATE OF IDAHO

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W. N. STEPHENS  
STATE GAME WARDEN

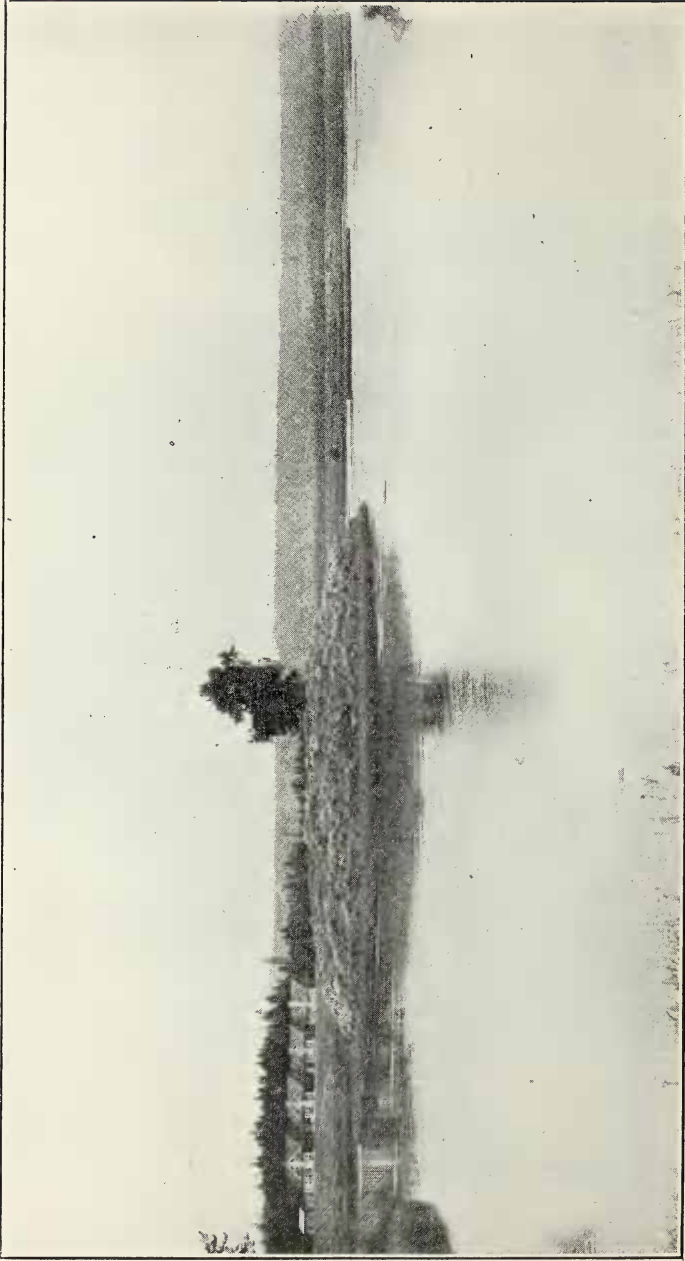
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1907/8-1911/2

### Deputy Game Wardens 1907-8.

Printed at 1907-08

	Address.	County.
A. S. French.....	Boise.....	Ada.
R. M. Pyper.....	Boise.....	Ada.
A. M. Dorsey.....	Boise.....	Ada.
F. E. Morlan.....	Pocatello.....	Bannock.
Geo. Harrison.....	Soda Springs.....	Bannock.
John Mattson.....	St. Charles.....	Bear Lake.
F. R. Richards.....	Montpelier.....	Bear Lake.
F. A. Randall.....	Idaho Falls.....	Bingham.
T. R. Jones.....	Blackfoot.....	Bingham.
W. D. Galbraith.....	Idaho City.....	Boise.
John C. McNichols.....	Hailey.....	Blaine.
E. L. Fender.....	Bellevue.....	Blaine.
Jas. McGreevy.....	Bonnors Ferry.....	Bonner.
Fred M. Davis.....	Caldwell.....	Canyon.
Sam Cook.....	Oakley.....	Cassia.
Jos. H. Horton.....	Challis.....	Custer.
Theo. France.....	Marysville.....	Fremont.
Sam Sheets.....	Driggs.....	Fremont.
Martin Garn.....	Sugar City.....	Fremont.
M. S. Mason.....	Grangeville.....	Idaho.
R. R. Hotchkiss.....	Grangeville.....	Idaho.
Ludwig Roper.....	Coeur d'Alene.....	Kootenai.
J. M. Hibbs.....	Moscow.....	Latah.
Mc. H. Harbaugh.....	Lewiston.....	Nez Perce.
W. A. Hill.....	Lewiston.....	Nez Perce.
Abe Whitehead.....	Franklin.....	Oneida.
R. S. Hawes.....	Silver City.....	Owyhee.
L. T. Wilson.....	Kingston.....	Shoshone.
E. M. Sweeley.....	Twin Falls.....	Twin Falls.
M. A. Nelson.....	Cambridge.....	Washington.



SUMMER RESIDENCE OF W. H. BANCROFT, ISLAND PARK, FREMONT COUNTY.  
An ideal home and resort. One of the many beautiful scenes on Upper Snake River Valley.

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W. N. STEPHENS  
STATE GAME WARDEN

## ***Game Protection.***

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Laws for the protection of fish and game, if enacted with judgment and wisely administered, are essentially for the use and benefit of the middle and poorer classes. This must be conceded. The sportsman who is well supplied with this world's goods, if game be scarce in his immediate locality, has but to go where it is more plentiful and to his liking. The matter of expense is of no moment to him, while the man not so well favored, but with the sporting instincts just as strong and frequently better developed must of necessity content himself nearer home, and if the game and fish have not been properly protected forego the pleasure and delights of an outing entirely.

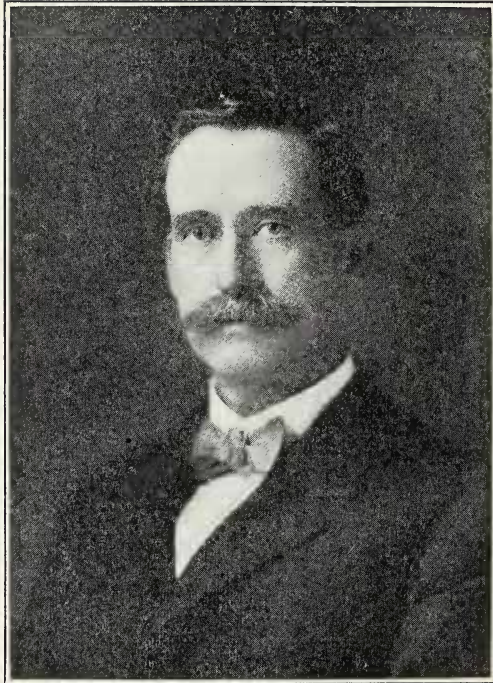
The residents of the State generally are beginning to more fully appreciate these facts and as a rule are in hearty sympathy with all reasonable laws enacted and will and do assist in their enforcement.

### *Operation of the Law.*

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The law insofar as the expense of maintenance of this department is concerned is self-operative and under its general application is very similar to the operation of the Livestock Sanitary Law by which the stockmen of the State pay a special tax for the maintenance of that department. Persons who hunt and fish are the only ones who are taxed for the benefit or sport they derive. No other class of people or industry is in any way affected by this levy.

The procuring of licenses is an easy matter. Every qualified justice of the peace; every probate judge; every deputy warden and the game warden will furnish licenses on payment of the small fee charged. This constitutes fully six hundred sources available in every portion of the State through which licenses can be procured with but little inconvenience and at the minimum of expense to the hunter or sportsman.



W. N. STEPHENS  
Game Warden.

BOISE, IDAHO, JANUARY 5, 1909.

To His Excellency, the Governor, Hon. James H. Brady,  
and Members of the Tenth Session, Idaho Legisla-  
ture, Boise, Idaho :

GENTLEMEN:—I have the honor to submit herewith the report of the State Fish and Game Department for the years 1907 and 1908. In submitting this second biennial report I include a reference to quarterly and annual reports filed during my administrataion of the affairs of this office with Hon. F. R. Gooding, as Governor, in accordance with an act of the Legislature, Session Laws 1907.

I desire to treat particularly upon the condition of game in this State, large and small, and of fish, showing how in forest, field and stream it has been improved by the enactment of timely protective legislation. Prior to this numbers were diminishing, as I am able to establish to a degree, but under the protective and restrictive laws, fairly and impartially administered, game has materially increased, while results already obtained from fish hatcheries established in and belonging to the State are more than satisfactory.

Incidentally, I desire to point out the inoperative features of some sections of the statutes now in force and to recommend the enactment of certain measures in the interest of the better management of this department.

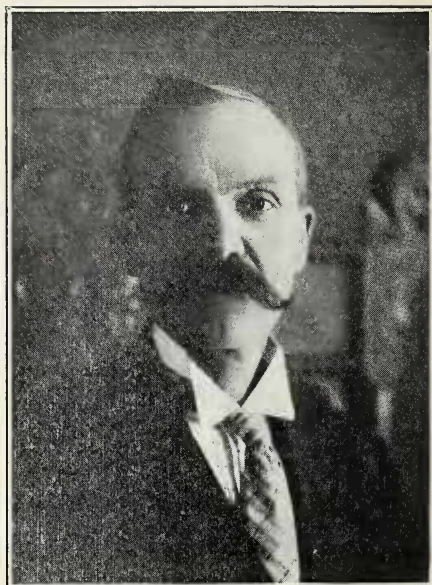
A detailed statement of the receipts and expenditures is appended hereto.

Respectfully,

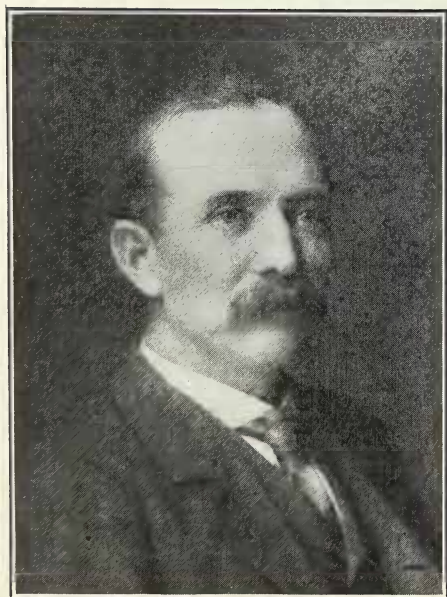
W. N. STEPHENS,

*State Fish and Game Warden.*

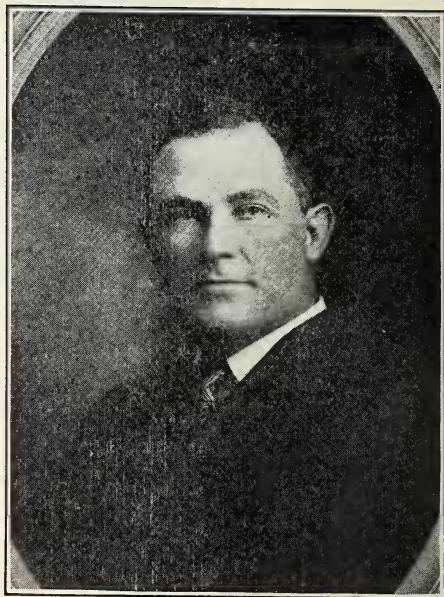




CHIEF DEPUTY B. T. LIVINGSTON, BOISE



ASSISTANT CHIEF DEPUTY JAS. L. DUNFORD  
Bloomington



ASSISTANT CHIEF DEPUTY R. C. WEST  
Moscow

## *Second Biennial Report of the Fish and Game Warden of the State of Idaho, 1907-1908.*

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**T**HE general condition of the department was never better than it is today. We have perfected an organization for the protection and propagation of fish and game which, I think it can truthfully be said, is among the best in the West. The officers have not been alone in their efforts at enforcement of the law but have enjoyed the earnest co-operation of all true sportsmen and citizens of the State. The results obtained show for themselves. Big game in many localities is on the increase, birds are almost universally more plentiful and in the near future Idaho will afford better sport for the angler than any State of the Union, if it does not already hold that distinctive position.

The fish culture work of the past twelve months has been no waste of time or money, on the contrary, it has been a valuable work to the State. It will keep the streams well stocked with the finest species of fish and will insure an opportunity for all who care to catch a mess of trout. Most people enjoy the recreation that a fishing trip affords, and the replenishing of the streams will not only afford the residents of the State pleasure, but will attract many non-residents and thus help in the development of Idaho. In this branch of the department we have met with enthusiasm on every hand. All the officers have worked faithfully and well. No obstacle was too great to overcome. It was this spirit that helped us to accomplish so much and bring about the results which we present to the people with the feeling that they will appreciate the value of this work.

During my term of office I have been ably assisted by a corps of competent assistants. B. T. Livingston was ap-

pointed Chief Deputy and has merited the position. Assistant Chief Deputies James L. Dunford and R. C. West have at all times displayed efficiency in work to which they were assigned extending into many Counties. Superintendents of Fish Hatcheries George H. Isaacs and C. H. Scott have done much in developing these State Institutions, which are now in their infancy, and the methods introduced by them for taking spawn, handling eggs and fry have proven successful, the percentage of loss being reduced to the minimum. H. G. Dietrich, Clerk of the Department, is to be complimented on his efficiency in the discharge of his duties. As the head of the Department, I feel it is but just to say a good word for all its employes.

We suffered a slight loss in the fire which damaged the Capitol Building Annex on the morning of December 4. At that time data for this report was mislaid resulting in much inconvenience in getting it ready for the printers, and, therefore, necessitating delay.

#### *License System.*

Considerable controversy has been had at different times as to the wisdom of the resident and non-resident license system. Under the system of licenses the man with modest means has his only protection. For a trifling amount he is permitted to exercise his sporting humor in a game preserve of Nature's making, while if it were not for the laws giving this protection our State would doubtless be the home of more than one landed preserve to the absolute prohibition of the sportsman with modest resources.

Adverse criticism has been made of this law but it is not well grounded. The law as it stands upon our Statutes is

not an innovation nor an experiment. It has been in force in a number of the older States for years and is acknowledged as the most satisfactory and equitable measure yet enacted for the maintenance of a department for the protection and propagation of fish and game.

The United States Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C., in a recent report, recognizes this system by saying: "It has undergone rapid development in recent years and has reached a point in many States where the income it has produced has placed the Game Warden Department on a self-sustaining basis. It has also furnished



SCENE ON LAKE PEND O'REILLE

useful statistics hitherto unavailable in regard to the number of hunters in States which have adopted both resident and non-resident licenses."

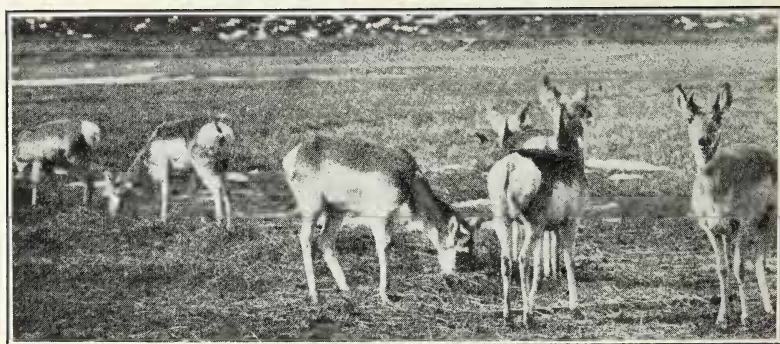
#### *Criticism.*

Criticism of this department has been passed in some instances in that the claim of increase in game is not well founded, citing that a sportsman now has to go miles for the sport and game which in former years could be had

at his very door. This latter claim is true, but the fact is lost sight of that the sportsmen are considerably on the increase and also that the steady march of settlement and development of Idaho's numerous resources has much to do with driving and centralizing the game, large and small, to and in the more remote and less habitable portions of the State. This department can but claim that a fair and impartial criticism of the statements herein, backed by reasonable knowledge of the conditions as they exist, will bear out in the main all the facts herein set forth.

*Increase of Game.*

From numerous and exhaustive reports received from the deputies over the State, as also from residents and



ANTELOPE, LOST RIVER COUNTRY

sportsmen interested in the work of this department and the preservation of game, the only conclusion to be reached is that large and small game are increasing very perceptibly. This is particularly true regarding moose, elk, caribou, deer, antelope and beaver.

The increase in moose, caribou, beaver and deer is very noticeable, reports having come to this department re-

peatedly, emphasizing this feature of the working of the law. With elk and antelope the increase is not so pronounced, but still noticeable to a very considerable degree.

Game birds, with the possible exception of the sage hen and prairie chicken, show a very marked increase in all varieties and in every locality in the State. It must be remembered that the game bird is very largely a creature of circumstances and climatic conditions have much to do



CHINA PHEASANTS

with its propagation. Dry, warm and sunny spring and summer weather has all to do with the hatching and also with the maturing of the chicks. Weather, such as above described, prevailed in many localities in the State during the seasons of 1907-8. The protection thrown around the birds by the law, and its application, and the favorable weather conditions prevailing are the features responsible for the bountiful increase of this class of game.

Of the upland birds grouse and pheasants seem to show the more increase. Fool hen, sage hen and prairie chicken under the most favorable conditions for some reason unexplained do not appear to show any appreciable increase. An abundance of quail are reported from almost every locality in the State where the little "Bob White" naturally calls home. They are a half domestic bird and, unless hunted too closely, like to be around farm and ranch buildings, corrals and feed lots. The farmers and ranchmen report them unusually plentiful the season of 1908. The California blue valley quail is a recent importation and "plant" in various portions of this State and are reported as very plentiful considering the short time since their introduction. The Snake River Valley in Lincoln and Twin Falls Counties, along Rock Creek in the latter county especially, show these birds to their best advantage, although in other counties of the south central portion of the State they are to be found in considerable numbers. This is a very game little bird, somewhat smaller than the "Bob White" and furnishes very excellent sport.

The aquatic fowl is migratory in its nature and with but very few exceptions its nesting grounds are far removed from our State, but the protection thrown around these game birds by this department has aided to a considerable extent in their natural propagation, while the protection given by the enforcement of the law as to killing out of the prescribed season has prevented undue and excessive slaughter.

WILD GESE, UPPER SNAKE RIVER, FREMONT COUNTY





## *Catch of Trout for Spawn.*

### *Fish in General.*

This subject is so broad, confining it even to this State, that an attempt will not be made to cover it only to a limited degree. The varieties of fish naturally belonging to the almost numberless streams as well as the many lakes of the State are very numerous and an effort to list them here will not be attempted.



CATCH OF TROUT FOR SPAWN

The effort of this department has been put forward to the propagation, stocking, distribution, care and protection almost wholly of the different varieties of brook, native and lake trout. Under sub-heads an effort will be made in a brief but concise manner to fully show to the uninformed the system inaugurated for taking the spawn, fertilizing it, hatching, feeding, distributing the fry and giving it such further care and attention as is required. Fish culture is a science and this Department under its present management claims with pardonable pride to have mastered its every detail and is entitled to full credit for the results obtained.

## *Hatcheries.*

Under an act of the Legislature, passed at the session of 1907, this department was authorized and directed "To erect and maintain a fish hatchery in this State for the purpose of the artificial propagation and distribution of food and commercial fishes."

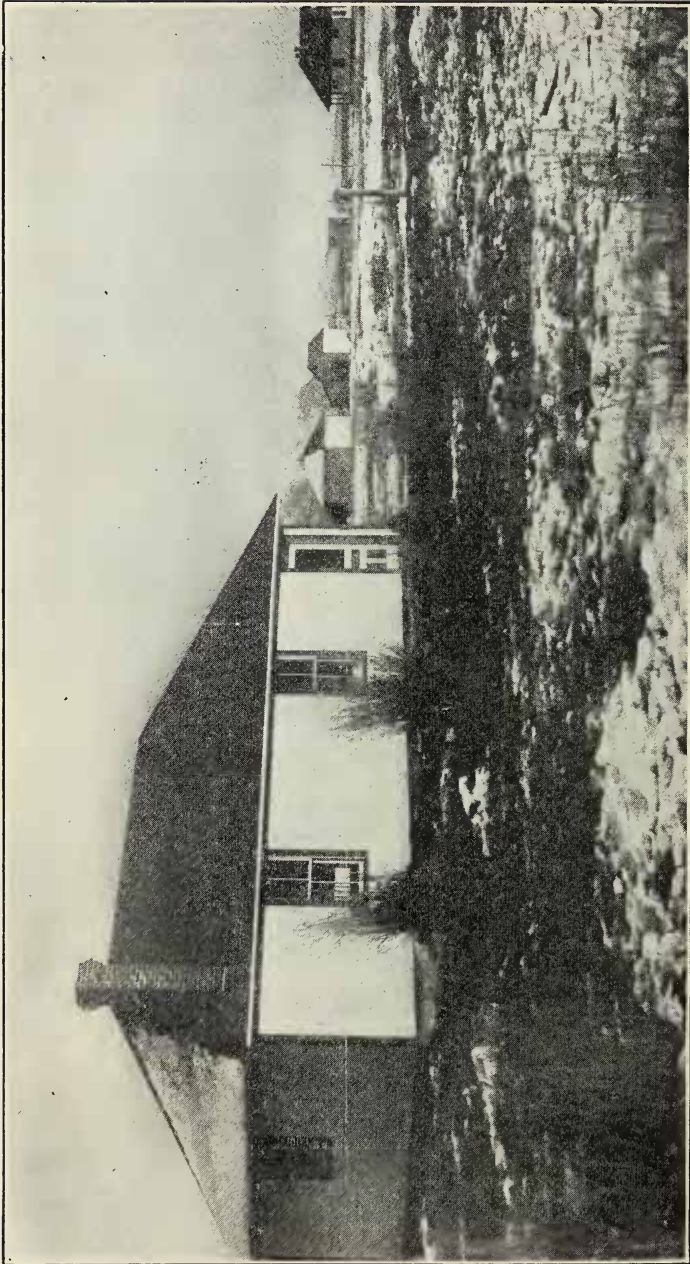
### *Hay Spur Hatchery.*

Under the above law and under the advice and direction of this department Silver Creek, in Blaine County, was selected as the site for the first hatchery and such hatchery was built and completed in the fall and winter of 1907, and consists of a one-story commodious building, with troughs and other appurtenances necessary to the propagation of fish, including an eight-inch pipe line one mile in length, carrying an ample supply of fresh, pure spring water; a residence for the use of the superintendent, ice house, stable and outbuildings.

The site is near the southern line of Blaine County on the Wood River branch of the Oregon Short Line Railroad, and is admirably located as to climatic conditions, character and quantity of water at hand and convenience for distribution.

These buildings are situated on an eighty-acre tract of land belonging to the State, and in the course of time has every promise of being a creditable adjunct to the various State institutions.

In further comment on this subject it may be well to state that to follow out the original plans of this department, in this connection contemplates additional improvements on the Hay Spur property to bring it up to a proper



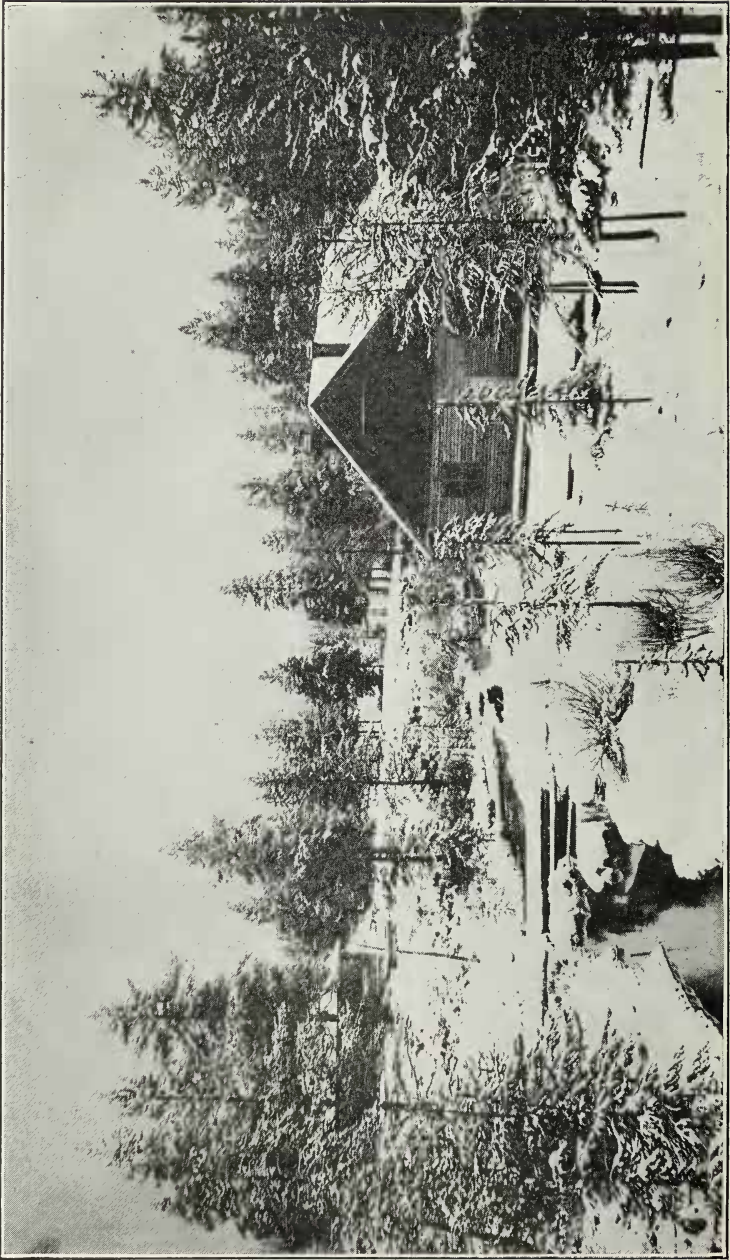
HAY SPUR HATCHERY, BLAINE COUNTY

standing and comparison with the other two properties of this same character belonging to the State, such as capacity, availability and convenience for handling eggs, in sufficient quantities to meet the needs and requirements of the territory contiguous and tributary to this hatchery.

#### *Warm River Hatchery.*

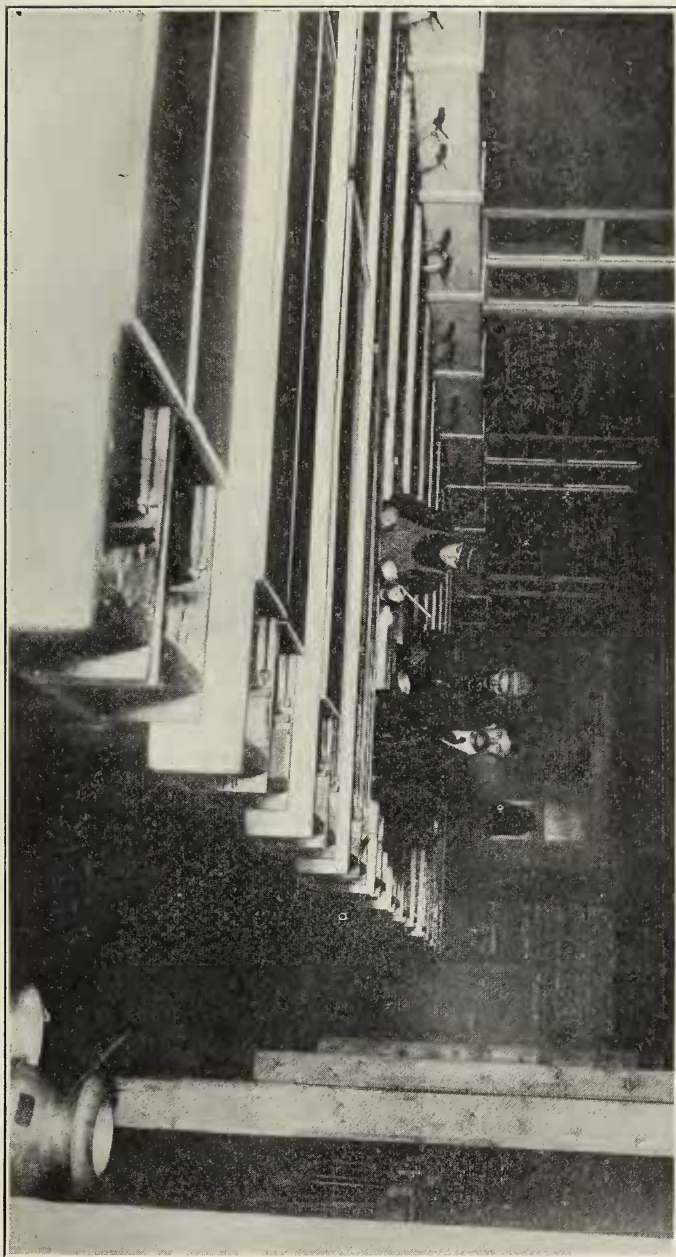
A hatchery belonging to the Glen Rea Ranching Company was leased for the season of 1908 for the particular purpose of eyeing eggs for hatching and was used to good advantage with the first take of eggs as hereinafter described and was also the means of bringing to a realization the need of the department for another hatchery for the better handling, propagation and perpetuation of the particular species of trout grown in the colder waters of the higher altitudes of the State. These features being well established the Warm River Hatchery was the outgrowth of these conditions. This hatchery is located on what is known as the big springs near the head of Little Warm River in northern Fremont County, twenty-five miles north of Ashton, on the Yellowstone branch of the Oregon Short Line Railroad, and while this hatchery has not attained such proportions as the Hay Spur industry has, the buildings and improvements generally are very creditable and it is a gratifying acquisition to this department of the State Government. In addition to the hatchery proper there has been constructed a residence for the use of the superintendent, a barn and other buildings necessary and convenient to successfully carry out the plans of this department in its fish culture work.

It is well to note in connection with the Warm River



WARM RIVER HATCHERY, FREMONT COUNTY

INTERIOR VIEW WARM RIVER HATCHERY



Hatchery that an Act of Congress recently passed authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to sell to the State of Idaho 1,280 acres of land at \$1.25 per acre for the "purposes of a State Fish Hatchery and Game Preserve." The land selected under this act is that upon which this hatchery is situated. It has been surveyed and plat will go to the Land Commissioner for segregation in the early part of the year 1909 and final purchase and sale will be speedily consummated. The improvements herein mentioned are located upon this segregation and with the completion of the title in the State to this large area of territory so admirably situated no probable condition can arise that will detract from the desirability of this selection as one of the exceptionally favored fish hatcheries and game preserves of any State of the Union.

Special mention is due of the fact that on this site and in this vicinity are found some of the best trout spawning beds in the United States.

#### *Sandpoint Hatchery.*

In the early work in connection with the fish culture branch of this department it was noted that to give proper attention to the care and propagation of fish in the northern streams and lakes a station in north Idaho was necessary and to this end arrangements were begun and are now complete in the location and construction of the Sandpoint Hatchery. This hatchery situated as it is near the city of that name on Lake Pend O'Reille, in Bonner County, is centrally and conveniently located. This branch was not determined upon until late in the fall of 1908, but at this time the plans as agreed upon are nearing completion and



FALLS ABOVE WARM RIVER HATCHERY





SANDPOINT HATCHERY, BONNER COUNTY

this department feels confident that the station will be found of considerable importance in the future history of fish culture in this State.

Special mention in this connection is due of the fact that the citizens of Sandpoint contributed \$900 toward the purchase of the twenty-acre site on which this hatchery is located and have aided in numerous other ways toward the success of this industry.



SUPT. C. H. SCOTT OF WARM RIVER HATCHERY

And assistants taking spawn from an Eastern brook trout, weighing seven pounds.

In January, 1908, and after the completion of the Hay Spur Hatchery a shipment of 1,493,080 eastern brook trout-eyed eggs was received. One million three hundred ninety-three thousand and eighty of these being purchased from Eastern hatcheries and 100,000 being contributed by the United States Bureau of Fisheries. These eggs were

placed in the Hay Spur Hatchery and under the direction of the then Superintendent Robert Stiles were given every care and attention that the new condition of the hatchery warranted. On the 23rd of April, 1908, on a tributary of Sheridan Creek in "The Shot Gun Valley" in Fremont County, the first work in taking the spawn of the native trout was begun, and on that day 30,600 eggs were taken and from this date forward at intervals of every few days eggs were taken until at the last take fully 1,300,000 had been procured.

For those who are not fully informed as to the manner of taking, fertilizing, eyeing hatching eggs and distributing the fry a brief description follows: After the fish are caught the ripe female is stripped first. This is done by the spawn-taker taking the fish in his hands and gently rubbing over the abdomen with the thumb and forefinger of the right hand. The eggs are thus made to run into a milk pan. After two or three females are stripped the male fish is treated in like manner and the milt or fertilizing fluid is ejected into the pans and stirred among the eggs which are almost instantly impregnated, the action being controlled by the temperature of the water. The eggs are allowed to remain in the milt for two minutes or more, according to the temperature of the water. After the eggs are thoroughly impregnated they are cleansed in water of the same temperature from which the fish were first taken. The eggs are then allowed to stand perfectly quiet for a matter of twenty minutes or half an hour, according to temperature, to permit them to separate. The utmost care must be taken in this regard as the eggs begin to absorb water immediately after being taken from the fish and if

not given very close attention at what is termed the "water hardening" period a large percentage of them will die. The eggs are then taken to the eyeing station.

To "eye" eggs is meant to place the eggs on trays in water allowing the embryo to develop sufficiently so that the eyes of the fish are plainly visible.

A careful examination is made each day and all dead eggs removed. Eggs are counted by measurement in a



SUPT. GEO. H. ISAAC  
Taking Spawn from Native Brook Trout.

glass graduate. Counting one ounce and measuring the full take.

In about twenty days eggs of the first take were ready for shipment, and after properly packing, were shipped from Glen Rea to the Hay Spur Hatchery in Blaine County. On arrival and after proper care and preparation as to temperature of the water and other necessary details the eyed eggs were placed in the hatchery. Eggs will

hatch at the Hay Spur Hatchery under favorable conditions within twenty-four to twenty-six days, varying somewhat by reason of the almost unavoidable slight rise and fall in the temperature of the water.

By reason of the over-crowded condition of the hatchery, about five hundred and seventy thousand fry in the "sack stage" were distributed throughout the State. By the "sack stage" is meant before the fish has absorbed the small



SPAWN TAKING CAMP IN THE SHOT GUN VALLEY

sack which nourishes it until it becomes of sufficient size and strength to take care of itself. The remainder of the several hatchings were fed in the hatchery until the fish were of sufficient growth to justly warrant their distribution.

As before mentioned this Department purchased and received from Eastern hatcheries 1,393,080 Eastern brook trout eyed eggs; the United States Government delivered to the Department, without cost, 100,000 eggs; the 1908

spring take as heretofore noted amounted to 1,300,000, making a total of eyed eggs received at the Hay Spur Hatchery during the winter and early spring of 1908 2,793,080.

Owing to the crowded condition of the hatchery, inadequate equipment at that time and features surrounding the hatching and care of the eggs new to the department, and necessarily to be learned a loss of about twenty-two per cent occurred. The remainder of the hatch being distributed, either in the sack stage or at maturity, in the various streams of the State and by Counties according to the following list. (Full detailed report covering this distribution on file in the Governor's office.)

*List by Counties.*

Ada	}	.....	220,000
Boise			
Bingham	.....	100,000	
Bannock	.....	140,000	
Bear Lake	.....	60,000	
Blaine	.....	300,000	
Bonner	.....	100,000	
Canyon	.....	75,000	
Cassia	.....	75,000	
Fremont	.....	150,000	
Idaho	.....	100,000	
Kootenai	.....	100,000	
Latah	.....	100,000	
Lincoln	.....	200,000	
Nez Perce	.....	100,000	
Oneida	.....	75,000	
Shoshone	.....	100,000	
Twin Falls	.....	75,000	
Washington	.....	100,000	
Total	.....	<u>2,170,000</u>	

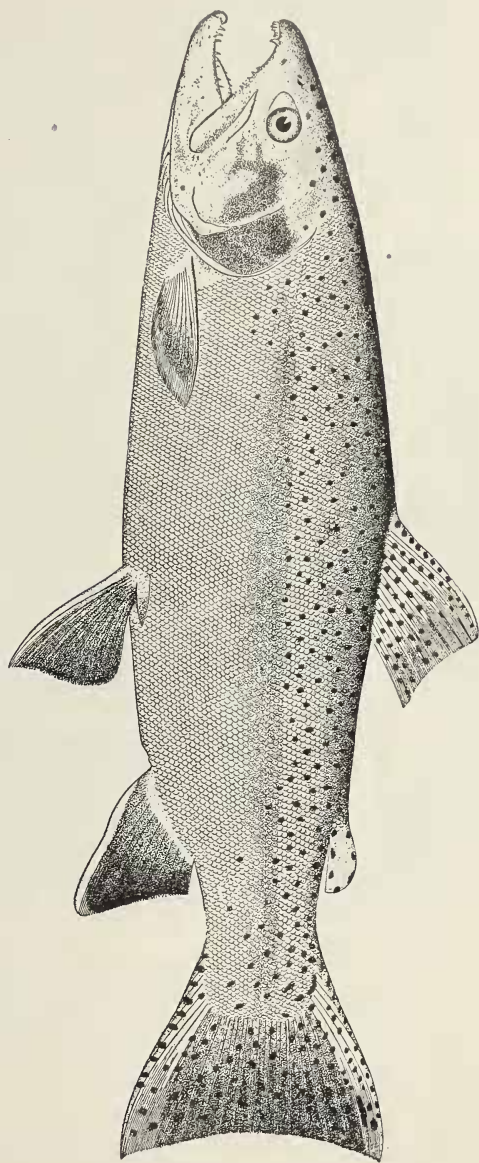
The above figures are approximately correct. It must be borne in mind that with the facilities at hand at the beginning absolute correctness was not possible. Conditions are such now, however, that another season actual count can be kept.

In this connection it may be noted that the department successfully hatched 130,000 fry from eggs of the Bear Lake trout and satisfactorily distributed that number in the lakes of Northern Idaho. This is entitled to special mention from the fact that trials heretofore had by other hatcheries have failed. These are a splendid fish belonging to the black spotted family, gaining an average weight of from twelve to fifteen pounds and frequently attaining a weight of from twenty to twenty-five pounds. The eggs were taken from fish weighing from seven to fourteen pounds.

The trout streams of Idaho are among the finest in the world and are well stocked with the best species of trout known.

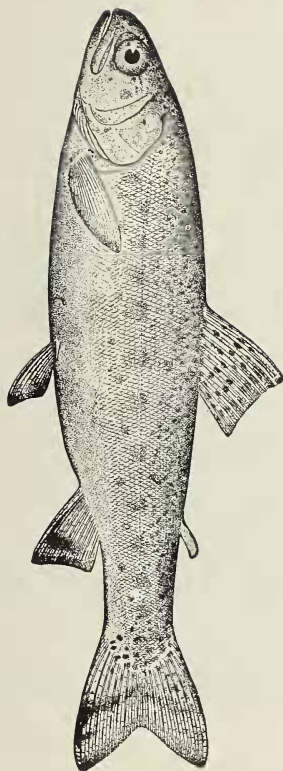
The widely known and justly celebrated "rainbow" is frequently taken in some sections and is considered one of the very best of the trout family. The native or black spotted trout is also a very fine fish and a very close second to the rainbow in popularity. These two species are very closely allied, very popular and with continued care, propagation and protection will become very plentiful.

The eastern brook trout while considerably smaller than either of the two species above mentioned is a very beautiful fish, covered with red spots on a dark green background, with white fringed fins. While not so highly esteemed as the other species as a food fish the brook trout



MATURE RAINBOW TROUT

These trout frequently attain a length of 14 to 18 inches and a weight of from 4 to 6 pounds.—The species is noted for its rapid growth.



IMMATURE RAINBOW TROUT



is very gamy and furnishes much sport for the angler. In this connection it may be noted that the Warm River Hatchery has, at the time of making this report, one million four hundred thousand eggs in the troughs taken from trout belonging to the eastern brook family. These eggs should begin hatching about the fifteenth of January, 1909. The fish producing this spawn, while unquestionably belonging to the eastern brook family, are unusual as to size. The majority of them weighing, at the time the spawn was taken, from three to eight pounds. The fish are owned by the Glen Rea Ranching Company, Rea, Fremont County, and the spawn was purchased from the company and taken by this department. Fish of this variety and size are very rare, Northern Minnesota and some of the Canadian waters reporting them occasionally.

The work done by this department during the past two years, or more properly the past year, with particular reference to fish culture, has not been without favorable results.

As heretofore mentioned the Hay Spur Hatchery has profitably handled, hatched and distributed 2,793,080 eggs and the fry resultant therefrom with a loss of but twenty-two per cent. Under all the conditions, such as a new and not wholly adequate hatchery; no one connected with the department at that time having a practical knowledge of the business and other features necessarily surrounding experimental work, can not be considered as excessive.

In addition to the above results obtained and as also heretofore referred to there is now in the troughs of the Warm River Hatchery 1,400,000 eggs, being spawn taken in the fall of 1908, and which will be ready for distribution in the early spring of 1909.

*Fish Screens.*

The problem of preventing fish from entering irrigating ditches has been one of the most annoying to the department. The statute requires that all persons, company, corporation or community of persons, who divert water for irrigation or other beneficial purposes from any of the natural streams, or other natural water courses, shall erect



WHEEL FISH SCREEN

and maintain such appliances at the head of the ditch or canal for the purpose of preventing fish from entering such ditch or canal as the State Game Warden may deem suitable or necessary: *Provided*, That such appliance shall in no way affect or retard the flow of water.

Many devices have been tested by the department and

while no solution of the problem is at hand, the water wheel, shown in the accompanying illustration, has proven the most successful. The wheel is so constructed as to fit snugly in the canal at a point where it has been boxed and floored. The flow of water is sufficient to keep it continuously in motion and thus prevent the clogging of the screen of electric welded half-inch mesh. Twigs and debris are sources of much annoyance where stationary screens are used. Another point in favor of this device is that it does not interfere with the flow of water.

Such screens are now in operation in many localities.

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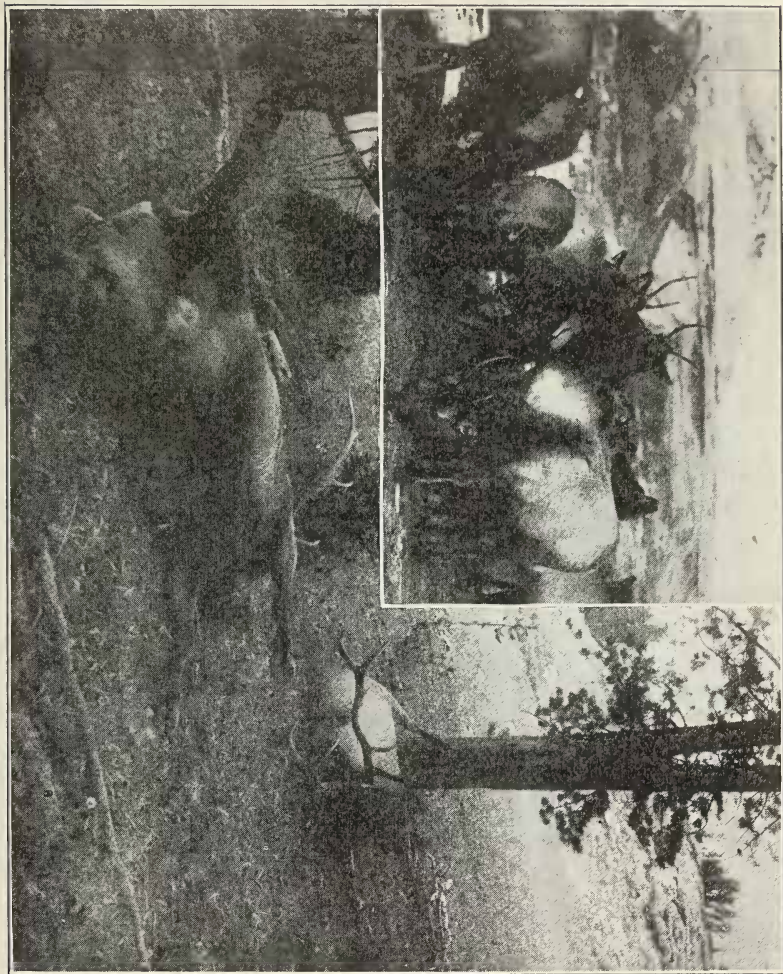
### *Large Game.*

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Special mention seems to be necessary regarding the conditions surrounding elk, deer and antelope.

#### *Elk.*

The restrictions of the law to an open season of three and one-half months and limiting the sportsman to one animal has given the elk greatly needed and very gratifying protection. This law having been very generally observed and enforced has aided materially in the increase of this game. In the North and Eastern portion of Fremont County they are becoming quite numerous as compared with recent former years. They come down to the lowlands during the heavy snows of late December and January and are frequently seen in goodly numbers.



## ELK

The lower picture shows carcasses of Elk killed by tusk hunters. The one in the upper left hand corner, elk under game protection.

*Deer.*

Deer are scattered throughout different sections of the State and are generally understood to be on the increase. They are better able to protect themselves against the rigors of winter and the assault of predatory animals than either the antelope or elk and they are not hunted for their heads and horns to any great extent. The limitation of



CAUGHT IN THE ACT

two deer to the hunter, the short open season and these provisions of the law very generally observed, have had much to do with the very marked increase of this animal in the State.

*Antelope.*

These are among the most interesting and attractive animals Idaho produces and from all reports received by this

Department they are on the increase. They are found in considerable numbers in the Lost River country in Blaine County and adjoining territory, also near the Yellowstone Park. The law and its general observance gives them all possible protection and should be continued indefinitely.



MOUNTAIN SHEEP

*Mountain Sheep.*

The mountain sheep is a very interesting, gamey animal and is much prized for its head and horns and some very valuable trophies of this kind have been secured by hunters and sportsmen. Illegal killing of this class of game, however, has been rare indeed.

The limitation to one of these animals to each hunter during the season and the general observance of this as well as other features of the law has resulted in their protection, propagation and very general increase.

The department has to report a very satisfactory condition surrounding all of this class of game throughout the State.

*Beaver.*

The present law provides that beaver shall be exempt from the hunter for all time.

From many localities reports come to this Department of the very excessive increase in this animal and such reports in several instances show that by reason of their increased number they are doing considerable damage to the ditches, laterals, timber and crops in different portions of the State. Complaints from farmers in Ada County are worthy of particular mention in this direction. Recommendation is made that the Game Warden be authorized at his discretion to issue permits to kill a limited number of beaver at such time and place, after due investigation by him is deemed advisable.

*Transfer of Quail.*

Under recommendations made by this department to the Ninth Session of the Legislature a law was enacted permitting the transfer and "planting" of game birds from one locality to another within the State, and under the provisions of such law several transfers of quail have been made with splendid results.

During the winter of 1908 under the direction of this department four dozen California blue valley quail were trapped in the southern part of the State and transferred to the Boise Valley in Ada County.

At about the same time there was trapped in north Idaho thirteen dozen "Bob Whites." One dozen of these were turned loose in Boise Valley in Ada County, six dozen on the Fort Hall Indian Reservation near Ross Fork in Bingham County and six dozen in the Portneuf Valley near Inkom in Bannock County.

The present fall and winter many reports have been received in commendation of this law and the action of this department. In this connection it may be stated that arrangements are now being carried out for trapping more "Bob White" quail for early spring distribution.

#### *Pheasant Farm.*

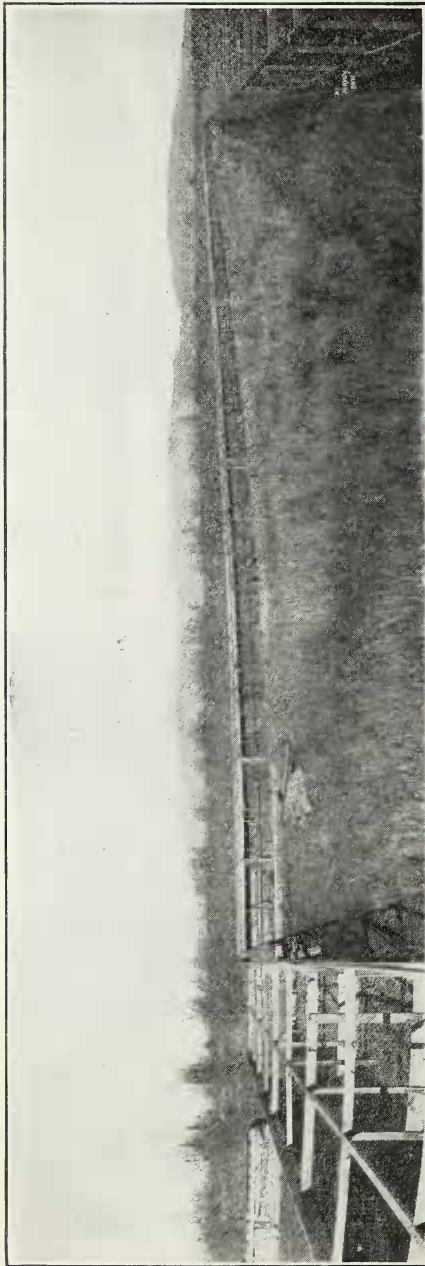
During the season of 1908 and following the direction of the law as enacted at the Ninth Session of the Legislature, an effort was made toward the establishment of a pheasant farm.

This was inaugurated on a limited scale and while the first attempt has not proven as great a success as looked forward to at the beginning, experience has shown the possibilities to be attained in this direction, and with the coming of the season of 1909 results will undoubtedly obtain that will prove the hatching and propagation of game birds as one of the principle features of this department.

Under a contract, a copy of which is on file in this office, between G. A. Stevens and this department, it was agreed and understood between both parties that the first party was to receive from this department 213 Chinese and English pheasants and one pair of golden pheasants, and "rear and tend to the breeding and keeping of said pheasants on his farm, situated one and one-half miles from the Fair Grounds in Ada County."

It was further agreed that said birds were to be cared for in accordance with printed instructions attached to and made a part of the said contract. This department, under the contract, was to be put to no further expense than the delivery of the original stock of pheasants and the



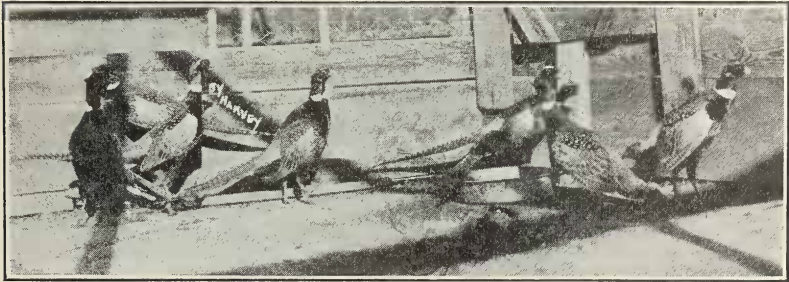


VII  
VIEW OF PHEASANT FARM NEAR BOISE, ADA COUNTY

cost of building sufficient pens and hatching coops for their care.

The contract calls for the payment as full compensation to the first party of \$1.00 for each fowl hatched and delivered to and accepted by this department.

As shown by receipted vouchers in this office this department purchased 78 cocks and 140 hens, making 218 birds in all. Through handling in shipping, four hens and one cock died in transit, leaving 77 cocks and 136 hens, 213 birds turned over to Mr. G. A. Stevens under the contract.



A CORNER OF THE PHEASANT FARM—CHINA PHEASANTS

Five of the 77 cocks have accidentally killed themselves flying against the wire in the pens, leaving 72 cocks of the original stock now on the farm. Of the 136 hens 15 died from various causes, leaving now on hand of the original stock 121.

Eight cocks and 17 hens of this year's brood have been raised, making a total of old and young now on hand 80 cocks and 138 hens—218. This corresponds in number with the original stock purchased.

The Stevens' ranch on which the pheasant farm is situated is ideally located for the purpose intended. The ranch lies about two and one-half miles from Boise on the line of

the Boise branch of the Oregon Short Line Railroad and the general surroundings are well adapted for the industry.

The buildings and improvements consist of forty-five pens built of lumber and wire netting 16x16 feet in size, with solid backs and roofed in five feet from back side of pen. These pens are built in rows around a triangular plot or court of ground about one-half acre in size and built in such a manner as to entirely inclose this court, having at the small end of the triangle a large pen for cocks.

The pens are constructed in sections and bolted together with lag screws so that in the event it should become necessary to move them at any time it could be done at a meager cost and without damaging the pens to any extent. The pens were constructed by and belong to the State, under the management of this department, as particularly specified in the contract heretofore referred to with Mr. Stevens.

Eggs laid by the pheasant hens this past season were set to the number of 2,529. Domestic hens were used for incubating. Of the above number of eggs set less than 500 hatched, and the chicks instead of being strong and wild seemed very weak from the first, and slight changes in temperature caused many to droop and die.

The lack of fertility in fully 80 per cent of the eggs can only be accounted for by the birds having been moved, handled and disturbed too much at the time or and during their natural mating period.

Pheasants, like turkeys, are very hardy after maturity, but when young are very susceptible to dampness and cli-

matic changes. The many necessities surrounding the successful incubation, care and growth of pheasant chicks not being fully realized, the unfavorable climatic conditions, cold, wet, cloudy weather lasting long past the hatching period had all to do with the almost total failure of this first venture. The means now at hand, the knowledge gained and weather conditions permitting, another season should show satisfactory returns.



BOB CAT

*Predatory Animals.*

Under a law passed by the Ninth Session of the Legislature the State Game Warden was authorized "to devise and put into operation such methods and means as would best secure and attain the extermination of wolves, coyotes, wild cats and cougars."

Following the foregoing instruction this Department

purchased strychnine for distribution and use through the medium of the Deputy Game Wardens and other sources, purchased traps, offered and paid bounties and has to report the following number and kind of animals of this character destroyed and the amount of money turned into the Game Fund received from the sales of pelts.

*Statement.*

Animals Destroyed	Hides Sold	Amount Collected
Coyote	41	\$ 38.50
Coyote	184	
Bob Cat	19	
Badger	4	
	} (207)	180.00
Coyote	180	113.25
Coyote	18	19.50
Coyote	99	54.80
	<hr style="width: 50%; margin: 0 auto;"/>	
Total . . . .	545	Total . . . . . \$406.05

In addition to the above it might be well to add that a great many predatory animals have been destroyed by poisoning and never found by the person who baited for them, and consequently never reported directly to this Department.

Under this head comment may be made that while this Department has but limited official knowledge of the killing of predatory animals, individual knowledge warrants the statement that a great many "bob cats" and not a few cougars have been killed during the past two years.

The bounty offered by the State for the pelts of these animals is not in proportion to their value as measured by the demand for them for rugs and trophies of the hunt and for these and other reasons of a similar character this Department is not permitted to keep an accurate record of all that are killed.

No recommendation is made at this time with reference to any change in the law relating to predatory animals, but attention is directed to the fact that unofficial information coming to this Department seems to justify the further statement that the cougar and bob cat are not materially decreasing.

These animals in conjunction with the wolf and coyote are great menace to domestic stock as well as large and small game and should receive careful consideration at the hands of the committee appointed to revise the laws governing this Department.

Information coming to this office indicates a considerable increase in brown and black bear in many of the more mountainous districts of the State.



BEAR, BITTER ROOT MOUNTAINS

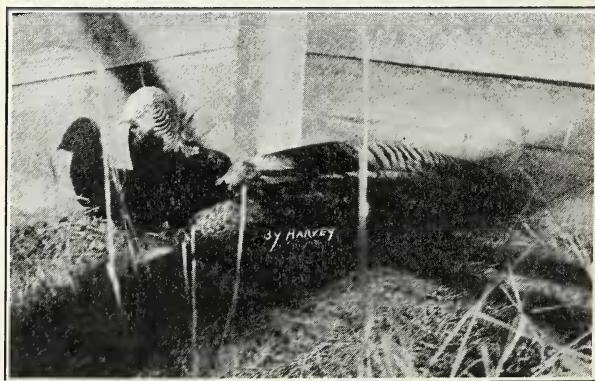
*Statement.*

Fish and Game Department: Receipts and disbursements from January 1, 1907, to December 31, 1908:

Receipts, 1907-8:

Balance on hand January 1, 1907 .....	\$25,525.77
5142 Non-resident fishing licenses .....	4,160.00
59271 Resident licenses .....	47,769.10
156 Non-resident bird licenses .....	720.80

38 Non-resident big game licenses .....	874.20
194 Fines collected .....	2,378.90
11 Shipping permits issued .....	110.00
5 Class 10A (resident) receipts issued ....	4.00
545 Predatory animals pelts sold .....	406.05
Sales confiscated fish and game, etc., ....	165.30
Over-balances, 1905-6 .....	2.28
	<hr/>
Total .....	\$82,116.40
Disbursements, 1907-8:	
Salaries and expenses: Warden, Deputies, Clerk	\$15,855.41
Salary local Deputies, Traveling and office exp.	31,081.73
Pheasant farm-birds and equipment .....	1,932.27
Exterminated predatory animals -----	2,900.67
Fish Hatcheries—Construction, maintenance and equipment .....	26,069.94
	<hr/>
	\$77,840.02
Balance on hand in fund .....	4,276.38
	<hr/>
Total .....	\$82,116.40



GOLDEN PHEASANT

## *Department.*

Reports coming to the department of and from the game fields, both verbal and by letter, show in the main very satisfactory conditions. There is very little honest, reasonable criticism.

There are selfish sportsmen, as there are selfish men, in every walk of life. The enforcement of the laws and the rulings of the Department have, in some instances, created adverse criticism, but such comment in almost every instance is prompted by jealous desire, willfulness or greed. Honest criticism from a source having in mind the enactment and enforcement of laws for the better protection, propagation and preservation of the game, large and small, including fish, is courted. There are men who still regard game laws as interfering with their own peculiar ideas of freedom, but where such men were in the majority a few years ago they are now reduced to the minimum and are decreasing year by year.

The cause of game protection and preservation has made good progress in the face of many discouraging obstacles and its friends have good reason to rejoice.

### *The State's Game.*

Idaho is one of the few great game States of the Union. Its vast area of almost uninhabitable territory is yet as Nature made it; is a natural game preserve and park, and with proper safeguards thrown around the fish and game now within its borders it will for years to come continue to be the only "far west" within the limits of the United States. Each year brings more hunters and sportsmen to the State and these carry back to their respective homes



true stories of the wonderful hunting and fishing which is today found within the boundaries of Idaho. The advertisement thus gained is of immeasurable value to the State, calling attention as it does of necessity to the State's wonderful resources and advantages for the investment of capital, the opportunities offered the man of modest means and the possibilities to be reached by the homeseeker.

The enactment of just laws for the propagation and preservation of fish and game and those laws honestly and fearlessly administered are features not to be lightly considered, as they are of inestimable value in calling attention to and creating favorable comment on the vast undeveloped resources of Idaho.

#### *Recommendations.*

Under this head and as suggested at the beginning of this report the following recommendations are presented for consideration.

#### *Expiration of Licenses.*

Under the law as it now stands all licenses expire the 31st day of January of each year. Nineteen hundred and eight licenses expire January 31st, 1909. The same law provides that the Game Warden "shall make a biennial report to the Governor and the Legislature of the doings and conditions of his office, which report shall be made during the first week of the regular session of the Legislature."

It will be readily seen that the Game Warden, in order to make a complete report of the affairs of this department must, of necessity, call in all unsold licenses by December



RESULT OF A DAYS' SPORT IN NORTH IDAHO

31st of the year preceding the convening of the Legislature in order to make full settlement of license accounts.

The necessary calling in of all outstanding licenses during December, the Legislature in session during January and February and the probability of a change in the laws so that they will not become effective and ready for printing and distribution before March makes it impossible to furnish licenses to those applying for and justly entitled to them until the latter part of March or during April.

Under the present working of the law the months of December, January, February and March of every second year are without the protection of the license; fish, particularly, without the protection of the law, and the department practically without jurisdiction.

This condition can be avoided by changing the date of the expiration of licenses to March 31st of each year and permitting this department to make its biennial report to the Legislature on the basis of the record of license sales made to and including December 31st, with possibly an annual report to the Governor at the close of the quarter, March 31st, following the adjournment of the Legislature. This would permit the Game Warden to have printed and distributed licenses covering every change made by the Legislature in the operation of the law and without inconvenience or loss.

#### *Commission on Licenses.*

Under the present law all persons selling licenses are allowed 20 per cent commission on all one dollar licenses and 10 per cent commission on \$5.00 and \$25.00 licenses.

Recommendation is made that the Game Warden, Chief

Deputy and the two regularly salaried assistants be authorized to issue and sell licenses but that full returns for such sales, without commission, be made to the department.

The commission now allowed on sale of licenses is a commendable feature of the law and should be continued. It has a very marked tendency to increase interest and recognition of the law. The salaried employees of the department should and do have sufficient interest in the enforcement of the law and the preservation of game without other compensation than that covered by their stipulated salaries. This policy has been adhered to in the past but it should be covered by a provision of law and not left to the option of the officer.

#### *Bear Lake Trout.*

Under the law as it now stands fish may be caught in Bear Lake from July 15th to May 1st of each year.

Recommendation is made that this latter date be changed to April 1st. The reason for this change is that the Bear Lake trout begin to spawn about April 1st and they should be protected at that time. It is further recommended that the Fish and Game Committee, created by your Honorable Body, arrange with a like committee created by the Legislature of Utah a uniform date for the beginning of the close season for trout in Bear Lake so that there may be no conflict in the enforcement of the laws governing the joint ownership of the fish and waters of that lake.

*Uniformity of Season for Upland Birds.*

In the biennial report of this department submitted to the Ninth Session of the Legislature for the years 1905-6 recommendation was made that the open and close seasons for all upland birds, with the exception of quail, be made uniform. No action was taken at that time and such recommendation is herewith offered for your consideration.

This recommendation is made for the particular reason that a number of this class of birds, notably the pheasant, grouse, sage hen, and prairie chicken, have a very marked resemblance in size, color and action and mistakes by the hunter are frequently honestly made and not infrequently mistakes (?) are made with the knowledge that the difference in the open dates will protect the violator.

With this change much difficulty will be avoided and better results will obtain in the enforcement of the law.

*Increase on Non-Resident Fish License.*

It is recommended that the non-resident fishing license be increased from \$1.00 to \$2.00 and that all aliens be classed as non-residents.

*Acknowledgments.*

This department is under many obligations to the management of the Oregon Short Line Railroad Company for favors shown, not the least of which is the free transportation for distribution of eggs and fry and reduction of freight rates on materials used in construction of fish and bird hatcheries, all of which is respectfully acknowledged

Courtesies extended by the Pacific Express Company, the different railroads in the northern part of the State,

the Red Collar and other steamboat lines, the United States Forestry Service, State officials, the press of the State and citizens generally are hereby acknowledged.

Favors and consideration has been shown this department freely and cheerfully from numerous directions, all of which is greatly remembered.



ELK