CHAPTER VIII

ALASKA GAME LAW

The most constructive work accomplished by the Boone and Crockett Club in the field of game administration was the promotion of the Alaska game law in 1924.

The club's interest in Alaska dates back to the time of the gold rush. Other sections of this volume deal in some detail with the establishment of Mt. McKinley National Park and the club's activities in behalf of the Alaskan brown bear.

The early Alaska game laws were effective as far as game legislation was concerned in those days. Grinnell, in his history of the club published in 1910, had this to say of the club's activities in promotion of the earlier laws.

"After the discovery of gold in Alaska and the rush there of a horde of miners and other settlers, an enormous destruction of large game animals took place in that then unknown region, and in certain districts the game was exterminated. Some forms of life - caribou and bears - seemed to be threatened with extinction.

It was apparent that game laws were needed here - that a foundation must be laid for the protection of these large animals over the one great area belonging to the United States, which is still unsettled. On the other hand, it was obvious that game was needed for food for the miners, while the natives depended for subsistence almost wholly on the wild animals."
"Early in the year 1902, two members of the Club, John F. Lacey, of Iowa, and Madison Grant, of New York, prepared a bill to protect the game of Alaska, which Mr. Lacey introduced in the House of Representatives. It prohibited the killing of wild game animals, or wild birds, for purposes of shipment from the District of Alaska. Game animals and birds were defined. Fur-bearing animals, such as fur seal, sea otter and all fur-bearing animals, save bears and sea lions, were excepted from the provisions of the act so far as native Indians or Eskimo were concerned; but natives were not permitted to sell meat or heads. Seasons were established for killing animals and birds, and the Secretary of Agriculture was authorized, whenever it should be necessary for the preservation of game birds or animals, to make and publish rules and regulations which should modify the close seasons established in the bill, or further restrict the killing or entirely prohibit it for five years. The selling of hides, skins or heads, or their shipment, was forbidden, except for scientific purposes. The bill became law.

"When this Act was passed it was reported that cold storage warehouses were to be built at Skagway and Valdez, where all the meat that could be obtained should be frozen and held indefinitely. One purpose of the bill was to cut this off, but its chief object was to
prevent an export trade by taxidermists in the heads of the giant moose and the white sheep, which were then greatly sought after. It was also regarded as highly desirable to establish the principle that a game law was needed in the territory.

"In March, 1904, a bill was introduced in Congress looking to the repeal or modification of the Alaska game laws. This repeal, engineered by Senator Dillingham on his return from a trip to Alaska, brought on an earnest struggle between the Club on the one hand and Senator Dillingham on the other. After much discussion and the production of not a little testimony by both sides, Senator Dillingham withdrew the bill.

"The present Alaska game law, drafted by Hon. W. E. Humphrey in 1908, is a modification of the old law.

"It is obvious that a game law for Alaska, to be effective, must have the moral support of the best people in the territory. Over a region, much of which is still untrodden and which is traversed by men who of necessity must live largely on the country, a law that forbids men to kill food for themselves while traveling, cannot have popular support. The vastness of Alaska, the conditions of a region yet unsettled, and the limited number of officials who can be called on to enforce the law, must make any statute that does not appeal to the intelligence of the settlers a mere dead letter."
"The present law is quite ineffective, and its provisions are enforced only against the exporting sportsmen and taxidermists. Against these it works well.

"The Canadian government in the Yukon Territory has good laws, which have popular support. This is largely because they have an efficient force of officers, the Northwest Mounted Police, and residents of Canada recognize the fact that when these policemen set out to arrest a man they do not stop until they have got him. In Alaska the game laws are supposed to be enforced by the United States Marshals, most of whom feel no interest whatever in the game laws, and will not start out to look for a man unless guaranteed expenses of ten dollars a day. The Canadian government endeavors to make it easy for its citizens to supply themselves with meat, but when the killing reaches undue proportions, or the game leaves a certain district where it has been abundant, hunting in that district is stopped for a time. Their laws give power to the police to do many things, but they also hold the police strictly accountable for their actions. In this way they get from them excellent service. The United States Marshals, on the other hand, are not held to strict responsibility, and exert themselves only in situations where public opinion insists that they do so."
"If Congress will set aside as a game refuge some considerable tract of Alaska land where no mines are known to exist, and in a territory suitable for the winter and summer ranges of moose, caribou and wild sheep, much may be done to preserve Alaska game. It seems clear that the great brown bears of the Alaska Peninsula, of the coast to the southward, and of the islands, must take their chance of survival. It will probably be long before they will be exterminated, and before then some means may be devised for setting aside a reservation for them."

The background of the 1924 law dated back to World War I. Sheldon, who had many friends in Alaska and a keen awareness of the people and country, devoted his efforts for many years to getting the support of the Alaskans, especially for the Boone and Crockett Club. It was realized that any game law promoted by "easterners" would be worthless in Alaska unless backed by the Alaskan residents.

The history of the Sulzer bill was a case in point. This was proposed presumably as a war measure to legalize sale of game. The Alaskan people were solidly behind it, and support from the Boone and Crockett Club would be a long step forward in gaining active cooperation by the Alaskans, thus paving the way for their future support for an effective game law.

The proposed bill was much misunderstood by most of the...
well-meaning conservationists. Theodore Roosevelt originally opposed it since he had been misinformed of its purpose. In a letter to Governor Riggs dated April 2, 1918, Roosevelt reversed his stand, due chiefly to the following letter (with several inclosures) to him from Sheldon. This letter is a good description and record of the bill.

"16th and Webster St. 
Washington, D.C.

April 6, 1918

"Dear Col. Roosevelt:

"The agitation against the Sulzer bill, now before Congress, has finally resulted in so presenting the opposition before the Alaska people as to cause them to believe that you personally are leading the fight against it. The whole Alaska Press are, therefore, in blazing headlines and editorials, making you a subject of unfavorable comment. I enclose clippings from newspapers of three widely separated districts.

"I think that you should know this, and also I do not believe that your attitude on this bill has been defined sufficiently enough to justify the present belief of the Alaska people.

"A reasonable opinion on this bill cannot be formed without a careful study of local conditions and the relation of Alaska game to the people, and a broad point of view toward its conservation, independently of the clamor against this bill - clamor resulting in part from"
lack of familiarity with the whole Alaska game question.

"Therefore I am laying the facts before you at some length, so that if you care to do so, you may be able to understand the situation, and form your own opinion on the whole question.

"Last fall the Food Administration told me that the pressure was so great that they felt obliged to recommend some relaxation of the game laws in the United States. I personally arranged a meeting of several interested, with the result that the Food people were persuaded to stand out against relaxation of the game laws and I dictated a memorandum which they have since used to prevent it - I enclose a copy - You will see that this is strictly in accord with the message you sent to the Game Convention in New York and this is all that John Burnham (so he tells me) had in mind when he asked you to send that statement.

"I never knew a game conservationist comparatively to have Alaska in mind when discussing the application of game laws in the United States.

"In 1902 and again in 1908 the Alaska game laws were passed and signed by yourself. Owing to special Alaska conditions this law admitted practices radically different from those advocated in the United States. But with all its faults, the Alaska game law, if reasonably enforced, is more effective to conserve game than any
other game law on this continent and you may well be
proud to have advocated and signed these laws.

"From the beginning, the Alaska law has permitted
game legally killed to be sold. But in all districts
south of latitude 62° the Secretary of Agriculture has
prohibited the sale of game. The conditions north of
62° have not justified such a prohibition.

"The Sulzer bill was a result of the request of the
Fairbanks people last spring. Nelson drew up the bill,
approved it and brought it to me. I approved it most
emphatically.

"It is nothing but a slight amendment of the present
law, to last, only north of 62°, during the war. It
improves the present law by shortening the open season,
inaugurating a tagging system for game to be sold, and
by forbidding the killing of female sheep. The present
law permits game legally killed to be sold during the
open season and for fifteen days after. The only
relaxation in the Sulzer law is one which permits the
game legally killed during the open season to be sold
for about three months longer (the practical result, see
hearings). If observed, the Sulzer law will have no
effect whatever on the game reserve, and will improve
present conditions of killing game. My reasons for
supporting this bill are given in a letter to Madison
Grant written last summer which I enclose. Grinnell
approved this bill - see his letter enclosed. John Burnham approved this bill. The Camp Fire Club, after a thorough discussion, approved this bill last summer. Mr. Hoover approved this bill and wrote a letter to Claude Kitchen endorsing it.

"I heard nothing more about it, until I was asked to speak before the Congressional Committee in early February. See hearing February 5th. It appears that Henry W. Elliot, of bad repute in fur seal matters, had been watching the bill for others. He telegraphed the results of this hearing to New York. Immediately one individual made a spectacular misrepresentation of the bill to the New York Sun which contained columns and headlines for two days alleging that the sale of game, wholesale butchering, etc. etc. had been thrown wide open in all Alaska. Naturally the public having known nothing about it, condemned the bill as would any other game conservationist after reading the Sun articles.

"Clause 2 in the bill read that game legally killed could be 'sold at any time.' Those of us who understood the situation knew that under local conditions game under this clause could not be sold longer than May 1st or earlier and cold storage could not result. (see hearings) But the first hearing demonstrated that others could not understand this and Sulzer at once arranged with me to limit the time of sale to May 15th, thus cutting out all
possible cold storage. (See hearings part 11.)

"The Boone and Crockett Club did not like Clause 2 and offered a reconstructed clause to accomplish the object of the bill. Sulzer accepted this and so amended his bill in part 11 of the hearings, and that is the present Sulzer bill.

"The opposition to this bill in the hearings demonstrated a deplorable lack of understanding the present Alaska law, and an acknowledged unfamiliarity with local conditions affected by the bill. I call your special attention to my statement in Part 11 of the hearings on the bill. A few days after this, one conservationist sent out to the Press a statement consisting of deliberate lies and malicious misrepresentations of the whole matter. (I use direct language as in the past you have often been forced to do.) The press throughout the country took it up, published it widely, and condemned me.

"I have given years of study and activity to saving Alaska game and my knowledge on the whole question is based on actual experience.

"I enclose: 1. Memo of the Food Administration to which your statement applied.

2. Letter to Grant giving my reasons for supporting the bill.

3. Grinnell's letter approving the bill.
4. Original Alaska game law clause permitting sale of game.

5. Hearings.

6. ... 

7. Statement of Boone and Crockett Club as to its responsibility for original bill.

8. My statement to the Club on the problem of saving Alaska game.

"... Thus you have the whole situation and you can study it as far as you may care to occupy your leisure time. I have been asked to return the borrowed newspaper clippings and would appreciate it if you would return them after reading them.

"Sincerely yours,

C. Sheldon"

During these years there was tremendous pressure during World War I to relax game regulations everywhere. Sheldon met with the Food Administration Commission and wrote a memorandum on suggested policy for game which the commission adopted. Hoover requested him to serve on the Food Administration Commission in an official capacity to handle game matters, but Sheldon declined on the grounds that his service in an official capacity might well be misconstrued as condoning the killing of game for food. He, with the support of others, virtually prevented the relaxing of game
laws in the United States during this crucial period. He persuaded Hoover to support the Sulzer bill.

The timing of the new Alaska game law was of extreme importance to assure passage. During and just after the war the crisis in the Alaskan brown bear matter, described elsewhere in this volume, became acute. The Alaskans were not in any mood to support any kind of legislation on Alaska game matters proposed by "easterners."

To pave the way, Sheldon appeared as the only outside supporter to Governor Riggs in a hearing considering an appropriation bill for game wardens in Alaska in 1920. He similarly was instrumental in persuading Burnham and others to support appropriations (about 1921) for warden service in Mt. McKinley National Park to prevent market hunting. In 1922 he appeared before a congressional committee to prevent a slash in the game protection appropriation for Alaska.

Sheldon, in conferences with E. W. Nelson, wrote a new law which he felt sure would receive the support of the Alaskans. In effect, it placed the Secretary of Agriculture in charge of game with the advice of a local game commission made up of Alaskans.

About this time, the Boone and Crockett Club appointed an Alaska committee composed of Henry Bannon of Ohio and Sheldon to promote the new law.

In a letter to Grinnell dated January 8, 1926, Sheldon
gave a brief history of the passage of this law. He and Bannon got it through the senate committee by talking with each member of the committee. The same two men saw every committee member in the House, and Sheldon wrote the House Committee report. It was easily passed and Sheldon got for the Boone and Crockett Club the pen with which the President signed it.

Sheldon said in a letter to Grinnell dated July 23, 1924:

"In fact, the Alaska Game Bill, as a pure safeguard administrative measure in its theory and broad features, was written by a member (Sheldon) of the Club."

He regarded the passage of this bill strictly due to efforts of the Boone and Crockett Club members (Bannon and Sheldon). He was a model game act and that similar statutes:

Most important, he predicted the administrative principle of the bill would be eventually adopted in different form by most states. This has proved to be the case in those states with sound and progressive game departments.

The Alaska Game Act was approved January 13th, 1925. According to Horace Albright this was one of the finest game laws ever drawn.

The Brookings Institute in 1929 published in its series "Service Monograph of the U. S. Government" No. 54, The Bureau of Biological Survey, the following in regard to the Alaska Game Act:

"... exceptionally skillful piece of legislation in that it provides for two exceedingly desirable objects which
in the years since 1908 had frequently appeared to be hopelessly antagonistic and does it moreover without doing violence to either. That is to say it establishes unity of control as to all forms of Alaskan land wildlife under Biological Survey and at the same time recognizes the healthy and in every way desirable Alaskan passion for home rule, and accords it a measure of power and influence which it had never theretofore enjoyed. Mr. Charles Sheldon of the Boone and Crockett Club long deeply interested in the fauna of the northern territory and probably as well-informed as any person upon the history and trends of American game protective legislation declared at the time of the law's passage that it was a model game act and that similar statutes would in time be adopted in various states of the Union."

In a book published by the Boone and Crockett Club in 1895, entitled Hunting in New Lands, edited by George Bird Grinnell and published, an account is given of the first national attempt to gather and record measures of North American big game was undertaken by the late Frank H. Grey, a member of the club. Under the latter's auspices, Records of North American Big Game was published in 1912. This included an account of each species by recognized authorities.

Samuel E. Webb, chairman of the current committee of the Records of Big Game, describes the subsequent history in the latest publication, Records of North American Big Game, published in 1962. He discusses Gray's book and goes on to say:

"In 1912 'North American Big Game' was sponsored by the Club and not only broadened the records lists but also included interesting chapters on hunting various
CHAPTER IX

RECORDS OF NORTH AMERICAN BIG GAME AND
NORTH AMERICAN BIG GAME COMPETITIONS

Since 1932 the Boone and Crockett Club has achieved national recognition as the authority on setting up standards for measuring and rating North American big game trophies.

In a book published by the Boone and Crockett Club in 1895, entitled Hunting In Many Lands, edited by George Bird Grinnell and Theodore Roosevelt, an account is given of the first effort to rate trophies according to measurement. The measurements were confined to heads displayed at the Madison Square Garden Sportsmen's Exposition.

The first truly national attempt to gather and record measurements on North American big game was undertaken by the late Prentiss N. Gray, a member of the club. Under the latter's auspices, Records of North American Big Game was published in 1932. This included an account of each species by recognized authorities.

Samuel B. Webb, chairman of the current committee of the Records of Big Game, describes the subsequent history in the latest publication, Records of North American Big Game, published in 1952. He discusses Gray's book and goes on to say:

"In 1939 'North American Big Game' was sponsored by the Club and not only broadened the records lists but also included interesting chapters on hunting various
species of big game and related subjects such as equipment, rifles and photography. At that time the Club knew that, in general, length and spread were important elements in ranking trophies, but it fully realized that they were not necessarily the determining factors. Weight, symmetry, the number and size of points on antlered trophies and the breadth as well as the length of the skulls of carnivores should receive proper consideration.

Publication of these two volumes whereby trophies were ranked numerically by a single measurement precipitated much argument. Two formulae systems resulted — the first originated and copyrighted by Dr. James L. Clark in 1935, the second devised by Grancel Fitz in 1939. Each received some recognition but neither achieved universal acceptance, although they provided the basic background for the new internationally recognized official system.

In 1949 the Boone and Crockett Club recognized the need for a single standard system of accepted authority and requested that an independent committee be appointed for the purpose of developing one. This committee was established and it included Dr. Harold E. Anthony, Milford Baker, Frederick K. Barbour, Dr. James L. Clark, Grancel Fitz, and Samuel B. Webb, chairman. The goal of this committee was to establish mathematical system
such a system was successfully developed. Remeasuring
and reranking trophies was a tremendous task. Webb and
his committee deserve a great deal of credit for the
performance of this arduous work. Details on the accepted
method for measuring trophies is fully described in the
committee's recently published *Records of North American
Big Game* (1952).

The work of the committee has not stopped with the
publication mentioned above. The Boone and Crockett Club,
for a number of years, has been holding competitions to award
prizes for the finest trophies of North American big game
submitted to the Committee on Records. Each year a dinner
and display of entries has been held at the American Museum
of Natural History.

Keeping a current file of record heads is a never-ending
task and it will come as a surprise to many that several
world's records have toppled even since the publication
referred to above.

The purpose of these competitions has been misunderstood
by many. Basically, the Boone and Crockett Club is interested
in encouraging selective hunting. Any biologist knows that
the most expendable members of any big game population are
the old mature males. Most big game mammals are polygamous.
As pointed out in previous chapters, modern game management has demonstrated that the problem of keeping our big game herds in a healthy condition depends on reducing the population to the carrying capacity of its winter range. It should be emphasized that the objective of the club is not to increase the quantity of game killed but very definitely to increase the quality. The sportsman who is willing to leave the automobile roads, pass up game which is shot strictly for meat, and partake of the high adventure of strenuous hunting for a worthwhile trophy, has achieved a standard of ethics for which the club has stood for many years.

To be said that in future years people would want this information and it was very advisable to have a clear picture of just how such an organization came into existence.

The activities behind the organization of the American Committee for International Wild Life Protection may be divided into three parts. The first of these was the work of the Dutch and Belgian Committee led by Mr. P. G. Van Tienhoven of Amsterdam. In the years 1922-23 he became a personal friend of Mr. William Phillips, our ambassador to Holland. Through this friendship, Mr. Van Tienhoven, the nature protectionist, first began to interest Americans in the idea of international wild life conservation.

From 1927-1930 Dr. J. C. Phillips, brother of Mr. William Phillips, cooperated with Mr. Van Tienhoven in international conservation work. As a result, the knows and
The Boone and Crockett Club was responsible for the establishment of the American Committee for International Wild Life Protection in 1930. The way this was brought about was documented in a "Brief History of the Formation of the American Committee for International Wild Life Protection" which I wrote up in 1931 at Madison Grant's insistence because he said that in future years people would want this information and it was very advisable to have a clear picture of just how such an organization came into existence.

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From 1927-1930 Dr. J. C. Phillips, brother of Mr. William Phillips, cooperated with Mr. Van Tienhoven in international conservation work. As a result, the Boone and
Crockett Club invited these two gentlemen to their annual dinner in 1930. They unfortunately could not attend, but a committee was organized at that annual meeting for the purpose of investigating and helping the movement among the continental countries for international nature protection led by Van Tienhoven and Derscheid. This is described in a later paragraph.

The second avenue of influence that led to the formation of the committee arose largely through the interest of members of the Boone and Crockett Club and others who had hunted, photographed, or made scientific collections in various parts of Africa, and particularly the regions within the British Empire. This sentiment was crystallized into action by the visit of Mr. C.W. Hobley, Secretary of the Society for the Preservation of the Fauna of the Empire, to this country in 1930. He aroused so much interest in the work that his society was doing for protecting mammals in Africa that, largely through the efforts of Mr. Madison Grant and Mr. Kermit Roosevelt, $9,550 was raised to help his society. An urgent need was felt for the creation of some organization in this country to crystallize and concentrate the sympathy and support expressed by many for the work being done by the Society for the Preservation of the Fauna of the Empire.

The third avenue of influence was the feeling that the time was ripe for a centralization of United States effort directed towards wild life protection on a world-wide basis
without reference to national boundaries.

In 1925 and 1929, King Albert of Belgium established in the mountains of the Congo the Parc National Albert modeled somewhat on our national parks only reserved for scientific purposes. The formation of this park was the culmination of many years of work by Carl Akeley and later Dr. Derscheid. Dr. Van Stralen of Brussels also deserves mention. American members were appointed to the Park Advisory Committee by the Belgian ambassador to this country, and included H. F. Osborn, J. C. Merriam, and Mary J. Akeley.

In 1929, Remington Kellogg of the U. S. National Museum was appointed chairman of a special committee established by the American Society of Mammalogists to deal with whale conservation and he was the official United States delegate to the Berlin International Conference on Whale Conservation (April, 1930).

In May, 1928, the first official meeting of the International Committee for Bird Preservation was held in Geneva where seventeen nations were represented. This was in a large measure due to the efforts of T. Gilbert Pearson, president of the National Association of Audubon Societies, and grew out of a London meeting in June, 1922, where four countries had been represented. Pearson was appointed chairman of the International Committee.

In addition to these committees many articles like Henry R. Carey's on Saving the Animal Life of Africa (May,
1926, *Journal of Mammalogy*), Carl Akeley's writings, and a number of others increased in this country the awareness of the need for action in the field of international conservation and had their influence upon the birth of the American Committee which was founded by the Boone and Crockett Club in the following manner.

At the annual meeting of the Boone and Crockett Club (January, 1930), Major F. R. Burnham, recently returned from Africa, gave a talk illustrating the changes that have taken place in Africa during the last twenty-five years and urging the necessity of America taking a hand in game preservation there. At the business meeting a motion drawn by Dr. John C. Phillips and myself was presented to the club by me. The motion pointed out the work that was being done in Europe along these lines and suggested that a committee be appointed to represent the club to handle all affairs dealing with international wild life protection. This motion was adopted and a committee appointed by Mr. Madison Grant, not only to represent the Boone and Crockett Club, but also to represent American sympathy and interest in international wild life protection. Each member of the committee was, in turn, to represent some important recognized institution interested in some phase of this work.

Mr. Grant thereupon constituted the Executive Committee, which was made up as follows:
Dr. John Phillips, chairman
(for the Boone and Crockett Club)
Mr. Kermit Roosevelt
(for the New York Zoological Society)
Mr. George Pratt
(for the American Museum of Natural History)
Mr. Harold J. Coolidge, Jr., secretary
(for the Boone and Crockett Club)

This committee was vested with the power to add to its members by electing one representative from each institution which is interested in zoology and conservation throughout the country; also with the power to select a representative to cooperate with foreign powers and represent the United States at meetings abroad. In addition, this committee would guide the raising of funds for such organizations as the Society for the Preservation of the Fauna of the British Empire as far as this country was concerned.

Dr. Phillips of the Executive Committee called its first meeting for May 8, 1930 at the New York Harvard Club. At this meeting it was voted that the following institutions in addition to those on the Executive Committee be represented on the Advisory Committee:

- Museum of Comparative Zoology
- Field Museum of Natural History
- Smithsonian Institution
- Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia
- California Academy of Sciences
- American Society of Mammalogists
- Camp Fire Club of America
- Wilderness Club

For its first eight years (1930-1938) the Committee made its headquarters at the Museum of Comparative Zoology
in Cambridge, Massachusetts, under the chairmanship of Dr. John C. Phillips and the secretaryship of Harold J. Coolidge. During this time the Committee issued its first publications and the office became a center for collecting data on species of fauna threatened by too liberal game laws or the expansion of commercial enterprises. The office also served as an information center to supply accurate data on wildlife protection throughout the world by carrying on a wide correspondence, as well as by preparing popular articles and short-wave radio talks, and its officers addressed various organization meetings on the subject.

Some members of the Committee undertook to assemble information in the course of their travels. The secretary did this in a six-months' trip to Asia and Europe in 1931, and to southeast Asia in 1937, while Dr. Thomas Barbour visited the principal parks and preserves in South Africa in 1934 and again in 1935. Mr. Robert T. Moore was instrumental in assisting with initiating the Galapagos Islands protective legislation by the Government of Ecuador in 1935, and James L. Clark reported on measures for fauna protection on his return from French Indo-China.

In 1930 the United States Government had enacted a section in the Vandergrift Tariff Act which forbids the importation of birds and mammals and parts thereof where such species are protected in the country of origin, except in special cases. In spite of this legislation certain
animal dealers were found to be violating this provision and therefore the Committee circulated a resolution to leading zoological gardens and museums calling their attention to the following:

"Under progressive exploitation of natural resources throughout the earth pressure on many interesting species has been such as to bring alarming reduction in their numbers or even extermination in numerous forms of both animals and plants.

In view of this, while it is important that representatives of the fauna and flora of the world should be preserved in museums, zoological gardens and arboretums for scientific study, in future specimens of the rarer species need to be obtained with discretion and in order that collecting in the name of science may not lead to actual extermination.

It is urged that organizations and private collectors agree to carry on zoological exploration, collecting and purchasing of specimens in such a manner as not to injure or endanger the continued existence of any form. We ask the assent and cooperation of all interested agencies in this important matter."

In response to this resolution signed pledges were received from many institutions that they could be counted upon to respect this pledge. Also, a special committee was appointed to keep a closer
watch on the gorilla situation which got out of hand during World War II when more than sixty young animals died while awaiting shipment to this country.

In the early years of the American Committee some of its most effective work was accomplished by its chairman, Dr. John C. Phillips, who participated as an observer in the International Conference in London in 1933 when the Convention for the Protection of African Fauna and Flora was first established and became a pattern for other similar conventions to follow.

Dr. Phillips returned from that conference, which concerned itself principally with the larger African animals, with the conviction that there was a basic need for the compilation of our present knowledge concerning the extinct and vanishing mammals, if we were to plan intelligently for the future preservation of wild life in this fast-changing world. Such a compilation could serve as a sound foundation for future plans that would have to be developed to meet the ever-increasing threats of extermination. This research could also spotlight the species that are most threatened and reveal probably causes of extinction that might suggest new lines of effective action to improve their chances of survival.

Dr. Francis Harper was engaged to prepare a book on the Extinct and Vanishing Mammals of the Old World (1945) and Dr. Glover M. Allen prepared a similar one on the Western
Hemisphere (1942) as special publications of the American Committee.

In 1938 the office of the American Committee accepted the invitation of the New York Zoological Society to make its headquarters in the New York Zoological Park. Mr. Childs Frick, a Boone and Crockett Club member, was elected chairman, and Dr. W. Reid Blair, Director of the Zoological Park, became secretary, later to be followed by George E. Brewer, Jr. and Lee S. Crandall, all of them ably assisted by Miss Edith H. Franz, assistant secretary for over seventeen years.

During the past seventeen years, most of it under the inspiring chairmanship of Childs Frick, the Committee's work has been primarily concerned with supporting international activities which contribute to the furthering of measures to preserve threatened and vanishing species and the advancement of international cooperation through conferences, treaties, organizations which will help to bring this about. Principal efforts have been devoted to the development of a New World Convention to further conservation in the Americas, the establishment and support of the activities of the IUPN and the furthering of conservation measures in the Pacific area. The Committee also brought out the Harper and Allen reports already mentioned and Mr. James C. Greenway completed a manuscript on the recently extinct and vanishing species of birds which the Committee expects to publish in the near future.
During the war, thanks in large measure to the initiative of Fairfield Osborn, twenty-eight men from nine scientific institutions combined their efforts to produce a scientifically sound popular book illustrated with colored maps entitled "The Pacific World" primarily for the use of Americans on overseas duty in the Pacific area. This publication was so successful that it was followed by a Pacific World Series of greatly needed popular books, likewise made available by the Infantry Journal in their Fighting Forces series, on the subject of mammals, insects, reptiles, plant life, fishes and shells, and native peoples of the Pacific World. The American Committee owes gratitude not only to the Publication Committee of the Pacific World Series, but also to the authors of the separate volumes, who by their volunteer effort made possible this important war project under the auspices of the American Committee for International Wild Life Protection.

The Committee's activities to further conservation in the New World became really active with the sending out of a questionnaire in 1938 to 400 correspondents in Latin America asking about national parks, game reserves, and existing laws, and led to the establishment of a Pan-American sub-committee of three, two of whom were Boone and Crockett Club members, which cooperated with the Pan-American Union in the preparation of a New World Convention initiated at the Eighth International Conference at American States at
Lima, Peru, in December, 1938, and drafted in May, 1940, by a committee of experts from eighteen of the twenty-one American Republics. By 1943 this Convention had been signed by all but three of the Republics and later it was ratified by twelve, including the United States.

Since the end of World War II the Committee's present chairman has devoted considerable time and effort to international conservation activities through the International Union for the Protection of Nature as well as through other channels in the Pacific Area. In 1948 he and George Brewer represented the American Committee at the Fontainebleau Conference called by UNESCO with the aid of the French government where the IUPN was founded, and he became the first U. S. Vice-President of the Union. Since then he has played an active part in enlisting other United States and foreign organizations in support of the Union and has represented the American Committee at three General Assemblies of the Union in Brussels, Caracas and Copenhagen, serving as chairman of their committee now known as "The Survival Service" which concerns itself with the preservation of gravely threatened species of flora and fauna. This Union activity arose from a resolution adopted at an International Technical Conference for the Protection of Nature held in 1949 at Lake Success which gave rise to the first official listing of gravely threatened species by the Union. The "Survival Service" is actively engaged in assembling
information and advising governments on measures to assist
in the preservation of endangered species.

In the Pacific the 1946 Pacific Science Conference in
Washington led to the establishment by the National Research
Council of the Pacific Science Board and called attention
to the need for conservation work in the islands which it
was hoped might be assisted by the Pacific War Memorial.
Subsequently the Pacific Science Board established a Committee
on Conservation in Micronesia with panels in Washington and
Honolulu which advises the Trust Territory Administration
on conservation matters.

The Pacific Science Congresses in New Zealand (1949)
and Manila (1952) have had active programs dealing with
Pacific conservation. The Pacific Science Association has
a standing committee on Pacific conservation of which the
American Committee chairman has long been a member. The six
government South Pacific Commission is increasingly
interested in conservation problems in the Pacific Islands,
and the American Committee's interests are represented by
the author's membership in their Research Council.

In 1954 the American Committee became incorporated and
the statement of purpose setting forth the objectives in its
bylaws describes its activities:

"To further the conservation and preservation of
threatened and vanishing forms of wild life in the
various regions of the world by: (1) stimulating,
promoting and financing research into the status and ecology of threatened species of wild life; (2) publishing and disseminating information dealing with the current status of all wild life; and (3) lending assistance to national and international organizations concerned with wild life conservation, with special reference to activities outside the United States."

Up until a year ago the American Committee held the annual meeting of its advisory board, now numbering thirty-eight, in New York on the day of the Boone and Crockett Club dinner. The members of the Committee usually also attended the Boone and Crockett Club luncheon at the Zoological Park and in this way the close working bond between the Boone and Crockett Club and those members of the American Committee who did not belong to the Boone and Crockett Club was strengthened.

For twenty-five years this Committee has endeavored to carry out the high purpose for which it was originally established by the Boone and Crockett Club. Its support has been entirely dependent on private contributions from members and friends, most of whom are also members of the Boone and Crockett Club. Most generous assistance was received from its long-time chairman, Childs Frick.

The publications of the American Committee are listed in Appendix F.
CHAPTER XI

THE ORIGIN OF THE NEW YORK ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY*

By Madison Grant

In the autumn of 1894 I entered into a correspondence with Mr. Theodore Roosevelt, the President of the Boone and Crockett Club, with reference to securing, during the coming session of the Assembly, certain legislation in the interest of game protection. It was finally decided that the subject should be laid before the club for its sanction; and this was done at the annual meeting of the Boone and Crockett Club of January 16, 1895, when the matter was entrusted to a committee of which I was chairman.

One of the chief objects of this committee was to secure for New York City, which was then entering into a new era of expansion under a reform administration, a zoological park on lines entirely divergent from the Old World zoological gardens, and which would tend to introduce those principles of game preservation advocated by the Boone and Crockett Club.

Upon investigation, the committee found that a measure had already been introduced at Albany, providing for the establishment of a zoological park on city lands, located

*First published in the Boone and Crockett Club book entitled Trail and Camp-Fire, published by Forest and Stream (1897). The Boone and Crockett Club has always been active in the affairs of the society. Each president has been a member of the club, as have also many of its trustees.
north of 155th Street. This bill had been introduced for several years in succession by Mr. Andrew H. Green, and had each year been defeated, chiefly on account of a clause in it which authorized the New York Park Board to turn over the existing Central Park Menagerie to the proposed Society. This clause had provoked violent opposition from certain East Side representatives, who declared the bill to be a mere attempt to secure the control and removal of the Central Park Zoo, and so to deprive the poor children of the pleasure afforded by it. The strength of this opposition was good evidence of the popularity of any sort of animal collection, for a more wretched exhibition of ill-kept specimens than the existing Zoo cannot be found in any large city in the world.

Curiously enough, there was also in circulation a rumor that the proposed Society would engage in the business of breeding small animals, such as dogs and fowls, to the lasting injury of the small animal dealers.

Mr. Green was interviewed by the committee, and realizing that the bill could not succeed without the help of the Boone and Crockett Club, he agreed to give them the control of the new Society if the bill should become law.

The measure was in charge of Assemblyman W. W. Niles, Jr., who represented the district above the Harlem River, in which the proposed park would in all probability be located. He consented to push the bill, if the Boone and
Crockett Club would assume the responsibility of organizing the Society, and if some of the members would appear as incorporators.

The bill was therefore amended by the insertion of the names of two Boone and Crockett Club men, Mr. La Farge and myself, among the original incorporators, and Mr. Niles modified the clause relating to the Central Park Zoo in such a manner that while the opposition was appeased, the Society nevertheless retained the right to a preference in case the Park Board disposed of the existing Zoo at any time in the future. The small animal dealers were interviewed by the committee, and their fears dispelled. Mr. Niles then pushed the bill with vigor, and, after a prolonged contest, he succeeded in forcing it through by dint of some of the hardest work done at Albany that year.

The Society was organized May 7, 1895, and the first board of managers contained the names of nine Boone and Crockett Club members, including the vice-president and both the secretaries.

Nearly a year was spent in the consideration of various sites, and the southern end of Bronx Park was finally found to possess almost the exact landscape features deemed essential by the experts to whom the available locations were referred. In Bronx Park, meadow, glade, forest, pond and river were so distributed that buildings could be located and collections installed, practically without injury to existing trees.
After a searching inquiry into the question of accessibility, drainage and kindred matters, the Zoological Society approved this site, and on May 21, 1896, formal application was made to the Commissioners of the Sinking Fund under the terms of the Society's charter.

The question was under consideration by the city authorities for nearly ten months, and in March, 1897, a grant was made by the city to the New York Zoological Society of all that portion of Bronx Park lying south of Pelham Avenue, being about 261 acres, upon certain restrictions and conditions entirely satisfactory to the Society.

A bill was also secured from the Legislature at Albany providing $125,000 for the preparation of the land to receive the Society's buildings and collections. At the present writing the Society numbers 425 members, and is in a most prosperous financial condition.

As the New York Zoological Society owes its existence to the Boone and Crockett Club, a few words concerning its purposes cannot be amiss. Its primary object is to secure herds - not merely individuals - of each of the large North American quadrupeds, and to place them as far as possible in surroundings identical with or closely resembling their natural habitats. A space of twenty acres will be devoted to the American bison; the moose will have a wooded range of eight acres; the wapiti fifteen acres, and the other deer similar ranges. The beaver will have a pond and stream,
together with growing trees and full opportunity to build his dam and cabins, while the bears will be quartered in rock ledges and caves. A flying aviary, 150 feet long, 75 feet wide and 50 feet high, will enable the flamingos, herons, ibis, and egrets to retain their strength by the free use of their wings; and the monkeys will have an entire grove of trees at their disposal - fenced in by a high wire netting, to be sure, but still giving them freedom on a scale never before attempted.

The first work of the Society will be to present the larger North American mammals in such a way that they can be studied by the public, and still keep themselves in perfect condition by exercise. After that the larger buildings will be constructed, one after another, until a zoological park shall be developed on strictly American lines. By this is meant the absolute preservation of all desirable natural features now existing, and the subordination of all structures and of landscape treatment to the needs of the specimens, and especially to the ranges of the larger animals.

The largest Zoo in existence in Europe is the Zoological Garden in Berlin - sixty acres in extent, while the National Zoological Park at Washington contains 168 acres, much of which, however, is unsuitable for collections, so with its 261 acres and room to grow, the New York Zoological Society begins its career with an enormous advantage.

Admission to the Park will be free - except on two days
of each week, when a small admission fee will be charged — but in return, the city will be expected to supply the cost of maintenance. The Society will supply the collections and scientific management of the Park, and, so far as practicable, the buildings.

The advantages of membership in the Society include not only free admission and tickets for guests, but certain right to publications, use of library, and other advantages.

Scientific investigations, publications, lectures and animal art exhibitions will be carried on by the Society in conjunction with the Park, and there is every reason to hope that, in the near future, New York will have a flourishing rival to the London Zoological Society.

The committee of this club, which had in charge the introduction of this enterprise, attribute their success before the Legislature to the energetic help of members of the Boone and Crockett Club, and to the very considerable influence of the club itself. When the Society was once organized, the first support it secured was from the members of that club, who came forward almost in a body — practically every New York City member — with money and with time.

The formation of this Society comes at a time when it is still possible to secure specimens for a great collection. It may be confidently asserted that twenty-five years hence the rinderpest and repeating rifle will have destroyed most, if not all, of the larger African fauna — including certainly
the most beautiful antelopes in the world - and game in India and North America in a wild state will almost have ceased to exist."

As mentioned in the Introduction, many members of the club who have done valiant work through the years in behalf of preservation have now realized the mission which is theirs, for in the closing days of the century in its efforts to preserve the game and the forests; in short, to preserve to future generations some remnant of the heritage which was our fathers', and which, to a great extent, still is ours, though so few of us have learned to estimate it at its true value.

Fortunately Grant's prediction has proved to be too pessimistic. The current abundance of some of our large game in North America is due in no small measure to the part played by the early club members in establishing national parks and forests.
CHAPTER XII

CONCLUSION

As mentioned in the Introduction, many members of the club who have done valiant work through the years in behalf of conservation have not received the recognition which is their due in this volume. Several have made outstanding contributions to game conservation on a state level. A brief summary of some of these accomplishments follows.

Work by members in New York State has a long record. In the late nineteenth century Madison Grant and Hon. William Cary Sanger were conspicuous among club members for pushing through legislation in the New York legislature which forbade "killing deer in water, fire-hunting, the use of traps on salt licks, the use of dogs in hunting deer, or permitting such dogs to run at large."

William Austin Wadsworth, who held the largest tenure as president of the club from 1897-1918, was appointed president of the New York Forest, Fish and Game Commission by Governor Theodore Roosevelt in 1900. In this position he emphasized the importance of forest preservation and cleaning up water pollution. He was one of the pioneers in establishing the famed "blue line" protecting large tracts of the Adirondacks.

In later years, a recent president of the club, Karl T. Frederick, established the New York Conservation Council made up of representatives of New York sportsmen's clubs. This
organization has been highly influential in the New York legislature for many years. Its policies have been more progressive and enlightened than those of any similar group of its kind in the country. Besides his local work, Frederick has been an influential worker in most national conservation moves in recent years and has held key offices in several of the best known conservation organizations.

In 1890 Colonel William D. Pickett was appointed Chairman of the Game and Fisheries Committee of the House of Representatives in Wyoming, which passed a set of game laws which were progressive for these early years.

Although little recognized in history, Hon. Boris Penrose and his brother, R.A.F. Penrose, Jr., of Pennsylvania were considered by many the key men in setting up the Pennsylvania Game Commission.

Madison Grant was responsible for some of the Newfoundland game laws.

In the field of fighting for the integrity of national parks, Mr. Edward Mallinbrodt has been highly active and successful.

Many other examples could be cited but these illustrate the type of work accomplished through the years by several members.

The Boone and Crockett Club was conspicuous in the early days in carrying the torch for conservation. We are fortunate that today many other effective conservation.
agencies have sprung up. Those directly or indirectly supported by sportsmen include The Wildlife Management Institute, already discussed, the National Wildlife Federation, the Isaac Walton League, Ducks Unlimited, The Sport Fishing Institute, and The Campfire Club. There are many additional effective organizations such as the Audubon Society, the Wilderness Society, Nature Conservancy, the Outdoor Writers Association of America, the American Nature Association, American Planning and Civic Association, the National Parks Association, the American Forestry Association, the Wildlife Society, The Conservation Foundation, and several others.

The Wilderness Society, with a club member, Olaus J. Murie, as president, stands for principles which should be especially of interest to Boone and Crockett Club members. The first spokesman for the preservation of wild tracts of land was Theodore Roosevelt. In the Boone and Crockett Club book, *American Big Game In Its Haunts*, published in 1904, T. R. wrote a chapter on the importance of preserving wilderness areas.

In spite of the fact that there are many other organizations, the club cannot afford to rest on its oars. The same dangers threatening our national parks, national forests and wildlife refuges are as great today as in the earlier days. Not only does the danger exist of encroachment by private interests on these public lands, but today we have
the added and more powerful threat of the encroachment of other federal agencies on those areas set aside preserving wilderness areas, unspoiled natural scenic areas, and wildlife refuges for the education and recreation of our rapidly growing population. As the population increases such areas become all the more precious.

The continuation by the club of the Heads and Horns Competition is a worthy endeavor and one which increases the prestige of the club in the specific field of big game conservation. It should not be lost sight of, however, that big game conservation as such cannot be divorced and set aside as a project unconnected with other more general conservation efforts. If a small group of cattlemen get exclusive grazing rights to some of our national forests, many big game herds are doomed. If the Army demands exclusive use of some of our wildlife lands, the effect is obvious.

As I reflect on the history of this club and review the books written by many of the early sportsmen who were members, it is my conclusion that above all else many of us, by example, if nothing else, should help educate the American sportsman on ethics.

There is a regrettable tendency today among American sportmen to take the easiest method, the path of least resistance, in securing a big game head. So-called sportsmen shoot numbers of pronghorns from automobiles or station themselves on roads to shoot the wapiti in his annual
migration to his wintering lands.

Western game managers are faced with the serious problem of over-population of deer and elk in the more inaccessible wild areas where American sportsmen are reluctant to go. Most sportsmen prefer to hunt from the automobile or aeroplane.

Early members of the club exhibited a spirit of adventure and a willingness to endure hardship to get into the "back" country. Many were good woodsmen who were capable of caring for themselves in the wilderness and hunting their own game.

We can be thankful that there are still areas where he who is willing can penetrate the wilderness by the time-honored methods of back packing, "siwashing" with dogs, canoeing or pack train.

How much more precious becomes a big game trophy secured by a hunter alone after packing into more remote areas.

Added to the sport of hunting is the immeasurable enjoyment and satisfaction of pitching one's tent in a relatively unspoiled wilderness spot far from the crowds.

In conclusion I wish to emphasize that no club accomplishment was the result of one man's effort; it was only through the support of all the members that most of these contributions to game conservation were made possible.