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DUCK HUNTING ON THE COLUMBIA

(In order to compare duck hunting along the Columbia River today with conditions thirty years ago, the following records are taken from Mr. Finley's notebook.)

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"On January 23, 1909, I talked with Mr. H. S. Rowe of Portland. He said that he had been a hunter for the past forty years. He and Mr. Harrington are the owners of 452 acres on the lower end of Sauvie's Island. This has been a wonderful place for shooting wood ducks during the month of September. They begin feeding ducks about the middle of August."

"During 1907, these birds were very plentiful. On September 1st, he and his son were out at 7 A. M., shot until 10 A. M. and bagged 65 wood ducks. They then returned to camp. His son went out a little later to shoot snipe. He heard him shooting down near the blind, joined him and in a short time they killed 35 more birds, making 100. This was the legal limit. He said they got one Teal by mistake, making 99 wood ducks."

"Every Sunday during the month of September 1907, he got a good string of wood ducks. Some days he could easily have bagged 200."

"Later in the season other species were abundant. He said he and another man killed 165 widgeon in 40 minutes. They began shooting at 6:50 A. M. By 7:15 he thought they had the limit. They had not picked up the birds, and his partner was sure they hadn't killed 100. The birds kept coming in continuously and for 15 minutes, they stood outside the blind in plain sight and continued shooting. When the birds were picked up, they counted 165,

which he said was 65 more than they should have killed. Although ducks were very abundant, Mr. Rowe favored cutting down the bag limit and shortening the season from September 15th to January 1st."

In 1913, the Federal law for protection of migratory birds was passed. Because wood ducks were so scarce, the season was closed on this species. Even though closed for 22 years, wood duck numbers have not increased to their former abundance.

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~~July 1st Mr. Rowe from 1909 to 1910~~

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1935
1913
22