

WILD GAME PRESERVATION IN SIAM.

At a meeting of the Natural History Section of the Siam Society held March 18th, 1927, the following resolutions offered by Dr. Hugh M. Smith, Leader of the Section, were discussed and unanimously adopted:

Whereas, it is generally believed that the numbers of certain wild animals in Siam have been materially reduced in recent years, and the total extinction of some of them seems inevitable under existing conditions, and

Whereas, the Natural History Section of the Siam Society, without desiring to see any interference with legitimate sport, believes that the unrestricted killing of wild animals is to be deplored and is certain to result in the serious reduction in numbers or the total extermination of some of the most interesting wild creatures which give distinction to Siam in the realm of zoology; and

Whereas, there is no government agency now charged with the protection of wild animals in Siam and there appears to be no restriction imposed on the slaughter of such animals except in the case of the elephant.

Therefore be it resolved, that the Natural History Section of the Siam Society respectfully recommends the creation of a government agency whose duty it shall be to look after the welfare of the wild land animals of Siam, both mammals and birds, to check the present unrestricted slaughter, and to adopt measures for the conservation of such creatures, having due regard for sport and the food requirements of the people.

Resolved, that pending the establishment and organization of such an agency, it is recommended and urged that immediate action be taken to arrest the impending extinction of both the one-horned and the two-horned rhinoceros in Siam by the establishment of an absolute close season for a term of years, not less than five and preferably ten.

Resolved further, that His Majesty the King, Patron of the Siam Society, and the Supreme Council of State be furnished with a certified copy of these resolutions by the President of the Society.

As recorded in Vol. XXI, p. 66, of the Journal of the Siam Society, the President forwarded this petition to be laid before the King. His Majesty's private secretary replied that by Royal Command enquiries were being addressed to the interested Ministries, asking for their opinion and suggestions as to the possibility of an enactment.