

our big game hunting grounds, and we are informed from another source that a large band of half-breeds from Montana visited our northern woods last summer and feasted on moose meat during their sojourn, and then returned with what they considered enough dried meat to carry them through the winter. So pleased were they with the success of their trip, that it is stated, they contemplate a return visit next summer.

While the accuracy of the figures contained in the below letter might be questioned, it will suffice to show the views of a sportsman whom, I would judge, from my own personal knowledge of him, can at least be credited with sincerity of purpose and an enthusiastic desire to further any project that has for its object the conservation of wild life. This is part of his letter:

"While I had almost decided never again to say much with regard to the big game conditions, I again feel that it is my duty to tell you some of the conditions which exist there, and how imperative it is that thorough and drastic measures be taken immediately in order to preserve the game of our big game fields, not from licensed hunters, but from Indians and those who kill for commercial purposes.

"Two years ago I was over very much the same ground as I was this year. That year I saw 157 head. Each and every member of our party saw a large number of animals, these being principally cows. This year, with cows and all, I saw only eight head, putting in a week extra over what I did the previous year. I am reliably informed that one party of Indians alone killed 127 head of elk during the month of September. While it is hard to prove these things, there is not the slightest doubt in my mind but what this is done. This, as you know, is the rutting season, or calling season, and it is no trouble whatever for any one to go in and kill and kill and kill without effort, and the evidence of this slaughter can be found in many places. Some of the finest heads, that would be considered almost priceless, are slaughtered and left to rot. That these Indians may, in a sense, use this meat for food, I do not doubt, but, in view of your intending to close the season on elk for three years, I might say that, under the conditions which exist at present, you may as well throw the season wide open and let the white get his share of the game with the Indian, for, if you close this season for three years, you only close it against a few of your licensed hunters who have to go over a railway. The Indian and he who wishes to commercialize in game are not affected in the least, and I daresay, under the present conditions, that, although you may close the season, within three years from now there will be no elk on the big game fields of the north to be secured by any one.

"I never in all my life saw such a slaughtering of game in two years as has taken place in the elk fields north of Prince Albert; and, on the other hand, I feel that, if the Government does owe a just debt to her returned soldiers (of whom many are our most loyal