

a complete uniformity of such laws and regulations, most desirable results have been proven possible by a neighbourly reciprocity in enforcing them, as illustrated in the reciprocal return to their place of origin of raw furs and game, which, when seized for illegal killing or shipment, are declared to have been shipped from another province.

**Definition of
Unprime Skin**

MR. HARKIN: Has the province of Quebec, in connection with its fur trade, adopted a clear-cut definition of 'unprime' skin? In connection with our Northwest Game Act that question of unprime skins has arisen, and we have been told that it arose also in connection with the administration of the new law in Quebec. People interested in the fur trade have represented to me that, at times, there is the utmost difficulty in deciding whether a skin is unprime or not, unprime being such a wide term; the classification being usually based on the colour of the hide. That is represented as not a safe basis to go on, and it occurred to me that, at a meeting like this, we might get suggestions as to a clear-cut definition of unprime skin. From what fur dealers have told me, it would be of very great advantage to them, and I think also that it would be of great advantage to those who are administering the law.

MR. BELLISLE: It is very hard to give an exact definition of prime or unprime. Our law provides that fur-bearing animals shall not be killed before November 1st, and all furs taken before that date are considered unprime. Of course, some furs taken after the first of November, at first sight, look like unprime skins, but if the owner can prove that the skin comes from an animal killed after November 1st, even if it does not look like a prime one, we will consider it as a prime one. It is a question of dates; we cannot give an exact definition.

MR. E. MELLON: You could not expect the hunter to know whether or not a skin is prime before he skins the animal; he cannot tell simply from the outside appearance. Naturally, 'unprime' must apply to skins taken from animals killed in the close season. If a fur-bearing animal is caught after the opening of the season, then it is caught legally, though it may not be prime, especially in an open season like this year. You cannot define what is unprime skin and what is prime skin.

**Troubles of
Fur Dealers**

MR. HARKIN: From what some fur dealers have said to me, I was inclined to think that they would prefer that a concrete definition be given of what constitutes an unprime skin, so that a dealer need not buy a skin that had an appearance of unprimeness. The difficulty is that he buys the skin