

CONCLUSION.

The following is a summary of the main points brought out in the foregoing report:—

1. The game animals most in need of protection on the East Slope in the order of the urgency of such need are elk, bighorn sheep, mule deer, and moose. Caribou, goats, and white-tailed deer are of less importance.

2. The most effective method open to the Dominion Government for assisting in game preservation is through the establishment and administration of definitely defined game preserves within which game animals are protected at all seasons of the year.

3. The means open to the Dominion Government for carrying out this policy are the creation of parks which automatically become game preserves under the Alberta Game Act, and the creation of special game preserves under its Act. Both methods should be used, a park game-preserve being confined to those areas which are primarily valuable for recreation, and the others being constituted game preserves within the existing forest reserves.

4. A game preserve to be effective must exhibit the following qualifications:—

(a) Suitable range for all the animals it is designed to preserve.

(b) Natural boundaries as nearly impassable as can be obtained.

(c) A minimum of commercial assets on the one hand, and, on the other, regulations which, while safeguarding the game, interfere as little as possible with the exploitation of such commercial assets as are unavoidably included within the preserve.

5. Effective game protection within a game preserve requires strict enforcement of a rule prohibiting the carrying of guns in the preserve. Where unusual hardship would be involved, the transportation of guns through the reserve under seal or in bond might be permitted in special cases. The organization of the protective force should have the enforcement of this regulation as its basis.

6. The members of the protective force must be specially selected and organized for this purpose and have as few other duties as it is possible to place upon them. The force must be entirely distinct from that of the forest rangers on game preserves located within forest reserves, but should be supervised by the same superior officers in order to ensure co-operation between the two forces. This force should be selected on a basis of fitness as a result of suitable competitive tests, and should not be composed of local men, but should be made up of non-residents having no local affiliations.