

Q. There are some in Quebec and some in Ontario?—A. In Ontario we definitely have three and we should have four or five. As regards Quebec, in addition to the ones they have they should have a couple more. Take the north shore. They have the Indian settlement at St. Augustin, at Mingan, at Seven Islands and at Bersimis. From Bersimis to the sea right on up to Augustin that is the country. The people who live in there trade a good many hundreds of beaver. There are possibly 2,000 Indians there.

Mr. HOEY: There are 698 at Bersimis, 625 at Seven Islands, 115 at Mingan and 359 at St. Augustin.

The WITNESS: Those people maintain themselves almost entirely from the pursuit of the trap-line. They have to make a living for themselves and they have practically decimated the fur bearers in those areas and they are now trapping in Labrador. Labrador and Newfoundland are going to tire of that and say, "Keep your own Indians at home; we need that country for our own people." The obvious thing from our point of view is to develop beaver preserves in there and re-stock that country. Somewhere between Seven Islands and Mingan there are streams in that country that are admirably suited to the development of beaver sanctuaries, and we would like to establish seven or eight million acres of preserve there and take the beaver, if we have to take them, from James bay and transport them in there to restock that country in order to speed up the benefits that could be obtained. The cost is not prohibitive. After the war we will have expert airmen and we will have lots of aircraft and the beaver could be flown from James bay to Mingan in twenty-four hours and would be in a new environment within a week of their capture. They transport well.

Q. Are climatic conditions about the same?—A. More or less the same, but it would not matter much because the beaver line goes as far north as the Great Whale river, and this area is much south of that. And they are there now, because the people have lived on them for centuries. It is beaver country. Then there is the area around Grand lake Victoria, and at the headwaters of the Cologne and the Black rivers. There is that area in Mr. McDonald's constituency of Pontiac which has been lumbered over, and it is ideal. They took out the pine and the spruce and the conifers and what you get in the next fifty years is a huge crop of alder, poplar and white birch, and those are the beaver foods. They naturally live in those particular areas, but as Mr. McDonald knows and will say, the area is practically depleted.

Q. Mr. McDonald will not object either.—A. The district is practically depleted. It is one of the best fur countries that has come within our studies. We know that it was once excellent beaver country and we know that it will be so again, but there are no beaver there now. We know the Grand Lake Victoria area immediately north of it as the best beaver country in the province at the present time, and that could be extended over six or seven million acres with a minimum of expense. All you would need would be a closed season on beaver for ten years and you will bring them back to a point where that country would be as good as Grand Lake Victoria is to-day, and the Grand Lake Victoria area is capable of giving not less than ten beaver to every trapper in the country now. They can stand a heavier crop than that, but we do not need to do that now, because beaver are worth some \$40 to \$60 apiece and when you give one of those trappers \$400 or \$600 a year from every beaver line in the country and they are able to implement that by a diversity of other fur, you have done enough, so you do not need to take more than ten. We would sooner have the beaver migrate into the adjoining territories to the east and build up that whole section of the province.

Mr. MACNICOL: Is the beaver good to eat?—A. Excellent. In the winter-time it is very fat and is preferred by those northern Indians to any other meat. I think I told you the story that the Hudson's Bay Company asked the Indians to take 1,800 beaver and the Indians said, "No, we will not take over 800