

I do not know whether this problem affects the whole of the Dominion or not, but I think I may safely say that it applies with equal significance to all the western provinces, and, for this reason, I presume the subject to be of sufficient importance to warrant my bringing it to the attention of this conference.

Each year our department receives an increased number of complaints of wanton slaughter of big game by Indians. These are usually received from settlers who reside in the vicinity of where the Indians are operating, or from sportsmen who go to considerable expense and trouble in preparing for their annual big game hunting trip, only to find, on arriving at their camp, unquestionable evidence that the Indians have preceded them. I suppose, in some cases, the complaints received are prompted by selfish motives; in others, the motive is purely a desire to secure a square deal both for the game and for the law-abiding sportsmen. Whatever the reason, the fact remains that, for the most part, the complaints are justified, and, in nearly all cases, they are fully substantiated upon investigation.

Perhaps, the best way to open up this subject for discussion would be to quote from a few of the many letters recently received by the department on this subject. But first of all, I will read a news clipping from the *North Battleford News*, dealing with the situation as it obtains north of that city:

"The slaughter of moose in the north country goes steadily and craftily on. This autumn has actually been the worst, positively the worst, in years. According to reports from those who know, and with whom *The News* is in close touch, fully two hundred moose were uselessly slaughtered by the Indians in the country to the north of us during the season just closed. Hunters who have lately returned from the moose-hunting grounds of the north emphatically state that the hunting this year was the dullest yet experienced. Few traces of moose could be found. For days the forests could be scoured for these monarchs of the woods without success. Indian encampments could, however, be seen in plenty, profusely decked for rods around with moose heads, hair, and hides, proving beyond any doubt that, throughout the summer and early autumn, the country was stripped clean by these marauders of the animals that should be only killed off sparsely by legitimate hunters annually. This wanton slaughter, the work of Indians from across the border to a large extent, is the talk of the whole country, and much resentment is felt at the condition of affairs existing.

"The Provincial Government should investigate the affair at once, and, hereafter, appoint a game warden to preserve the game of this last great moose rendezvous of this portion of the West."

The reference to Indians from across the border would indicate that natives from the south are now making an annual excursion to