

In view of these opinions and of decisions given by the courts, the conclusion was arrived at that the Department should concentrate its efforts in securing for hunting Indians the most favourable treatment that could be accorded by the Provincial authorities, in order that they might not suffer hardship. As a matter of policy apart altogether from any legal consideration, it seems to be in the best interests of the Indians that they should obey game laws which are carefully framed and wisely administered, as the protection afforded by the laws works for the interest of the Indian as well as for the white man. While it is probably true that the Indian hunter has in the past conserved the game, now that hunting is indiscriminate by both Indians and white men, it is necessary to have both controlled or else the game will entirely disappear. Serious charges are made against the Indians, supported by evidence, that there has been wanton destruction during the close season of animals which were not actually required for food.

It is hoped that the representations which the Department has made, ^{and} will continue to make, to the Provincial game authorities will secure for the Indians greater leniency in the interpretation of the game laws.

As for the fishing privileges granted to the Indians, this is a question which is in a different legal position to that of hunting, as, by a decision of a Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, it was declared that the Federal Government has control of the issue of fishing leases and licenses within the Territories and the Provinces of Manitoba,

Indian Affairs. Letterbook,
5 February 1917 - 20 February 1917, (R.G. 10, Volume 5659)

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