

or otter skins with the Government tag, to return these tags immediately to the proper department; thus, we are unable to establish in a satisfactory manner whether or not these beaver or otter skins really come from Ontario. This inconvenience will be overcome when the other provinces adopt a fur marking system identical with ours. Such action will also control the shipments of skins taken within the limits of their respective provinces. I do not despair of seeing this system of control universally adopted some day, and, when this is done, we shall have an almost perfect protection of the wild life, which is, after our forests, one of our greatest sources of revenue.

With this object in view, and for the securing of greater co-operation in the regulation of the fur trade, I beg to move the following resolution:

#### CO-OPERATION IN THE REGULATION OF THE FUR TRADE

That, in view of the increased impetus given to trapping operations by the high price of furs, and by more active competition in the trade, there is now much greater danger than hitherto of a very serious decrease in the supply of some of our most valuable furbearers, and even, in some cases, of their entire disappearance.

That experience proves that valuable statistics of much of the wild life of the country, so desirable for ensuring by timely action the perpetuation of declining species, may be best secured by a departmental control of the trade in raw furs.

That this desirable control, instead of being a burden upon the public, may be made a source of income by the imposition of a small royalty upon raw skins; and that nothing is more reasonable than that such small royalty should be contributed to the state from the vast fur industry, based mainly upon the wild life of the public domain.

That one of the chief difficulties encountered in controlling the trade in raw pelts, the royalties paid thereon, and the statistics thereof—as in the enforcement of all regulations for the protection of wild life—is to be found in the efforts to evade the law by the lawlessly inclined, who take advantage of the differing provisions of law in contiguous provinces and states, to ship the products of the chase through territory imposing less rigorous conditions than those of the province or state whence they originally come. Therefore, be it

*Resolved:* That, while fully recognizing the complete control belonging to each province of the Dominion over the entire wild life of its own territory, it is the sense of this Convention that, so far as possible, uniformity of laws and regulations regarding such wild life, and especially with reference to the control of the trade in raw furs, is extremely desirable, as well as the utmost measure of reciprocity in the enforcement thereof; and, further, that, even in the absence of