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## CANADA TAKES UP REINDEER AND MUSK-OXEN IN A SERIOUS WAY

### Arctic Could Not Only Afford Great Meat Supply, But Domestic Herds Would Give Indians and Eskimos a Livelihood—Prairies Covered With Blue Grass.

Acting on representations made by Vilhjalmur Stefansson, the Arctic explorer, the Canadian government has set up a royal commission to inquire into the possibilities of development domestic herds of reindeer and musk-oxen in the Canadian North.

The exhaustive evidence of the many witnesses who have been heard by the commission for the two days has built up a fund of invaluable information which cannot but quicken the pulse and stir the imagination of every man and woman sprung from that pioneer stock which shaped the destinies of this great continent, says the Ottawa Evening Citizen. That in the Canadian Arctic there exists a new great Empire of the North there can no longer be any doubt. Vast rich country supporting millions of wild caribou and other animal life, which, owing to our contented ignorance, akin to that of Voltaire's, was reserved to Canada itself as "a few acres of frozen territory" has been going to waste. At this time, when production is the most vital factor in the life of the nation and the stability of its credit, a priceless national heritage is running to seed. With organized protection and preservation it can be developed into one of the great meat supplying sources of the world.

The examination of witnesses on the first day emphasized the fact that the climate of the Canadian North is no more severe than that of the populated districts in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and that the intense hardships suffered by explorers and the inhabitants of these northern regions is a popular myth attributed them by a herd-worshipping people. The snow on the immense stretches of the Arctic prairies is blown into drifts by the wind, leaving a level surface of the ground barely covered, so that pebbles one inch in diameter can be seen above the surface, and grass growing several inches through the snow. The prevailing grass, far from being poor or wiry, is blue grass, similar to Kentucky blue grass.

Dr. Alfred Thompson, M. P., who has represented the Yukon in three successive governments, believed that real success would attend the development of domesticated reindeer in the Canadian North, but he considered that private enterprise was needed, and should be forthcoming, as well as government effort.

He stated that in addition to the great value to be derived from the caribou meat supply there were other valuable economic factors to be considered, such as the hides for leather, pelts for clothing, and the milk of caribou cows when domesticated. In regard to the utilization of the hides for leather he stated he knew personally one man in Dawson who had been approached by a large firm of English leather manufacturers with a view to arranging for the export of caribou skins.

Mr. Parker, inspector of Indian agencies, stated that in his opinion the unsuccessful attempts to domesticate reindeer hitherto, particularly in Newfoundland and Labrador, were chiefly due to these experiments being conducted on the side lines instead of as developments of vital importance. He also affirmed that the herders had been allowed to become indolent and dishonest, resulting in poaching becoming prevalent to an alarming extent. He considered there was nothing in the Canadian north, either in regard to climatic conditions or to the possibilities of domesticating reindeer, that would prevent the success of the development of domesticated caribou, provided that efficient supervision was obtained and proper police supervision exercised.

Capt. Bernier, who has done a considerable amount of Arctic exploration, gave testimony in regard to musk-oxen and the possibilities of domesticating these animals. He stated that musk-ox meat was excellent and even superior to caribou. He considered that if caught young they could be domesticated very easily and prove of great economic value.

## Storm In Boston Over Movies and Censorship

### Nearly Thousand People at Meeting at Which Strong Statements Are Made—Proposed Legislation to Control Character of Pictures.

(Boston Globe.)

Charges that "filthy and indecent" moving pictures are being shown to the young people of Massachusetts, and reported before the committee chairman and a witness as to rumors of alleged purposes to "buy out" legislators, punctuated a hearing held by the legislative committee on mercantile affairs in the State House this morning, on bills which would provide state censorship of moving pictures.

State Chairman Joseph E. Knox was called upon to report on the bills. He said he had come to him that a large amount of money was being sent into Massachusetts, run off into ragged fringes in the aisles and occasionally applauded the proponents of the censorship bill, only to be interrupted by the gavel of the chairman.

Preston Clark, as petitioner of House Bill 222, was the first speaker. Mr. Clark declared that it is as necessary to safeguard public morals by the health of workers from injury in the matter of safeguarding us from the influence of motion pictures which are destructive to character.

He said that the industry is opposed to any legislation designed to put a check on the pictures now being shown, but declared that it is shortsightedness, as the industry has prospered in all cases of public control and has been helped by wise co-operation.

"Four states have spoken on this matter," said he, "and they do not regret it. The young people of today are the citizens of tomorrow and on them depends the success of our institutions and the perpetuation of our civilization. They should be given the best possible chance for clean living. The motion picture now say censorship presents difficulties. We frankly admit the difficulties. But they are surmountable. It is this right and if it is then we must surmount the difficulties as best we may. They will be surmounted."

He charged that the industry, in which some \$700,000,000 is now invested, has strangled censorship legislation in 23 states already.

Nathaniel F. Forsythe, chairman of the committee on motion pictures, supporting the bills, declared that the industry is shortsighted, and that the bills are necessary to protect the young people of the state from the influence of motion pictures which are destructive to character.

Some Pictures Cited.

Mr. Forsythe commenced by describing the nature of certain pictures which he said have been shown in Massachusetts. He enumerated scenes of the killing of priests, brutal treatment of children, and the like. He then cited "Flames of the Flesh" which he said showed suicides, scenes in a Chinese den, and a house of ill-fame.

Attempts of his committee to drive out such pictures by submitting good ones had failed, he declared, because of the inability of their sponsors to compete with the large picture picture combine. Suggestions of co-operation with movie men were turned down, he said.

"We are convinced that such brutality and such suggestiveness have no place

in the lives of American manhood and womanhood, much less their children," said he. "In Boston the censorship powers are delegated to Mr. Casey, who accepts the judgment of the National Board of Censorship. But this board is national only in name, for it is controlled by people in the industry. I have here a statement showing a budget of \$2,000,000 of the board of which \$2,000,000 more was contributed by people connected with the motion picture industry."

"Of 1,100 pictures examined by the Pennsylvania state censors 178 were found to be objectionable, and only 40 were approved by the national board. Of the 178 objectionable pictures 40 were approved by the national board and 138 were not."

"The National Board of Censorship for Moving Pictures," he charged, "is only a whitewash in the opinion of those who have studied the matter. And we here accept what the industry forces upon us. This 'Action of Souls' was planned to be shown and is being shown. We complained to the mayor, but without anything being done. Laws preventing children under fourteen attending movies unaccompanied by their parents are unenforced. Furthermore, they are ineffective, because scores of children wait for the door for some older person to take them in, and plenty of children see improper plays when escorted by adults. Furthermore, he said, it doesn't control the seeing of plays 'by the children of our state' because of the large number of children under sixteen who are most subject to pictures of sex."

Claims They Are Unfair.

Mr. Forsythe then proceeded to charges that the motion picture men have been guilty of unfair methods in trying to sway off the censorship bill. He read a statement purporting to come from one picture organization to another urging that they should not support the bill, and that it would ruin the industry and no picture of interest to the public could be shown under censorship.

He held it immediately with an affidavit by an unnamed woman, who charged that at a Somerville moving picture house a boy had been paid by the management to circulate petitions against the bill for movie patrons to sign.

According to the affidavit, the boy, in passing out his slips, said: "If you want to see any more pictures you better sign this; there's a bill before the legislature which will prevent you seeing any more pictures if it passes."

The theatre manager, she deposed, later delivered an address to the audience stating that under censorship no "snappy pictures" could be shown.

"The censorship board of the city of Worcester," she said, "is unanimously in favor of state censorship."

Some opponents of the measure claim that the movies will cleanse themselves gradually by evolution. They claim pictures have become cleaner in the last ten years. I want to call your attention to the statement made by the secretary of the Pennsylvania board, that he had never seen such unclean pictures as in the past six weeks. At that rate it will be over a century before we arrive at decent movies through evolution.

How It Works in Ontario.

"In Ontario they have had censorship for eight years. At first there were 90 per cent of the pictures submitted which required some sort of elimination. But now, as the industry knows the Ontario board will not accept that kind, less than 30 per cent need correction."

Mr. Forsythe claimed that the bill, calling for an unpaid board of nine members, three of them women, to be appointed by the governor, was democratic in policy and sure to bring satisfactory results.

Senator Tarrell of the committee interrupted him to inquire: "Mr. Forsythe, you are familiar with

the general type of pictures being shown in Boston?"

"I have seen 200 within a year," was the reply.

"Do you think they are more theatres that are showing obscene films?"

"It isn't a question of theatres; it is a question of films. Many theatres of good reputation have had films passed on to them."

"Do you think they are more detrimental to the morals of the young than things in the public press, such as the Boker for the State Federation of Women's Clubs?"

"Mrs. Kirkland, a member of the Malden Board of Censorship, said that she had not intended to infer that Massachusetts legislators could be influenced by money, but had rather taken the point of view that they could not."

Leslie L. Smith told the committee that he came to voice the unanimous vote of the State Grange favoring state censorship.

"Mrs. John L. Grandin put the Y. W. C. A. on record as heartily in favor of the bill, as did Mrs. M. G. Boler for the State Federation of Women's Clubs."

"Mrs. Kirkland, a member of the Malden Board of Censorship, said that she had not intended to infer that Massachusetts legislators could be influenced by money, but had rather taken the point of view that they could not."

Senator Knox's statement was applauded and Mrs. Miller stated that she had not intended to infer that Massachusetts legislators could be influenced by money, but had rather taken the point of view that they could not."

## WIRELESS PHONE FOR FOREST PROTECTION

(Bangor Commercial.)

The timber states on the Pacific coast are certainly making long strides in their efforts to lessen and minimize the losses resulting from forest fires. Not long since these states instituted a system of airplane service for the early discovery of forest fires and after a year of trial it has been found that excellent results have been obtained. Now government officials in Oregon of the availability of the forest service department of agriculture have been making preliminary tests in Oregon of the availability of the wireless telephone in the belief that this invention can be utilized extensively in fire prevention work in the forests. While at present there are conditions limiting wireless telephone transmission it is claimed that the results thus far attained are satisfactory.

One of the sets used in the tests was installed on Mount Hood, Ore., where the problem of providing satisfactory support for the antenna was a difficult one, since a mast was needed which would be strong enough to resist the winds of eighty-mile gales that sweep the mountains. At the same time the mast had to be light enough for them to be able to raise and lower it before and after forest fires.

A fifty-foot bamboo pole was finally selected in the support.

One of the telephone conversations between the sets, some of which were ten miles apart, the voice carried very clearly and was about as loud as over a wire. The signals from many stations scattered over the continent were picked up. On Mount Hood they often were so loud as to be audible in any part of the cabin.

"To tell the doctor you've got the grip and have him tell you you had better go home, you had enough."

**"Mother said I could"**

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