

statistics of one of the country's chief natural resources, the resource that first attracted the outside world to our shores. But it is safe to say, that millions of dollars worth of furs of the finest quality obtainable are exported annually from our Northwest Territories. Furs constitute the main available resource, and capturing fur-bearing animals is the occupation of practically the entire population of those territories at the present time.

Government

Control of North-
west Fur Trade

In an address which I gave before the Commission of Conservation two years ago on the "Conservation of our Northern Fur Resources," I pointed out that the Danish Government administers the fur trade of Greenland as a government monopoly, and has thus been able to exercise a great degree of control, with a view to ensuring the conservation of the fur resources, and, what is of still more vital importance, the conservation of the health of the natives by protection from foreign traders. So far as I have been able to ascertain, this policy has met with success. Why should not a similar policy succeed when applied to our Northwest Territories? The policy of state ownership of public utilities has its adherents and opponents, but the state ownership of natural resources is not in the same category, and the state ownership of certain resources, such as forests, has undoubtedly proved successful, from both the point of view of conservation and of revenue. A discussion of this subject in these introductory remarks would be out of place and I have enlarged upon it elsewhere. It is desirable, however, that all who are interested in the conservation of our wild life, and particularly the fur-bearing and game animals, should consider the suggestion that these wild life resources in the Northwest Territories might be administered as a government monopoly, and for three reasons: First, as a means of securing adequate protection for these resources; second, as a source of revenue; and, third, in order to safeguard the native population, which is dependent upon and is the chief means of harvesting the crop.

Reservations and Sanctuaries

In addition to the protection of wild life in the Northwest Territories and Yukon and of migratory birds under the international treaty, the Dominion Government is actively conserving the wild life in another direction, namely, by the establishment of natural reservations under the Dominion Parks Act. The wild life in all the national parks is protected, and these parks comprise an area of nearly 9,000 square miles. But certain parks, such as the Wainwright Buffalo park, the Foremost Antelope reserve and Elk Island park, are maintained solely for the conservation of native mammals that would otherwise