

pathy with the men from the West, particularly the representative from Saskatchewan, who stated his troubles in connection with the Indians in so able a manner. While people sympathize with the Indians to some extent, it is not right to give them a monopoly of the big game, and it is my opinion that something should be done to straighten out that matter.

Mr. J. A. KNIGHT (Chief Game Commissioner, Nova Scotia): The Indian is not a great issue with us; some of them are engaged in a small way in agricultural pursuits and work in the lumber woods during the winter season. Few of them depend to any extent upon hunting for a livelihood. We sometimes have trouble with them, particularly with regard to beaver. They kill the beaver, and it is not easy to discover the offenders. But the Indians do not market the furs outside the province; and so would not kill them off if they did not have the assistance of white men. Let me give you an illustration. For several years we have had a close season for beaver in Nova Scotia, with a view to restoring them. A fur-buyer in Nova Scotia shipped some beaver skins to St. Louis, Mo., a month or so ago, but the St. Louis fur-buyer refused to handle them. That is an illustration of the benefit of co-operation in game protection. The St. Louis fur-buyer telegraphed the Nova Scotia man that he would not handle the skins, and the latter, realizing that he was caught, went to our game inspector and made a clean breast of the matter.

The Indians are hard to deal with in the matter of trapping beaver, because it would take an army of game wardens to watch them. It is easier, perhaps, to put a stronger check on the fur-buyer, and, in that way, prevent the killing of the beaver.

Game protection is not a new thing in Nova Scotia. It must be nearly 150 years since we passed our first migratory bird law. Dr. Hewitt referred to the importance of game societies as agents for game protection. In Nova Scotia we have what I think is, with one exception, the oldest game society in North America, the Nova Scotia Inland Game and Fishery Protection Association. The first one established in America still exists, I believe, in the state of New York. For many years the Nova Scotia Game Society were the chief agency of game protection in our province. They received a government grant and administered and enforced the laws. They received the license revenue, or the greater part of it, and used it for the purposes of their society. Recently, we organized a game commission. Dr. Baker spoke of the newly-organized Game Conservation Board of British Columbia; I am not sure that Nova Scotia was not the first province to introduce that method of game protec-