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OFFICE OF GAME COMMISSIONER

411 Dunsmuir St.,
Vancouver, B. C.

June 23rd, 1930.

W.E. Ditchburn, Esq.,
Indian Commissioner for British Columbia,
Victoria, B. C.

Dear Sir:-

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of June 21st with enclosed copy of letter from Mr. Harper Reed, Indian Agent at Telegraph Creek, regarding the closed season on beaver.

In reply I beg to inform you that while I believe there should be a closed season for beaver in certain districts, there are other districts where such a closed season is not of vital importance and where it would be liable to work a great hardship on trappers who have conserved their beaver and on some Indians who are to a great extent dependent on the meat for food and the money they obtain from the sale of the skins.

It is not possible to enforce the law unless the whole of the Province is closed up, and it is even doubtful whether it could be enforced if this were done. You will remember that when there was a closed season for beaver some years ago it was discovered afterwards that trapping had been carried on to a very large extent and that piles of skins have been either hidden or secretly exported from the Province.

I think it might be advisable to call Mr. Reed's attention to the fact that the conservation of fur bearing animals must, under the circumstances, rest with the trappers. They now have their trap lines registered and if the beaver are scarce, they should get together and decide that they will not trap them. It seems to me that it is simply a matter for a few Indians of standing to get together with the white trappers and set an example. If they will do this, the Game Department will do all in its power to assist them and will make strenuous efforts to prosecute anybody who steals furs from other peoples trap lines.

I may say that I have given the question of a closed season for beaver most serious consideration and I have come to the conclusion that under the present state of affairs the matter rests absolutely in the hands of the trappers themselves.

Yours very truly,

"A. Bryan Williams"

Game Commissioner.

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