

and ownership, and one poaches against the other. Our theory is that we should have it definitely set aside as a preserve where we would have full and complete control over the animals.

I would like to take this beaver business one step further. When we get to the point where the beaver population alone will maintain the resident population,—and it will—it is already doing it at Prince Rupert—then we will close those preserves to the taking of all other types of fur. That is complementary to the scheme. As soon as we get the beaver to a point where the beaver crop will maintain the population that takes the pressure off all other kinds of fur, and we will develop the marten, the fisher, and the lynx, and all the other wild animals that do not respond to the fur farming methods in semi-captivity. We can keep the mink, the fox and the raccoon and several other species in semi-captivity but you cannot put a lynx in semi-captivity. A fisher won't breed in captivity. Marten experiments have been disappointing. Those animals have to be developed in the wilds, and this is all complementary to the beaver development plan. As soon as we take the pressure off the other fur bearers and maintain the population on beaver, those others will benefit.

Mr. MACNICOL: You bar their capture for a while.

The WITNESS: Properly bar the taking of them for a period.

These things serve another purpose. It is not only for what these sanctuary areas will produce themselves but it is a nucleus that will reseed the whole surrounding district. Martin, fisher, lynx and various types of foxes are all more or less migratory. You cannot keep them on a preserve, and if you protect them on a preserve they will spread and re-seed all the other areas around it.

There is another development—and I am going away into the future—as soon as you get a producing area that will maintain the resident population you can immediately set aside as a preserve the country adjoining it; and we are quite convinced that if our ideas are given a fair trial, and if we achieve the success that we hope for, we won't have any difficulty in persuading the governing bodies to set aside further preserves because the idea will sell itself just as the muskrat proposition sold itself. We started up with Thomas Lamb with 54,000 acres and next with Summerberry with 135,000 acres and next with Two Islands with 160,000 acres and then with Connolly lake with 100,000 acres, then we got out of the province altogether and went into Saskatchewan. That is the way the thing grows. Nothing succeeds like success.

Mr. MACNICOL: You mention Thomas Lamb in connection with beaver. Was he the first person to bring beaver into that country?

The WITNESS: No. Actually the history of Thomas Lamb and the beaver is pretty much this—

The CHAIRMAN: Didn't we go into that pretty fully at the last meeting?

Mr. MACNICOL: No, this is important.

The WITNESS: He had three beaver houses on his place when he started—

Mr. MACNICOL: Were they native beaver or New York beaver?

The WITNESS: Native beaver. Then, in his second or third year—Tom is a great little advertiser and he got the people in New York state interested. They gave him three pairs of beaver, shipped them into The Pas and he put them on his ranch. He got them late, so late that they did not have a chance to lay in a supply of food. This is the story that I know. All that winter, Lamb, who is the proud father of nine children—

Mr. MACNICOL: Wonderful children.

The WITNESS: —his children spent almost all winter taking bits of poplar and alder and putting them through the ice and kept those beaver alive. They actually fed them through the ice and he actually brought them through the