

future of the moose would be assured. Mr. Clarke saw when cutting hay on the south side of Lake Jolly numerous signs of the red deer and their young, and later on, several have been seen looking sleek and fat, showing that they had wintered well. He thinks that if this number could be supplemented by as many more does we would soon have a good showing of this attractive game. Partridges seem to be dying out. Mr. Clarke would like to get a few settings of pheasant's eggs, as he thinks that Bear River is a most perfect place for them. Bears and otters very scarce. Martens extinct. He trusts that the legislation passed at the last session of our Local Legislature, incorporating the Rossignol Land Co., may forever prove inoperative, as it sounds the death knell of large game in western Nova Scotia, should the Act be made operative.

COMMISSIONER PRITCHARD, New Glasgow, reports as follows:—The Indian is now the greatest obstacle there is to contend with in carrying out the Game Laws. John Cope, Indian, brought out of the woods last winter the carcasses of 15 moose, the majority of which I have every reason to believe he had killed himself on the borders of Halifax and Guysboro' Counties. He evaded the law by taking with him several Indians consisting of men and boys. John Martin, Indian, brought out 5 carcasses in the same way. I succeeded in obtaining the testimony of the witness against him, but it was so vague that I failed in obtaining a conviction. The former, John Cope, I had no substantial evidence against. I obtained convictions against two men, Hudson and Hallett, of Country Harbor, in Guysboro' County, for hunting and killing moose out of season, but with a great deal of labor and expense which might partly have been avoided had the constables done their duty. The accompanying letter of Mr. Jenner will explain. The reward of \$50.00 was claimed by Mr. Geo. W. Fraser, your agent at Lower Caledonia, and paid by me to him for information.

From my own observations and reliable testimony of others, I am able to report that moose are as plentiful in this district as they were the season before last, but at least two-thirds of them are cows. I called your attention to this fact in my last report. The decrease of the bull moose in this district I wish particularly to bring under your notice. Very few moose were killed in this district last season with the ball or by the snare, save by the Indians, and the law in reference to the cows was not to my knowledge violated. I have received valuable assistance in enforcing the law from Mr. Jenner, your agent at Sherbrooke, and from Mr. Geo. W. Fraser, of Lower Caledonia. I have also to acknowledge the courtesy of several sportsmen who have informed me of the locality of snares.

Partridges were more numerous last season than they have been for 20 years in this district. The destruction of these birds was very great last fall. It appears to me that the opening season is too early by a fortnight than it should be, as the birds bagged in September are