

is the present vandalism against Nature to be checked? There is but one final solution. As in the case of our timber supply, the wild life of this country can only be permanently handed down in refuges and protected areas established throughout the length and breadth of the land.

#### CANADA'S GAME PRESERVES.

Fortunately the Government of Canada has launched into the forestry question with energy and far-sighted intelligence; and fortunately the growth of sentiment in favor of providing more adequate protection for our game has already resulted in the establishment of several sanctuaries for wild life. In the United States fifty-one federal bird reservations and twelve state and national game preserves have been created. In Canada we have no reservations providing specially protected breeding-grounds for birds; but seven reserves exist for the protection of large game and incidentally smaller varieties; and three large tracts are now set aside for captive bison. Two areas of forest land will likely be set aside immediately, one in the Rainy River country bordering on the State of Minnesota, and one in the Moose Mountains of Southern Saskatchewan. No steps have yet been taken to provide a haven of refuge for the large herd of wapiti or elk in Northern Manitoba. In the district of the Riding Mountain Forest Reserve lingers the second largest herd of wapiti in the world; and only the establishment of a game refuge in that quarter will prevent the ultimate extinction of this magnificent deer in Canada.

Every territory and every province should have animal and bird refuges, and not till this has been accomplished can it be said that we have sufficiently guaranteed the perpetuation of animated Nature around us.

#### AGITATION NEEDED.

The grand object to which such organizations as the Canadian Forestry Association, the National Association of Audubon Societies, the National Conservation Commission and others have pledged themselves is the direct outcome of a desire, as yet all too limited, to insure the productive, commercial and æsthetic necessities of the future. The people must be further awakened

to the true state of affairs. A great warning must be uttered broadcast, and our legislatures given every assistance towards accomplishing the permanent preservation of our natural wealth. Above all, it must be forcibly brought to the minds of the people of this country, that if her citizens expect to enjoy the fruits of prosperity in the future, the laws of Nature, the laws of mankind and the laws of the state must be obeyed. And let us not forget that if the time should ever come when the wild creatures should be exterminated from our land it would exact a price which would be beyond the power of humanity to satisfy.

Notwithstanding the fact that Canada still possesses an enormous forest area, that the range of her cultivated lands increases annually and that thousands upon thousands of her rich acres have yet to know the plough, it seems all too evident that we have already arrived at the opening of a new period and that upon this generation must rest the responsibility of saying on what terms and in what localities that great natural heritage which has come down to us from the past shall be turned over to the generations to come after us.

Mr. T. N. Willing, Chief Game Guardian of Saskatchewan, also gave a paper which will be found on page 137 of this issue of the JOURNAL. Mr. Willing noted the decrease in the numbers of game animals in the province and the causes of this, also the reasons for the preservation of game. He advocated a close season for all birds in spring, the prohibition by landowners of hunting on their enclosed or cultivated lands and the establishment of game reserves, especially on the forest reserves. The Government also, he thought, should conduct experiments in the propagation of game on the forest reserves. The killing of timber wolves, coyotes, weasels and other animals inimical to game should be encouraged and the question of preserving the beaver and the antelope should have special attention.

Some discussion then took place on the papers, a number of instances of the fecundity of the beavers and of groves cut down by them being cited.

Mr. H. L. Lovering, of Regina, speaking from the standpoint of the nurserymen, strongly commended the