

province to-day. We have no Indians to speak of, and the few we have are no menace to the big game, for they are too lazy to hunt. I have never heard of any depredation or violations of the law by the Indians of New Brunswick. We have increased not only the big game of our province, but also the beaver. For years, we prohibited the killing of beaver, and the results have been so effective that, during the last three or four years, we have allowed killing under permit from the Department of Lands and Mines. We receive quite a revenue from our beaver permits; those who take them out have to pay two dollars per beaver killed. I would be very much in favour of the fur business being handled by the Provincial Government. Instead of selling permits, we should do the killing ourselves, thus doing away with the violations of the law which now take place.

Some two years ago we received a letter from the Dominion Food Controller, asking if we would allow the killing of some 2,000 deer. My answer was that we had not the deer to spare. I believe that to have consented to do so would have amounted to the extermination of our moose and deer. I am sure that you would like to hear from our Chief Game Warden, who will be able to give you a good deal of information.

M^r. J. A. GAGNON (Chief Game Warden, New Brunswick): Under the energetic direction of our Minister of Lands and Mines, we now have on our statute book a very good game law. We have about 45 temporary game wardens on duty, who are doing good work, in co-operation with the forest rangers, who are also charged with the protection of game. I think I am safe in saying that, during the past year, the game in our province has been better protected than for many years. As evidence of that, it has been observed that lumbermen are taking much more domestic meat to their camps this winter than formerly.

I am not quite satisfied with the regulations respecting beaver that we have now, but we will improve them before long. Under those regulations some abuse is made of the use of permits granted by the Department. However, our beaver have increased considerably during the last few years. With respect to our big game, the deer are certainly on the increase. From the information at hand, the moose is also on the increase; if not, it is undoubtedly holding its own. I do not know that we ever had any trouble with respect to the Indians. They are few in numbers, and they are subject to the game laws the same as white men; so far as I know, they have observed the game laws even better than the white men. Our trouble there is entirely with white men. I am absolutely in sym-