

It is urged by many that the poor settlers in the back country should be permitted to kill deer at all seasons of the year. And without looking into the matter this sounds reasonable.

As the law is at present, settlers, also Indians in unorganized territories, are not amenable to any of the provisions of the game laws in as much as they may kill all they require for their own use or that of their families, but must not otherwise dispose of any. And this privilege is being abused in a manner that no doubt was never contemplated by the Legislature. I have known muskrats and beaver taken under this provision; and when the parties were remonstrated with, they coolly said they had been killed for food. Kill a beaver, destroy a skin worth from \$10 to \$12, for fifty cents' worth of meat. Had the party who trapped them not known where he could dispose of the pelts, those animals would never have been caught.

I submit, and have urged, that the animals that are thus allowed to be taken should be clearly specified in the act, and that they should be restricted to the taking of deer, moose and caribou alone. This is a striking illustration of the wisdom and propriety of hedging round unthinking and improvident persons with such restrictions as will effectually prevent them from doing anything the Legislature never contemplated they should do.

As to poor settlers' rights, how many of them, or what percentage of our population ever hunt any at all? There are not twenty per cent. of the settlers in any newly opened townships who ever either fire a shot, handle a steel trap, or set a dead-fall. No doubt there are a number, but they too are in a small minority who annually spend ten days or two weeks in the fall of the year in the woods to have a deer hunt and a few days' fishing. But at no other season of the year do those men ever handle either a rifle or