

increasing the number of birds, and, when the numbers justify it, birds for restocking might be transferred to districts where this would be an advantage.

It may not be out of place here to point out the great destruction of game wrought by the coyote. During 1908 bounty was paid in Saskatchewan on 141 gray wolves and over 15,000 coyotes. If we assume that a coyote destroys on an average one bird a day for a year, we would see that the killing of those coyotes had saved the lives of over 5,000,000 birds, or enough to have provided each man, woman and child in Saskatchewan at the end of 1908 with 14 birds.

Gray and timber wolves have proved very destructive to big game in the northern portion of our province and in the country beyond, and also have been troublesome on the ranges in the Cypress Hills district, where all those were killed that bounty was paid on.

We must eliminate competition in the killing of game and preserve it for our sportsmen by cutting out the wolf, weasel, etc. We might then find that, after prairie and forest fires have been kept out for a time, the increase of game would permit the maintenance of liberal game laws that would encourage our young men to indulge more in healthful and invigorating exercise in the open, where they could enjoy the beauties of nature and become more familiar with bird life. Reserves and game refuges should in years to come furnish a constant overflow of game that would radiate from these centres through the surrounding country.

The number and area of forest reserves might well be increased in this province and some lands set aside as public parks and pleasure resorts. It would seem that Saskatchewan had been overlooked in this matter when we look westward and observe the large Dominion Reservation and Museum at Banff stocked with game and exhibits; nearer Edmonton we see a large elk park enclosed and stocked, while on the plains nearing the border of our province

we find the large new buffalo park has been located. I do not think it can be said that no suitable lands can be found in Saskatchewan, the former home of the buffalo, the antelope and other large game.

The problem of how best to prevent the antelope and the beaver from soon becoming extinct is one for consideration and may well be thought over by our legislators, both Federal and Provincial. Bearing on this is the fact that, owing to the prolonged close season for beaver now in force, complaints are received from settlers on prairie streams of the damage the beavers are doing to their much prized timber along the banks, one man pathetically stating that where he had a nice grove previous to the coming of the beaver he has now only a hundred and eighty stumps. If an open season for beaver is proclaimed, it is certain that many newly established colonies will be depopulated; so some other scheme for retaining breeding stock must be devised. It may be that trapping privileges might be granted to the person on whose land a colony occurs, conditional on the protection and maintenance of the colony. On forest reserves trapping of the fur bearing animals should be regularly carried on under supervision of the forest ranger.

There are areas of suitable land about some of our prairie lakes that could be reserved for the antelope and the water fowl. A movement is on foot for the establishing of bird reservations, and much progress has been made along this line by our neighbours to the south. There are many islands in our inland lakes on which the gulls, cormorants, pelicans and other interesting birds nest in vast numbers, and these also should be reserved as permanent refuges and breeding grounds for these birds.

More attention to care of game on Indian reserves should be given by the Indian Department and endeavors made to have the Indians realize the advantage of conforming to the requirements of the game law as to close seasons.

British Columbia Forestry Commission.

The Forestry Commission appointed by the Government of the Province of British Columbia to enquire into the

timber resources of the province, forest preservation and protection, afforestation and kindred subjects held its first