

The WITNESS: It is difficult for me to explain it to you, but they block the house up and leave only one small exit, and there is a hole in the bank where the beaver goes for refuge, and between the two the trapper cuts a hole in the ice across and they take a rat spear—sometimes they use dogs—and they scare the beaver out and he goes back to the house. They chase him out of the house into the bank, and they put in their trench and they chase him back again with a rat spear. One trapper is on his knees over the trench and as the beaver comes out he grabs him by the tail and pulls him out. A great many of the beaver, as Mr. Macdonald well knows, in northern Quebec, and in some instances in northern Ontario, are taken by that trench method. That gives them an excellent opportunity to discard the immature beavers and the females. It is a tremendously difficult job to tell a female from a male beaver by examination. However, we feel that we can build up beaver stocks to ten times their present numbers in a matter of ten years, and in a shorter time if we adopt the policy of restocking these preserves from places where they are plentiful or places where they are a nuisance. We transplant now sixty beaver a year to the two preserves in Ontario, one at Kasagami and the other on the Albany river, and thirty-eight of those, with the permission of the Ontario government and their co-operation, were taken from Algonquin park. They are plentiful there. There is no trapping allowed there but they allow us to go in and take live beavers and transplant them to other parts of the province. We take sixty a year now but plan to extend the program.

Mr. MACNICOL: From Algonquin park?

The WITNESS: Yes. We should be taking 1,000 a year and we could always find places to put them.

Mr. MACNICOL: If you took those beaver from the Algonquin park, say to northern Manitoba, how would you keep them during the first winter?

The WITNESS: We would not need to do that. As a matter of fact there are lots of places in southern Manitoba where we can get them closer. From the Algonquin park now we are taking them up to the Albany river. We trap them there with live traps. People ask, why don't you trap all beaver by that method? One live-trap would nearly cover this table which answers that question effectively. We live-trap beaver in Algonquin park and take them to a shipping point in canoes, ship them to Moosonee and then take them up to canoes where they are disseminated as widely as possible over the 7,000,000 acres we have there as a beaver preserve. The cost is not heavy. Last year, including the cost of our traps and crates, the cost was only \$38 an animal to put them in.

You may ask how we get them. We trap early in the season. Last year we trapped in June; this year we are diverting it until July, because we found we were taking the mothers from their very small young. In nearly all cases the trapper knows about this and he takes the little ones too. We had eight or ten little ones in the crop but four or five of them died. If they were moved when they were older we would save the young ones too. This year we start in July and the trapping will be spread over the following three weeks and we propose to take thirty or forty of them and put them in the Albany district. The ones we put in Kasagami illustrates the co-operation we get from the provinces, because the province of Quebec permits us to live-trap in the province of Quebec and to take the beaver over to the province of Ontario. That is only one concession, and we are very grateful to the province of Quebec for it. The same thing could be extended indefinitely to the other provinces. In Alberta we are transplanting beaver and placing them on the Indian trap-lines. We would like to do it on Beaver preserves. We have not the degree of control over trap-lines that we should have to accomplish our ends. The trap-line is small. Even though you have a group of them together you have divided control