

### BIGHORN SHEEP IN THE SIMILAKMEEN.

This district had formerly one of the finest ranges of sheep country in the Southern part of the Province, but on account of its accessibility and consequent overhunting it became in danger of being ruined. Realizing this, the old Department closed the season for a number of years and had special wardens to enforce it. At certain times when there was danger of poachers from the United States crossing over, which was one of the chief causes of the depletion, one or more of these deputies would stay right up on the range and see that the sheep were not molested.

The result was excellent, the sheep increased and there was every prospect of the range once more attaining its former stock.

All this work of years was done away with within the space of a few months by the new Government, who, upon coming into power, at once dismissed not only the special warden, but the regular one too. Since then the sheep have received absolutely no protection. Whether there are any now left to protect is a matter of considerable doubt.

### GAME RESERVES NEGLECTED

The three game reserves which had been established under the old Department and so carefully preserved that the stock of game in them had not only increased but become quite tame also, were absolutely neglected.

They are now openly hunted, and visitors report that they are locally assured that it is no longer necessary to keep outside the boundaries, and that they would be foolish if they did not avail themselves of the opportunity to have a good hunt on forbidden ground.

Again the work of years was undone.

### CLOSE SEASON FOR SHEEP IN THE SOUTH

After leaving all game at the mercy of the law-breakers for months, the authorities show their inconsistency by declaring an additional close season for sheep in the Lillooet and Kootenay districts. Probably after allowing the poachers to have their way for a sufficient length of time, this was necessary, though before the dismissal of the old staff there were numbers of sheep at any rate in East Kootenay.

As, however, there was no enforcement of the regulations, the only result was that Indians and irresponsibles hunted at will, while the regular big game hunters would not, of course, do so.

### EXPORTATION OF GAME HEADS

Under the old regime the transportation laws had been rigidly enforced with a view to doing away with the disastrous traffic in game trophies.

These laws are now broken with apparent ease, and the old sale of heads seems to be carried on without any effort to stop it.

### PHEASANTS.

Having allowed an open season of one month for hen pheasants in 1918, and almost annihilated the stock under great pressure the authorities continued the raising of pheasants in an effort to undo some of the mischief.

The result was that a number of birds were reared, but at a cost almost treble what it should have been (in fact it would have been probably cheaper to have bought the birds), and then to cap it all, they were turned out just before the shooting season started. Most of the birds must have been quite tame, some of them hardly able to fly. Of course they fell an easy prey to the pot hunters.