

APPENDIX No. 6

By the Chairman:

Q. Many of the appointments to the Commission are made, are they not, in regard to the position held by the appointee. What I mean is that Lieut. Governors and so on are appointed. They are not always selected for their interests in or knowledge of the work?—A. Perhaps I should go back and explain. The enabling Act provided that the Governor in Council could appoint 20 commissioners by Order in Council and that there should be 12 ex-officio members of the Commission. The 12 ex-officio members are composed of the Minister of Agriculture, the Minister of the Interior, and the Minister of Fisheries for the Dominion, and also the Minister for each province who is entrusted with the care of its natural resources. Now, in most cases, that means the Minister of Lands. We have no choice in regard to those ex-officio members. They are there by virtue of their office. In electing members, they appointed 2 from Nova Scotia, 2 from New Brunswick, 1 from Alberta, 1 from Saskatchewan, 1 from British Columbia and the remainder divided between Ontario and Quebec. The Act also provided that where there was a university in a province, there must be one university representative. As a result, one of the representatives from Nova Scotia is Dr. Howard Murray from Dalhousie University; Dr. C. C. Jones is a member as Chancellor of the University of New Brunswick; Quebec representatives are Mgr. Choquette of Laval, Dr. Frank Adams of McGill; from Ontario Sir Edmund Osler, Governor of Toronto University and Sir Sandford Fleming up to his death represented Queens. Dr. Rutherford, dean of the Faculty of Agriculture of Saskatchewan, is from Saskatchewan and Dr. Tory is from the University of Alberta. In British Columbia, up to a recent date, they had no university and Mr. Babcock, following the death of Mr. Hendrie, was appointed for British Columbia.

By Mr. Mowat:

Q. The Commission really only meets once a year?—A. The Commission only meets once a year except occasionally.

Q. Does any branch meet more than once a year?—A. No, except occasionally.

Q. Between you and me, I don't think the Commission is taken very seriously by the country. I think that they look upon the whole work as being done by the permanent officials?—A. The work must be done by the officials. How could you ask the Commission to meet often. To come down to a concrete case, how could you ask Mr. Babcock to leave his work in British Columbia and travel to Ottawa—

Mr. MOWAT: I would not ask him.

The WITNESS: Unless it was something of very vital importance. We have had committee meetings which were in the nature of conferences. The Committee on Fish and Game were anxious to have a meeting last Autumn, but we pointed out to the chairman and to the members of the Committee that it would involve their leaving their homes and travelling to Ottawa possibly at a time which would be inconvenient to many of them. It would also have involved considerable expense. We suggested to the Committee that it would be better to have a wild life conference immediately following the annual meeting when the maximum number of the members of the Committee would be in Ottawa and at a time when it would be most convenient to members of the Commission. They fell in with that idea. We had the conference. We asked the provincial governments to send their chief game guardian and other officials. We asked the Fish and Game Associations in Canada and the other Associations interested in fur-bearing animals. It was held as a joint conference under the Commission of Conservation and the Advisory Board of Wild Life Protection.

By Mr. Loggie:

Q. What department has charge of protecting wild game?—A. Up to a recent date, the Government did practically nothing. Now it is under the Department of the Interior.

[Mr. James White.]