

The result was as disastrous as was expected. The Game Commissioners, with no previous experience and only the help of the Provincial Police and one or two of the old staff who were subsequently taken on again, were totally unable to cope with the situation. For six months game was practically at the mercy of the law-breaker who was not slow to take advantage of the opportunity. A perfect orgy of law-breaking resulted from one end of the Province to the other, and particularly to the south of the 56th parallel.

Even if the Commissioners had been competent they would have been able to accomplish but little, as the amount of money at their disposal was next to nothing. Even that which they had was expended in, to say the least of it, an ill advised manner. A detailed statement of the amount expended in the years 1918 and 1919 would prove most interesting and instructive reading. It would undoubtedly show that only a very small proportion of the money collected from gun licences was expended on the protection of game.

### A FEW OF THE DISASTROUS RESULTS.

#### Wapiti Herd Ordered to be Got Rid of.

In the Winter of 1918, the Government, without any warning, gave orders that the herd of Wapiti, which had been imported at a good deal of expense some years ago for the purpose of re-stocking certain districts, and which had thrived to such an extent that the yearly increase was almost sufficient for the proposed purposes, was to be got rid of. The orders were that there was to be no expense attached to the matter; they could either be given away or destroyed, but be got rid of they must. The Government refused to keep them over the Winter and refused to pay their transportation into Lillooet, and for a time it appeared likely that they would all be given to the Dominion Park at Banff.

Once more the sportsmen put their hands in their pockets and saved the situation and the Wapiti were sent to Lillooet. It was the wrong time of year to handle these animals, but there was no choice, it had to be done, with the result that two fine bulls killed themselves while being crated.

It is only fair to say that the people of Lillooet, not only white but Indians also, assisted in getting the animals to the place of their release.

### THE STONEY INDIAN AFFAIR.

For many years the Stoney Indians came over from Alberta and slaughtered our finest big game, mountain sheep, moose and wapiti, until it became evident that East Kootenay was to be as barren of game as these Indians had rendered Alberta.

The very first work done by the Game Department in 1905 was to get the aid of the N. W. M. Police to drive these Indians out of B. C. back to their own reserves. From then on, no stone was left unturned to keep these Indians out of the Province, and a great proportion of the limited money available was used for this purpose.

The result of this policy was an enormous increase of game. Last year there were open seasons for both moose and wapiti in East Kootenay, whereas both these species were almost extinct when the first steps for their protection were taken.

After all these efforts the authorities actually issued licences to a number of these Indians and this, in spite of the fact that there is special legislation to the contrary.

The mere fact that such a thing should have taken place, whether done through ignorance or from some other cause, is sufficient evidence of the utter unfitness of the present system.