

animals have destroyed their haunts and exposed them to their enemies, and to quote a report from our Commission of Conservation, "Draining swampy areas has destroyed the homes of the muskrat, the mink, the otter and the beaver. The fisher and marten never seem to exist long near man's habitation. Even the fox, which appears to increase near settlements, will decrease if the forests are wholly removed or burned."

How Forests Affect Fur.

As showing the effect of a forest environment on fur, timber or forest wolves have finer fur and of darker colour than those living on exposed prairies.

The herd of buffalo maintained at Elk Island Park, near Lamont, Alberta, though from the same stock as those at Wainwright in the same province, have noticeably become darker in colour since their sojourn in Elk Island Park, this latter being largely a forested area, whereas Buffalo Park is in the prairie district.

If we are to preserve our fur-bearers we must preserve our forests, and in order to safeguard the future of fur-

farming it is imperative that more fur-bearers' sanctuaries be established in forested areas before it is too late.

Our Need of Sanctuaries.

In such sanctuaries, fur-bearers, game animals, and wild life generally would, under proper supervision, increase and multiply unmolested, with the increase overflowing the surrounding country to the profit and recreation of all the people. While from time to time permits could be issued to capture alive fur-bearers in such sanctuaries for needful infusion of new blood in fur-farms, the stock in which for lack of such infusion would soon deteriorate.

Generally speaking, only a small percentage of all our forested lands are owned by private individuals. In the East, the forests are under the control of the respective Provinces, while in the Prairie West and part of British Columbia the forested areas are controlled by the Dominion Government. Our national parks, whose value to the country as game sanctuaries cannot be over-estimated, are situated in the West, but a large portion of the East is covered with vast stretches of forest and swamp lands covered with cedar, portions of



In the game sanctuary of Rocky Mountains Park, Alberta.