

ROCKY MOUNTAIN SHEEP SURPRISED BUT NOT ALTOGETHER AFRAID



“SAVE OUR WILD LIFE!”

A Plea for a Sane and Sensible National Conservation Policy

By John A. Hope

The subject which Mr. Hope has chosen for the text of his article is one upon which he is particularly qualified to write with authority. His long years of experience both in Canada and the Mother Country have provided him with a working knowledge of the methods best suited to Canada's present and urgent needs along the line of Wild Life Conservation. He has made a close study of his subject and has had the satisfaction of seeing many of his recommendations embodied in the present game laws of British Columbia, the province where he has long been recognized as an expert in this particular line. A further article, giving in greater detail the character of legislation and enforcement he recommends, is promised by Mr. Hope.

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THE conservation of Wild Life — and its natural home, the great forested areas — is a national problem as yet unsolved throughout the broad Dominion. But the time has arrived to either solve it, or be prepared to see some of the finest and most valuable species disappear forever within the next twenty-five years. Up to the present little thought has been given this matter by the general public, principally through lack of knowledge, based on the want of education as to its value as an economic asset — an asset in which all, from governments downwards, should be deeply interested as all reap benefits, directly or indirectly, for the following roughly outlined reasons:—

The Value of Wild Life

Because Wild Life in all its varied forms is an important source of revenue annually to the state; a means of livelihood to unknown thousands

of people in the manufacture of arms, ammunition, fishing rods, tackle, traps, canoes, camping and outdoor material innumerable; it is an enormous financial resource of railroads, hotels, outfitters, guides, storekeepers, and many others; it enhances the value of all marketable land — settled and unsettled; it is an emergency food supply that, were it non-existent, would heavily handicap mineral prospectors, explorers, and pioneers of various kinds, including land settlement in the vast hinterlands; it teaches the rising generation the art of wood craft, self reliance, and the use of arms; it provides a living for thousands of native and white trappers, the produce of whose traps totals millions of dollars annually; it is to naturalists a study as fascinating as it is puzzling, so that the life of man is not of sufficient length to become its master; it is the lure that has attracted the hardest men of our race into the undiscovered regions of the

earth and thereby blazed the trail that civilization is following today; it is, in short, the lodestone of this Dominion that has in the past, and will continue in the future on a larger scale if practically conserved, to attract countless thousands of hunters, tourists, nature-lovers, and those in search of health and recreation, not to mention the best class of settlers, from every portion of the civilized world.

The Value of Game Trophies

As sportsmen's trophies of the rifle every species of big game in the Dominion, alive in its native habitat, is worth from hundreds up to thousands of dollars per head to their several provinces. The caribou; the bull-moose; the wapiti and mule-deer stags; handsomest of the cervidae family, — and the mountain goat; are worth at the lowest estimate, three thousand dollars each; while those two coveted prize trophies of