

Canadian Official Record.

Published Weekly by the Director
of Public Information.

Offices: Hope Chambers,
Sparks St., Ottawa.
Tel. Queen 4055 and Queen 7711.



Copies of the CANADIAN OFFICIAL RECORD will be mailed free of charge to members of Parliament, members of the Provincial Legislatures, members of the Judiciary, daily and weekly newspapers, army officers, mayors and postmasters of cities and towns, and to all public officials and institutions who are in a position to disseminate official news.

Subscription Rates.

One year..... \$2.00
Six months..... 1.00

Cheques, money orders and drafts should be made payable to the CANADIAN OFFICIAL RECORD.

EXTRACT FROM ORDER IN COUNCIL No. 2206.

"The Committee of the Privy Council further observes that as this war is being waged by the whole people of Canada, it is desirable that the whole people should be kept as fully informed as possible as to the acts of the Government which are concerned with the conduct of the war, as well as with the solution of our domestic problems; and for this purpose an Official Record should be instituted to be issued weekly for the purpose of conveying information as to all Government measures in connection with the war and as to the national war activities generally."

BIRDS' SANCTUARY ON ST. LAWRENCE

Islands preserved for breeding places by Department of Interior.

Certain small islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence known as Bonaventure Island, Percé Rock and the Great Bird Rocks have been reserved as sanctuary for breeding places for gannet and other birds which threaten to become extinct. An Order in Council giving effect to this was passed on March 29 as follows:—

Whereas the Minister of the Interior reports that certain small islands in the Gulf of St. Lawrence known as Bonaventure Island, Percé Rock, and the Great Bird Rocks group are the breeding grounds of many kinds of birds which are now restricted to these islands, whereas previously they were generally abundant on all the islands and coasts of the Gulf of St. Lawrence;

That Bonaventure Island and the Bird Rocks are now the last breeding places on the North American continent for the gannet and the existence of this species and other birds on these islands is being seriously menaced by hunters of eggs and others who not only carry away the eggs, but willfully slaughter the birds;

Furthermore that the Province of Quebec has passed an Act for the protection of the birds on these islands;

Therefore, His Excellency the Governor General in Council, under the authority of the Migratory Birds Convention Act, 7-8 George V, Chapter 18, and subject to the provisions of sections 8, 9 and 11 of the Order in Council of the 23rd April, 1918, (P.C. 871), is pleased to order and it is hereby ordered that the killing, capturing, taking, injuring or molesting of migratory game, migratory insectivorous or migratory nongame birds, or the taking, injuring, destruction or molestation of their nests or eggs, shall be and the same is hereby prohibited within the following areas:—

A strip of land ten feet in depth, along the cliff, and the cliff itself on the north and east sides of Bonaventure Island in the County of Gaspé;

The Bird Rocks and a one mile zone surrounding the same;

Percé Rock and a one mile zone surrounding the same, except that where the mainland is distant less than one mile from Percé Rock, the shore of such mainland shall constitute the boundary of the zone

GAME AND FUR ANIMALS CONSIDERED AS RESOURCES

Economic value of Wild Life shown, and utilization of Dominion Parks as Game Reserves explained by speakers at Conservation Convention.

At the annual meeting of the Commission of Conservation, which was this year given up to the discussion of wild life conservation, the universal view was that game and fur-bearing animals and bird life should be considered as a great natural resource. The Hon. Mr. Meighen, Minister of the Interior, speaking at the convention, referred to the value and importance of wild life as a resource. His remarks, in part, taken from the official report, now being published, of the convention, are reproduced below, as follows:—

"This conference is called on the advice of the Advisory Board on Wild Life Protection by the Commission of Conservation. The Department of the Interior is especially interested in the conference, and as the head of that department it is indeed a privilege to me to welcome members.

GREAT VALUE OF GAME AND FUR.

"We have come to realize in the Dominion that the conservation of our game is as vital a subject for consideration and attention as is the conservation of any other of our resources. The Dominion of Canada is so situated that wild game is a larger factor in the estimate of our natural resources than it is, perhaps, in many great countries. A large section of the Dominion is valuable for its game and fur-bearing animals more than it is for anything else—indeed, to the utter exclusion of anything else. That great stretch between the eastern bank of Hudson bay and the Atlantic, on the one hand, and the Mackenzie basin, on the other, is valuable for its fur-bearing resources; in fact, as yet it is valuable for little else. Canada is known as the great breeding place of the wild fowl on this continent. Our fur-bearing resources are also very extensive in what are known as the barren lands of northern Canada, but which are not in any sense barren lands. In this district there are tremendous possibilities of greater fur-bearing—and, indeed, meat-bearing—development. I think it was Thompson-Seton who fixed the number of caribou in that country at very many millions, and that it was Mr. Tyrell who referred to them as being like the sands of the sea, not capable of being numbered but only to be estimated numerically on a square-mile basis. It is impossible to conceive that we are not going to extend the geography of Canada, so far as civilization and utilization are concerned, nearer to the Arctic and make use of these vast domains which, while not comparable with the rest of Canada, would, if properly administered, become an exceedingly valuable asset among the natural resources of the Dominion.

CONDITIONS IN UNGAVA.

"There is another reason why I am interested in this conference. Not as Minister of the Interior, but because I am Minister of the Interior I happen to be Superintendent General of Indian Affairs. To the Indian wild life is almost all of life. Possibly for many generations yet the Indian will not be able to subsist, to fight against the inroads of disease, and to maintain himself as a healthy and real Indian, except by access to sufficient wild life to enable him to do so. By reason of the depletion of deer and other game in the Ungava district it is becoming increasingly difficult to sustain the life of the Eskimos and Indians of that territory. It is not that the Department of Indian Affairs has been negligent of them, because direct assistance to the Eskimos and Indians has been on the increase. But such assistance can never take the place of that ability to help themselves which

Indians alone can exercise if they are in the environment of wild life."

From a paper on the subject of the Dominion Parks as wild life sanctuaries, by J. B. Harkin, Commissioner of Dominion Parks, which was read before the convention by F. H. H. Williamson, of the Parks Branch, owing to the illness of Mr. Harkin, is taken the following:—

It is assumed that the subject of wild life sanctuaries was assigned to the Dominion Parks Branch because the Dominion Parks in the West, which aggregate about 10,000 square miles are maintained as game sanctuaries. They have been maintained as such for about ten years and if an exceedingly great increase in wild life is the test of their success then there can be no doubt that sanctuaries, properly and fearlessly administered, would inevitably result not only in the preservation but in the very great increase of all forms of wild life.

GAME IN ROCKY MOUNTAIN PARK.

Perhaps the greatest results have been obtained in the Rocky Mountain Park, of which Banff is the centre. Even in the town of Banff evidence of these results can be seen from day to day. At the most unexpected moments, walking along the streets and paths of the town, a person will meet deer. It is a common practice among residents to have deer eat food from their hands. In fact the deer have become so plentiful that last year some of the residents actually started in circulation a petition to the Government protesting against the depredations of the deer in flower gardens and backyards, and demanding a remedy.

MOUNTAIN GOATS AND SHEEP.

"Ten years ago, in all the districts within easy access of the railway, big game had practically disappeared. Today, a person can sit on the piazzas of the Canadian Pacific Railway Company's hotel at Banff and with a pair of glasses pick out mountain goat along the slopes of Mount Rundle, the jagged saw-tooth mountain that lies directly opposite the hotel.

"I have seen people at the golf links repeatedly stop in their play to watch mountain goat on this mountain.

"The bear has become so plentiful that from time to time, a good many of them have to be shot by the wardens because they have developed a liking for the larders of the citizens. In fact, a few days ago a letter came in from the Alpine Club stating that unless some special means of protection of their property against black bear was provided, it was considered that the club could not open its clubhouse for guests.

"If a person will walk or ride along the main automobile road west of Banff for a few miles, he is sure to see mountain sheep. He may see a few or he may see a couple of hundreds. Often when an automobile proceeds up this roadway it has to slow up in order to let the sheep walk off the road. Photographs of mountain sheep, ordinarily one of the shyest of animals, can be taken from the seat of an automobile.

"In this connection I beg to draw your attention to a few extracts from diaries of the game wardens. These extracts have been picked at random, and cover all our Alberta parks:—

"Sawback district.—'Saw about 150 sheep.'

"Government Ranch and Panther River.—'Counted 35 deer.'

"Ranch to James River.—'Saw about 70 deer in my day's travel.'

"Banff from Lake Louise.—'Saw about 40 deer, 60 sheep, and 14 goat.'

"North end park, Bay River.—'There are quite a lot of moose along north end of park and caribou are plentiful north of Bay River.'

"One of the main reasons of the success of sanctuaries is the fact that wild life very quickly learns that they need have no fear of molestation by man. The deer in the streets of Banff and the mountain sheep in the immediate vicinity of the town bear this out."

INSPECTING LAND BEFORE SEEDING

Chairman of Soldiers' Settlement Board says work now proceeds rapidly.

Mr. W. J. Black, chairman of the soldier settlement board, states that the board's increased land inspection organization in the western provinces would result in overtaking the accumulation of applications for loans. While the ground was frozen it was impossible to inspect lands properly for which returned soldiers had applied, and the board superintendents in the west were instructed to engage as many competent land inspectors as would be necessary to complete this work in time for seeding operations. Telegrams were received from points in the West that this increased organization was being rapidly effected and that the utmost effort was being put forward to meet the situation.

A conference will be held at Saskatoon to report on the best policy to be followed in the three prairie provinces in settling veterans on small holdings near towns and cities. Professor Howes, dean of the Faculty of Agriculture, University of Alberta, Edmonton, will be chairman, and the committee will be composed of a number of experts in such types of farming as gardening, poultry raising and bee-keeping.

LARGER LOANS MADE FOR BETTER HOUSES

Government willing to encourage use of better building materials.

One result of the co-operation of the Commission of Conservation with the Housing Committee is that there has been introduced into the recommendations to be made by the Federal Government something that will help to avert a certain amount of fire waste which goes on in connection with houses, says Conservation.

The Government of Ontario limits the amount which may be spent on a house to \$3,000. The result will inevitably be that cheaper material will be used, and in the Commission's recommendation to the Dominion Government it was suggested that, for a frame house with brick veneer or frame house with stucco and shingle roof, the loan be for \$3,000 if the house contains four or five rooms, and for \$3,500 if there be six or seven rooms; and that if the house be built of brick, stone, or concrete with fireproof roofing material, the loan be \$4,000 for three or four rooms and \$4,500 for six or seven rooms, the period of repayment being thirty years instead of twenty, at 5 per cent. The result will be that every man who wants to build a properly constructed house not only can get a larger sum, but can get it on the same monthly repayment plan as that of which the man who builds the cheaper house has the benefit. In other words, a man can get \$4,000 for thirty years on the same monthly repayment plan as the man who builds the cheaper house can get \$3,000 for twenty years. Of course, the payments in the case of the larger loan extend over a longer period, but the owner has a house of more durable construction.

That principle has now been adopted and will be a direct recommendation by the Dominion Government. In adopting these recommendations the Government is taking a forward step in recommending the adoption of town planning principles in connection with housing schemes and in furthering these measures to secure the best methods of construction.

Railway Mail Service.

During the fiscal year 1917-18, 121.7 miles of additional railway were utilized for mail purposes, making a total actual track mileage over which mail was carried in the Dominion on March 31, 1918, of 35,221.47 miles, as shown by the report of the Post Office Department for that period.