

Q. As far as I am concerned we are through with the beaver program.—A. I think you understand what I have in mind.

The CHAIRMAN: I think the committee understands what you are suggesting, but you may speak of the beaver if you wish.

Mr. MACNICOL: When the vote comes up in the House of Commons everyone in this committee will support the beaver program.

The WITNESS: I think I can say that the beaver program is finished. You understand what I have in mind.

Mr. MACNICOL: As the fur program was brought up by Mr. Ross, would there be any program out near Morley?

The WITNESS: No, you have to go deeper. The Stony reserve lies on the edge of the foot hills. The Stony Indians take a lot of beaver. We should create a preserve in their territory. That is another case where beaver would be of inestimable value; the Bloods, the Peigan, Sarcees and Stonies all would benefit from a beaver preserve in there if it happened to be suitable beaver country. There are beaver there; I do not know how extensive they are.

Mr. MACNICOL: You envisage looking after something out there?

The WITNESS: Yes. I would like to return a moment to the muskrat business.

*By Mr. Matthews:*

Q. What essentials do you look for in the selecting of a preserve?—A. The first essentials, of course, are running water and deciduous trees—alder and poplar and white birch. You find those almost anywhere across northern Canada, but the nature of the terrain has a lot to do with it too. For instance, you can go into an area such as there is around Flin Flon where there is precambrian formation and you will find there hills with nothing but exposed rock. There is water with no beach around it, as you gentlemen have seen many times, where there is a drop from a sheer rock to crystal clear water with not a particle of animal food around the place. There is water but that is all. Those areas would not be suitable for beaver; but what we are trying to get is an area not too rough with plenty of small tributary streams running through alder poplar.

Mr. ALLAN: Many small streams run through there and we do not try to mark them out according to survey lines, but we rather follow the watersheds between streams. You will notice the shape of our areas there. There are none of them regular. An Indian does not, or a trapper does not trap on one side of the stream, he traps as far back as he can travel. He will go back to the headwaters of the streams running into his artery of travel, the main stream, so you make your division at the headwaters. A beaver cannot dam the Assiniboine river or the Red river, but he can dam a little creek. So you go up to the headwaters, and the farther up you go the better the possibilities, because you do not have to put in such a big dam. They usually move up-stream and very rarely downstream. They keep moving up and up until they get into the headwaters of these various waterways.

Mr. MATTHEWS: In respect to the Assiniboine river you said there would be some objection, I presume on the part of the farmers?

Mr. ALLAN: Yes, on account of the flooding of lands. The most notorious place in Manitoba where that administration had trouble on account of beaver was at the South end of Pelican Lake, where the beaver dam flooded out the meadows of the farmers who complained and said, "Take them out of here." I remember one time in the Manitoba department we endeavoured to eliminate a colony of beavers. We tried at first to destroy their dam and thereby make them move away, and every night for a week we broke down their dam but in