

willingly and strongly appreciated the improved conditions. Above all things, it was not long before both game and fur bearing animals showed signs of benefitting under the new conditions.

Alas! the dark days of March, 1918, which proved so disastrous to the Allies in Europe, were also fatal ones for the game of B. C.

Notwithstanding the protests of the sportsmen and delegates from the Board of Trade, the Government saw fit to introduce legislation which abolished the game wardens and put the whole enforcement of the laws back into the hands of the Provincial Police. They did this apparently on their own initiative, without any knowledge of the subject or consultation with any persons capable of giving them proper advice, and re-introduced a system which had already been proved a failure in this Province and in every other country in the world. Numerous authorities could be quoted to show how utterly impossible it is for police to attempt to administer the game laws, but the fact has been so obvious here that it is not necessary to do more than lay before you some of the disasters which the change has brought about. Before doing so, however, a few statistics may be given to show why the business men, who are not sportsmen themselves, should take an interest in the matter.

CONSERVATION OF GAME AS A NATIONAL ASSET

The following is abstracted from an article in "Forest and Stream" of March, 1920, written by the well-known authority on Alaskan and British Columbian game, Charles Sheldon, of the Smithsonian Institute, who writes on the question of Alaskan Big Game. The game and fur-bearing animals of Northern British Columbia and Alaska are identical, and the conditions are much the same, so that his arguments are applicable to both countries:—

"The problem of game conservation is too often considered as a simple one, whereas it is really very complex, and both local opinion and that of outsiders is often formed too hastily, from too narrow a point of view which is lacking in foresight. For this very reason the Western States lost most of their game only to discover when it was too late that it could not be restored and that an asset of great value had been lost for ever. We all agree that in order to provide great grazing areas for cattle most of the buffalo had to go. But what would it mean to the Western States to-day if antelope, mountain sheep, deer, wapiti and bears had been intelligently preserved so that a proper amount of shooting could now attract to these States the very large amount of funds and employment which sportsmen might bring them? The States are now advertising widely to invite the sportsmen to hunt the slender remnants of the game that is left. The vast waste areas of these States have been denuded of game and are now of no economic value. They remain as monuments of the lack of foresight in establishing in time sound methods of game conservation. The game of Alaska should be viewed as a great permanent economic asset to the territory. The stock of game should be increased when necessary, or maintained in its present abundance where the numbers are now sufficient. Exactly as there is a yearly surplus of cattle or horses or sheep on a ranch, or chickens on a chicken farm, this surplus should so be used for the maximum economic gain as not to impair the full numbers necessary for breeding stock. This breeding stock will always satisfy those who regard game from an aesthetic point of view. The yearly surplus should be used, first, to satisfy, when conditions require it, the food necessities of the local people; second, to attract outsiders for sport, and thus bring into the country the net profits resulting from sport. Indirectly along with these the new country will be benefitted by attracting to it people who will advertise it and make its economic possibilities widely known. Thus if wisely handled, under sound laws which shall be properly enforced, so long as parts of Alaska remain a wilderness the game supply can be maintained and continued as a great asset both for local food supply and for the profit and indirect advantages resulting from sport."