

OM

Ottawa, March 22, 1943.

~~J.300~~  
J.351

Mr. Lloyd

With reference to the Director's question about reports of abundance of predators in Jasper National Park monthly reports, I would say that they indicate that the Supervising Warden, from whom they must come, sees things in a different light from myself. The same is true of the Supervising Warden of Prince Albert National Park. Banff Park, after a careful search, reports some 8 cougars in the park and 4 more in the ranch outside the park (where the warden has always done his best to kill them). The situation is viewed dispassionately and regarded as satisfactory. Jasper Park reports tracks of three cougars in the lower Athabasca and others elsewhere as a sort of climax to a report of abundant coyotes and increasing wolves and cougars. The Supervising Warden dislikes cougars and other predators and when I was there wanted to start a Splitfire fund with the park warden. This is not to be taken as meaning that he is a poor supervisor for the coloured magnifying glasses in reading his statements on predators. If this is done, it is seen that the cougar situation in Jasper is quite comparable with Banff. So is the wolf and coyote situation.

The <sup>intendant</sup> Supervisor was questioned earlier in the winter regarding such reports and he referred to portions of my report in which I pointed out that certain portions of Jasper Park threatened to become wild life slums through overgrazing. He said that the predators were being left unmolested there, and I would suggest that the whole matter be left as a subject to be studied and reported on by Dr. Cowan. It is interesting to recall that the Supervising Warden considered for the conditions noted by me, but agreed to put in protected plots. These have been in for a year now, and photographs are on the top of file J.300 herewith. In my opinion they indicate overgrazing, especially bearing in mind that the sites were selected by the warden service, who have no particular training in ecological experiments.

Attch B37

Am Smart  
3 agree with Dr. Cowan

March 23, 43

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