

their own police forces. As already stated we think there should be one police force for the whole of the Province and are opposed to separate municipal forces.

122. The Royal Canadian Mounted Police has not yet taken over the policing of Winnipeg, Regina, Calgary, and other large cities in the Prairie Provinces and it may be that it will be opposed to policing the City of Vancouver and surrounding municipalities and the City of Victoria, in which case every effort should be directed to making these localities the only exceptions.

123. In this event we recommend that the City of Vancouver and surrounding municipalities be constituted one area for police-work and that a Metropolitan Police Force be organized into which the present forces of the Cities of Vancouver and New Westminster, the Municipality of Burnaby, and of the three municipalities on the north shore of Burrard Inlet be merged.

124. If this were done there would then be three police forces in the Province, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the City of Victoria Police, and the Vancouver Metropolitan Police above mentioned. Although the Royal Canadian Mounted Police may be unwilling to undertake policing the City of Victoria and the Vancouver metropolitan police area we have reason to think that it will not be unwilling in the near future to undertake through its Criminal Investigation Branch all criminal investigation or detective work in these areas so that the activities of the two local forces will then be limited to the enforcement of Provincial statutes, municipal by-laws and other routine police-work.

125. If the foregoing recommendations are adopted we are satisfied that not only will there be a very substantial saving to the Province and the municipalities concerned both in personnel and cost of equipment but that the efficiency of our police services will be immeasurably improved.

#### ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE.

126. The estimates for the fiscal year ending March 31st, 1933, contain an item "Prosecutions (Counsel fees, etc.) . . . \$40,000." This amount is similar to expenditures in previous years and represents in the main fees to be paid to various members of the legal profession for acting as Crown Counsel in criminal prosecutions. It is hardly necessary to say that the appointment of these Counsel is a matter of patronage. There is also an item "Constitutional Litigation and General Law Costs . . . \$10,000." This also represents in the main fees to the legal profession.

127. The legal staff in the office of the Attorney-General at Victoria consists of the Deputy Attorney-General, the Departmental Solicitor, and the Legislative Counsel. In addition there is the Counsel for the Liquor Control Board, who, although his salary is paid by that Board, is really the chief advisor to the Attorney-General's Department in all murder and other serious criminal cases, and usually acts as Crown Counsel in such cases. Later, in dealing with the Liquor Control Board we recommend that its law enforcement branch be discontinued. If this recommendation is adopted, the whole of the time of the Board's present Counsel would be available to the Department of the Attorney-General. We are of opinion that this Department should, except in cases of exceptional difficulty, when the employment of eminent Counsel is advisable, undertake all criminal and civil work on behalf of the Crown. Even were it necessary to increase the legal staff of the Department at Victoria, or to appoint permanent Crown attorneys at Vancouver and at, say Nelson, the extra cost would be much less than the amount now paid to the legal profession.

#### SHERIFFS' OFFICES.

128. Sheriffs' offices are maintained at Victoria and Vancouver and other places in the Province. The Sheriff, Deputy Sheriff, process servers and others in the Victoria and Vancouver offices are paid by salary and all fees and poundage legally payable to the Sheriff, Deputy Sheriff or Bailiff in these two places for anything done by him by virtue of his office are paid over to the Consolidated Revenue Fund.

129. During the fiscal years 1918 to 1931, both inclusive, the expenditures for salaries and other expenses in connection with the Vancouver office exceeded the revenue by \$24,382.53 and in the Victoria office by \$31,481.56. In the fiscal year ended March 31st, 1931, the loss in these two offices was \$2,880.93 and \$2,857.57 respectively.

130. This deserves the serious consideration of the Government as to whether or not a change should be made in the present system, for example, either by appointing a Sheriff without salary and permitting him to employ his own staff at his own expense and giving him all the fees and poundage, or by reducing the staff so that there will be no loss.

#### GAME DEPARTMENT.

131. This Department now consists of a Provincial Game Commissioner, 66 Wardens (two of whom are special hunters of predatory animals), and 5 clerks. Its revenue and expenditure in the two years ended March 31st, 1931, and its estimated revenue and expenditure for the current year are as follows:—

	Year ended March 31, 1930.	Year ended March 31, 1931.	Year ending March 31, 1933.
Revenue.....	\$189,088.67	\$196,243.47	\$252,000.00
Expenditure.....	194,620.75	196,722.08	193,179.00
Expenditure on extermination of noxious and predatory animals.....	35,040.46	45,599.23	5,000.00

The figures given in the last line are not regarded by the Game Department as part of its expenditures, and it claims that expenditures for the extermination of predatory animals are made more for the preservation of sheep and other domestic animals than of wild animals. But in our opinion some part of this expenditure must be regarded as benefiting the preservation of wild game, and due allowance for this must be made in estimating the total expenditures on game preservation. The substantial decrease in the estimated expenditures regarding predatory animals for the year ending March 31st, 1933, is due to the stopping of bounties, the sum of \$5,000 being limited to the salaries and expenses of two wardens.

132. We are of opinion that game should be preserved. Game is one of the natural resources of the Province and therefore its preservation is a proper activity of Government, but the amount spent thereon must, until the budget is balanced, be greatly curtailed. While we are of opinion that there should be a Game Department, we recommend that the staff of wardens allowed to it be greatly reduced. We find there is a great overlapping of service, or rather opportunity of service in three forces which now patrol the Province, namely, the Police, the Forest Rangers, and the Game Wardens. While it is true that a forest ranger or a policeman has not all the qualifications of a game warden, nevertheless the Province is in no position to-day, and will not be for some years to come, to enjoy the luxury of three separate forces. In localities adjacent to Vancouver where there are no forest rangers and the local police are fully occupied it may be necessary to maintain game wardens. But in the sparsely populated areas we think that the local police and forest rangers should be charged with the administration of the "Game Act." We do not recommend the abandonment of the Department. It will have its Commissioner, but with a greatly reduced force. It will be his task to arrange with the respective heads of the police and forest services that their men carry out the administration of the "Game Act" and to see that this is done. With loyal co-operation between these three men we are satisfied that the cost of the Game Department can be greatly reduced, not only in pay but also in travelling expenses, which are very high.

133. Strong representations have been made to us that as the licence fees are paid for preservation of game, the whole revenue should be used for that purpose. There appears to be some historical reason for this contention in that from time to time those interested in shooting and hunting have invited the Government to increase the licence fees so as to furnish the funds with which to preserve game more adequately. In our view whatever understandings there may have been in the past as to the use to which the revenue of the Game Department is put they must give way to the present crisis in the financial affairs of the Province. Game is a natural resource and the Government is entitled to a substantial revenue therefrom over and above the cost of preservation. In support of this view we point out that the fee for an ordinary firearms licence for a resident British subject authorizing the shooting of game birds and deer now costs \$3.50 while the corresponding fee in Great Britain (where nothing is done by the State towards game preservation, and the fee is accordingly all revenue) is £3, or, say \$15.