

I am not criticising the Indian Department, more than to say this: When a district is organized, an Indian must take out a license or must get a permit to hunt, and the Indian agents apply for too many permits for the Indians. At the last meeting of the Conservation Board we decided that we simply would not give the Indians permits; they will have to take out licenses. We made recommendations to the Government for the organization of certain game districts, that we may put our own game wardens in and control the Indians.

We have a great deal of sympathy for the Indians and have no objection to their killing all the animals they need for their own use; but we do object to absolutely wanton destruction. Four years ago I went into a section of the Lillooet district for bighorn, or what are known as Rocky Mountain sheep, and on that trip I counted 50 rams. I went in there over a year ago, and could find only eight sheep left in that district. We are putting that area into a reservation. These animals were destroyed by the Chilcotin Indians. The year before last they organized a deer drive in the Lillooet district. We did not have a Game Commission at that time, but I made it my business to go into that country to get some information about that deer drive. I found that the Indians killed on that occasion alone something like 150 deer. If this thing goes on it will be only a question of time when the big game of British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Alberta will be a thing of the past.

Senator EDWARDS: We have now heard a good deal about the Indian as a destructive agency; perhaps we might have an expression of opinion on the constructive end of it. I think I am correct in saying that, some years ago, New Brunswick was almost denuded of its moose, but that, through the enforcement of proper regulations for some years, moose are again numerous in that province. Perhaps we might hear from some gentleman from New Brunswick on that question. Further, the beaver had almost disappeared from Algonquin park in Ontario; now they are very numerous, the Government having prohibited the taking of beaver. So we have evidence in two provinces of what conservation can do; we should like to hear from other provinces on that point.

Dr. HEWITT: It is, of course, quite to be expected that the various delegates will have complaints to make, and the object of this conference is to hear those complaints. But we are not going to get ahead if we do nothing more than hear complaints. What we really want is, not only accounts of destruction, but suggestions regarding conservation. I have no doubt that Dr. Baker, Mr. Bradshaw, and others, who complain of the great destruction caused by